

***PALS Best Books of
2007***



**Presented by the Youth Services &
School Librarians of the
Prairie Area Library System**

Primary

Baguley, Elizabeth **The Little Lost Robin** 978-1-56148-590-1

On the edge of the deep wood lives an old hare. Every day he visits his friend, little Robin. One night when a terrible storm rips through the trees, little Robin disappears. Is little Robin lost forever?

Cronin, Doreen **Diary of a Fly** 978-0-06-000157-5

Humorous telling of a fly's life through the voice of a fly writing in his diary.

Dewdney, Anna **Llama Llama Mad at Mama** 978-0670062409

This tells the story of every child in a shopping cart! It is fun to just repeat the title!

DiCamillo, Kate **Great Joy** 0763629200

Moving Christmas story, with wonderful artwork and a wonderful message.

Kann, Victoria **Purpicious** 0061244066 / 9780061244063

When her classmates make fun of her for still liking the color pink, a little girl feels all alone, but then a friend shows her the power of pink.

Keller Laurie **Do Unto Otter** 9780805079968

The book is funny, illustrations are engaging to the children and the instructional concept of manners is to the point.

Kirk, Daniel **Library Mouse** 978 08109 9346 4

Very popular with children and their parents! Lively with great illustrations!

LaRochelle, David **The End** 978-0439640114

This is a cute book that starts with the end of the book and works backwards to tell the story.

Lin, Grace **The Red Thread** 9780807569221

Lovely book for anyone, but especially for those families who have or are about to adopt a child. ...especially a baby girl from China.

Newman, Lesléa **A Daddy's Song** 9780805069754

My daughters love this book. I got it for them for Christmas.

Onishi, Satoru **Who's Hiding?** 9781933605241

I've found this book great for storytime participation. It is very simple and colorful. The students respond to it well, even the busy ones stop to see what's going on. The book circulates well.

Palatini, Margie **The Cheese** 9780060526313

After they all agree to ignore the story of "The Farmer in the Dell," the rat, cat, dog, child, farmer and his wife have a party featuring the hunk of cheese.

Pfister, Marcus **Henri, Egg Artiste** 9780735821309

Henri is so tired of painting the same ordinary Easter eggs. After all, he's an artist, and artists create masterpieces -- not just boring old eggs. Join Henri, as his eggs take you on a tour de force through art history, from the Renaissance to surrealism to pop art and beyond.

Polacco, Patricia **The Lemonade Club** 0399245405

After learning they both have cancer, Marilyn and her teacher, Miss Wichelman, support and encourage each other through their treatments.

Portis, Antoinette **Not a Box** 978-0-06-112322-1

A story of imagination and a cardboard box.

Robey, Stephanie **Can You Just Imagine** 978-0-9786850-1-0

This book is intended for children whose mothers are pregnant. It is the perspective of the "big sister" or "big brother." Touching and enduring!

Rumford, James **Don't Touch My Hat** 9780375937828

Sheriff John is a brave defender of the law, rounding up robbers and rustlers in the blink of an eye. He thinks he owes all his success to his ten-gallon hat. Can he protect the town without it?

Rumford, James **Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend** 9781554531813

This was a big hit with first and second grade classes.

Sierra, Judy **Mind Your Manners, B.B. Wolf** 9780375835322

This is such a fun book. Big Bad Wolf gets an invite to a tea party at the library. He studies proper tea party etiquette before going. He is very polite, while all of the other guests, Little Red Riding Hood and Gingerbread Boy, are terrified at Wolf's presence. The librarian commends wolf for his manners and sends him home with cookies.

Spinelli, Eileen **The Best Time of Day** 0152058621

Spinelli describes the favorite moments of various animals and people who live on a farm.

Intermediate

Clements Andrew **No Talking** 9780152060077

Clements' books are very popular with our middle grade students.

Collins, Suzanne **Gregor and the Code of Claw** 978078684000

Breathtaking and thought provoking, the final book of the Underworld Chronicles reveals the dire final prophecy that Gregor must fulfill to fight the war to end all wars and save the family and friends he loves.

Greenwood, Barbara **Factory Girl** 0439813786

This book is historical fiction with proper support. The story explores the working conditions of factories and immigrants around the turn of the century. The blending of non-fiction text into the story supports all readers by providing historic context.

Hawking, Lucy **George's Secret Key to the Universe** 0374301840

Taken away by a noted physicist and his daughter to study the science of black holes, George's journey through space becomes a daring adventure when the physicist's super-intelligent computer becomes a highly sought possession, enhanced with diagrams, charts, photos, and line drawings. Follows the adventures of a young boy and his neighbor friend as they travel through a computer portal into outer space, where they explore such mysteries as black holes and the origins of the universe, while trying to evade an evil scientist.

Key, Watt **Alabama Moon** 9780545029360

This book came out late in 2006, but I'm submitting it for this list since I can't believe that it hasn't yet received the acclaim it deserves. "Moon" is a 10-year old boy who was raised in the woods by his father, a disillusioned Vietnam vet. Moon's father dies, and Moon is on his own. This scrappy squirrel of a boy just about jumps off the page -- as do many other of the book's characters. A good book for reluctant readers and everyone else!

Kinney, Jeff **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** 9780810993464

Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his friend Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to

Rex, Adam **The True Meaning of Smekday** 9780810994553

This book is hilarious! Boys really seem to enjoy it.

Sage, Angie **Physik** 9781416909835

Silas Heap unseals a forgotten room in the Palace and releases the ghost of a Queen who lived 500 years earlier.

Selznick, Brian **The Invention of Hugo Cabret**
978-0786838707 /155337648X

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

Urban, Linda **A Crooked Kind of Perfect** 0439813786

Ten-year-old Zoe has perfect piano dreams. All she needs is a baby grand so she can start her lessons and she'll be on her way to Carnegie Hall. But when Dad brings home a wheezy organ instead of a piano, Zoe's dreams hit a sour note. Yet when she enters the Perform-O-Rama organ competition, Zoe finds that life is full of surprises.

Young Adult

Alexie, Sherman **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**

0316013684

Budding cartoonist, Junior, leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Sherman Alexie writes from the heart and tells a very funny and real story of what it's like growing up on a reservation and "blending" into the outside world.

Anderson, Laurie Halse **Twisted** 9780670061013

High school senior, Tyler Miller, used to be the guy who faded into the background--average student, average looks, average dysfunctional family. But since he got busted for doing graffiti on the school and spent the summer doing outdoor work to pay for it--he stands out like you wouldn't believe. His new physique attracts the attention of queen bee Bethany Milbury, who just happens to be his father's boss's daughter, the sister of his biggest enemy ... and his secret crush. This sets off a string of events that have Tyler questioning his place in the school, in his family, and in the world.

Asher, Jay **Thirteen Reasons Why** 978-1-59514-171-2

Clay Jenkins comes home from school to find a mysterious box with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he finds 13 cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker—his classmate and crush—who committed suicide two weeks earlier.

Buckley, Michael **Magic and Other Misdemeanors** (Sister's Grimm series)

9780810993587

Fairy Tale detectives, Sabrina and Daphne Grimm, try to find out who is stealing the magical possessions of the most powerful Everafters in town.

Castellucci, Cecil **Beige** 9780763630669

This is a great book about a teenage girl trying to find herself through music and build a relationship with her estranged father.

Ellis, Ann Dee **This is What I Did:** 0316013633

Outsiders, but best friends, Logan and Zyler share all their secrets...well not all of them! This is a quick yet gripping read.

Horowitz, Anthony **Snakehead** 978-0-399-24161-1

While working for the Australian Secret Service on a dangerous mission, teenage spy Alex Rider uncovers information about his parents.

Kinney, Jeff **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** 978-0-8109-9313-6

Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.

Kostick, Conor **Epic** 0670061794

Generations ago, violence was banned on New Earth. Society is governed in a fantasy computer game, Epic. If you win, you have the chance to fulfill your dreams; if you lose, your life both in and out of the game is worth nothing.

Marsh, Katherine **The Night Tourist** 978-142310689-0

A teenage boy searches the underworld of New York City for his deceased mother. This story incorporates mythology and NYC history with a great adventure.

McKay, Lisa **My Hands Came Away Red** 9780802489821

This story about a young girl trying to decide on a college and opts to go on a mission trip first. The trip goes horribly wrong and the story tells how the group of students survives physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Meyer, Stephenie **Eclipse** 9780316160209

Chills, thrills and romance continue in this third of the four-part Twilight series, which started with Twilight. Vampires, werewolves, graduation, immortality and first love all intertwine with numerous sub-plots added to the wonderfully captivating fantasy. There is more romance than horror... teens love this book! Although it still doesn't have quite as much appeal as Twilight, it's still a page-turner, and YA readers will clamor for it, including me, even though chronologically I'm a long way from YA!

Miéville, China **Un Lun Dun** 978-0-345-49516-7

This is a modern-day “Through the Looking Glass”, with our hero in a quest to save alternate London from a deadly predator. It is fun, quirky and unique.

Moranville, Sharelle Byars **The Snows** 0805074694

The book tells the tale of the teen years of four generations of an Iowa family.

Morningner, Joseph **Baby** 9781590785027
Sled dogs owned by Baby's latest foster family make her question her life in new ways.

Peck, Richard **On the Wings of Heroes** 0803730810

World War II has invaded Davy Bowman's Illinois homefront boyhood. There is an air raid drill at school and endless scrap drives. Davy's brother, Bill, has joined up, breaking their father's heart. Even in this novel of wartime uncertainty, Peck infuses his tale with humor--oddballs, rascals, and boyhood misadventures alongside the poignant moments in this tender, unforgettable portrait of the WWII homefront and a family's love.

Picoult, Jodi **Nineteen Minutes** 9781428165557

Adult book for YA's - Sterling is a small, ordinary New Hampshire town where nothing ever happens--until a student enters the local high school with an arsenal of guns and starts shooting, changing the lives of everyone inside and out.

Riordan, Rick **The Titan's Curse** 1423101456
Ancient mythology is livened with wit, contemporary staging, and teenage heroics.

Rowling, J.K. **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows** 0545010225

This is the end of the Harry Potter series with Harry attempting to bring an end to his archenemy, Lord Voldemort.

Sonnenblick, Jordan **Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie** 0439755204

I love how the author put all the feeling and emotions with a boy character

Westerfield, Scott **Pretties** 978-0439891615

The whole series: Pretties, Uglies, Specials and now Extras, have not stayed on the shelves.

Zevin, Gabrielle

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac

9780374349462 / 0374349460

Great premise: Teenager Naomi hits her head and can't remember anything after 6th grade. It's easy to booktalk and students (mainly girls) who check it out really like it. The book tells about her discovery of herself and who she really believes herself to be. My 16 year old daughter enjoyed this as well.

Zusak, Markus

The Book Thief

0375831002 / 9780786290215

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl who's book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

Non-Fiction

Aronson, Marc **Race: a history beyond Black and White** 7th /12th
0689865546

You know it at a glance: he's black; she's white. They're Asian; we're Latino. Racism. I'm better; she's worse. Those people do those kinds of things. We all know it's wrong to make these judgments, but they come faster than thought. Why? Where did those feelings come from? Why are they so powerful?

Artist to Artist: 23 Illustrators Talk to Children About Their Art 4th /6th
0399246002

A unique anthology of 23 artists have shared the story of their work, their art, and their lives as creative people.

Bush, Jenna and Mia Baxter **Ana's Story: A Journey of Hope** HS
0061379085

This book is based on Jenna Bush's work with UNICEF in Latin America.

Clapton, Eric **Clapton: The Autobiography** 11th /12th
9780385518512

A rock legend tells his own story.

Farnden, John **Do Not Open** 5th/adult 9780756632052

A very fun book of facts, mysteries, coincidences, and "other stuff they don't want you to know about". It includes everything from the lay-out of the president's private plane, "Air Force One" to "Lost Tribes of the Rainforest". I gave this book to three less-than-avid readers, and each loved it.

Grandits, John **Blue Lipstick** Intermediate/YA

9780618568604

Blue Lipstick is the second book of concrete poems by John Grandits. The first book *Technically, It's Not My Fault* (a boys version) was equally fun. I recommend both to girls and boys having trouble enjoying poetry.

Hatkoff, Juliana, Isabella and Craig and Dr. Gerald R. Uhlich **Knut** K/adult
0-545-04716-1

The authors of *Owen & Mzee* tell the story of another animal orphan, Knut, the world's cutest polar bear, whose life teaches us about the problems of the environment.

Herriges, Ann **Dolphins (Oceans Alive)** 1st/2nd
978-1-60014-017-4

Oceans Alive is a great series for early readers. The books include real photographs, vocabulary, and web information for future information.

Hopkinson, Deborah **Up Before Daybreak: Cotton and People in America**
Middle School
9780439639019

This book offers the stories of men, women, and children who toiled in America's cotton industry, from sharecroppers to slaves, through oral histories, archival photographs, and text about their dangerous duties and working conditions.

Iggulden, Conn and Hal **Dangerous Book for Boys** 0061243582

This is great for boys from 8-80, covering essential boyhood skills such as building tree houses, learning how to fish, finding true north, and even answering the age old question "What's the big deal with girls?"

Kaywell, Jean F. **Dear Author: Letters of Hope** YA 9780399237058
This book includes inspirational collections of letters to authors and author responses.

Layne, Steven L. and Deborah Dover **P is for Princess** All juvenile
978-1585363063

This book can be used for young children with the poetry and older children with the small print on the sides. It tells about the history of princesses, both fairy tale and real and the origin of phrases associated with royalty.

Levitt, Steven D. **Freakonomics : a Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything** 9th /adult 006073132X

Which is more dangerous, a gun or a swimming pool? What do schoolteachers and sumo wrestlers have in common? Why do drug dealers still live with their moms? How much do parents really matter? What kind of impact did Roe v. Wade have on violent

crime? These may not sound like typical questions for an economist to ask--but Levitt is not a typical economist. He studies the stuff and riddles of everyday life--from cheating and crime to sports and child rearing--and his conclusions regularly turn the conventional wisdom on its head.

Pregracke, Chad **From the Bottom Up : One Man's Crusade to Clean America's Rivers** HS 9781426201004

SLJ Best Adult Books for High School Students 2007-- Chad Pregracke is a United Township High School (Moline) grad and his father was a teacher here. I haven't read the book yet, but many faculty have. I remember him coming in the library. He marched to the beat of a different drummer. Over the past 10 years Chad has assembled a group of volunteers, sponsors, and genuinely interesting people to help him accomplish a daunting goal of cleaning up America's rivers. This has extended into an audacious goal of planting a million trees and educating thousands of students on his "floating classroom." This book will give you an inspiring, very entertaining snapshot of how it was done and even gives you a quick blueprint of how to do something in your own area. Read it for an inspiring portrait of a true original who started with a small idea and turned it into a national movement.

Sis, Peter **The Wall** 5th /up 9780374347017

This is the amazing story of the author's life, growing up behind the iron curtain. This memoir is told brilliantly through illustrations.

Spada, Ada **Burrows, Nests & Lairs Animal Architects** Juvenile 1600591493 / 9781600591495

Showcases the homes of wild creatures around the world, including the cozy houses of rabbits, mice, moles, and platypuses; the intricate cities of bee hives and coral reefs; and unusual birds' nests that are sewn together and decorated.

Strauss, Rochelle **One Well : The Story of Water on Earth** 5th /6th 1553379543

Wow, I think it will take the Sibert. With the need to conserve natural resources, the timing of this one is a must read.

Walker, Richard **Ouch!: How Your Body Makes it Through a Very Bad Day** 2nd/
6th 075662536X

The "nanocam" shows how you get through a day of illness, etc.

Contributors

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