

# ***PALS Best Books of 2006***



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

# Best Books of 2006

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The books in this compilation are submitted by the youth service and school librarians of the Prairie Area Library System. These titles have been judged by the librarians as worthy to be called the “Best”. The books maybe a personal favorite or just a well read book by their young patrons, but for whatever the reason, we are proud to present this collection.

Submissions by:

Mary Anderson, Sycamore Public Library  
Erika Blackburn, Dixon Public Library  
Megan Davis, Sycamore Public Library  
Lois Feldman, Morris Area Public Library District  
Jenni Hauert, Union School District 81  
Peggy Jencius, Talcott Free Library  
Christy Kepler & staff, Oswego Public Library  
Beth McCormick, Dixon Public Library  
Laura Mesjak, Sycamore Public Library  
Sondra Patchett, Kankakee School District #111  
Kathleen Schaefer, Dixon Public Library  
Lynne Stein, Hinckley Public Library District  
Barb White, Richard A. Mautino Memorial Library  
Kathleen Wierzbicki, Chelsea Intermediate School, Frankfort School District 157C  
Evelyn Wingate, Sycamore Public Library  
Alice Ziller, Wilmington CUSD 209U

Thanks to all who submitted favorites!!!

## Preschool/Primary

Coombs, Kate, **The Secret Keeper**, 0689839634

In this modern fairy tale, Kalli--the town secret-keeper--grows ill from all the heavy secrets she hears over the years. Eventually, the townspeople realize that Kalli needs happy secrets as well as bad, and Kalli finally discovers the best secret of all.

Cronin, Doreen, **Dooby, Dooby, Moo**, 0689845073

The remarkably talented "New York Times" bestselling duo of Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin are at it again. At Farmer Brown's, Duck and his friends are pooling their considerable resources to win a local talent show because first prize is a trampoline!

Curtis, Jamie Lee, **Is There Really a Human Race**, 0060753463

The seventh collaboration between Curtis and Cornell is a dialogue between a child and a parent about being human, being the best one can be, and understanding that it's the journey and not the destination that counts.

Falconer, Ian, **Olivia Forms a Band**, 141692454X

The pig with attitude is back with another winner. Lavishly brought to life in Falconer's signature style, and introducing an eye-catching shade of blue, here is Olivia doing what Olivia does best--making noise.

Himmelman, John, **Chickens to the Rescue**, 0805079513

The amazing chickens on the Greenstalk Farm race everyday to help family members, except for Sundays when the pigs take over.

O'Connor, Jane, **The Snow Globe Family**, 0399242422

Two families, one large one and one small one, look forward to a big snowstorm. In this parallel adventure, the little family who lives in the snow globe wonders when it will snow, while the big Baby gazes longingly at their snowy little world.

Pallotta, Jerry, **Construction Alphabet Book**, 1570914370

Exploring construction equipment with rich colors and great use of lower and uppercase letters.

## Preschool/Primary (continued)

Rueda, Claudia, **Let's Play in the Forest While the Wolf is Not Around**, 0439823234

An adaptation of a traditional French and Latin American song. Bold illustrations with a funny, repetitive story make this a perfect story time selection! As Duck, Bunny, Moose, Beaver, and others play between the trees, Wolf continues getting dressed. By the time he has combed his hair and put on his backpack, Wolf is very hungry, and the animals are suddenly very afraid. Luckily for the animals, Wolf is hungry for pancakes--his favorite.

Sidman, Joyce, **Meow Ruff**, 0618448944

An adventure in concrete poetry, as the pictures speak the story. An unlikely friendship between a little dog and a white cat takes shape in this one-of-a-kind book that combines story, art, and delightful concrete poetry.

Stevens, Janet, **The Great Fuzz Frenzy**, 0152046267

When a tennis ball lands in a prairie dog town, the residents find that their newfound frenzy for fuzz creates a fiasco.

Van Leeuwen, Jean, **Benny & Beautiful Baby Delilah**, 0803728913

Toddler Benny does not think much of his new baby sister Delilah. When asked, "Isn't she beautiful?" He thinks: "Beautiful was red fire truck, beautiful was a Tyrannosaurus Rex." He confesses to his toy elephant, "She's not beautiful. I don't even like her." But Benny grows into his role as big brother.

# Intermediate

Blume, Lesley M. M., **Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters**, 0375935231

Eleven-year-old Cornelia is the daughter of two world-famous pianists--a legacy that should feel fabulous, but instead feels just plain lonely. She surrounds herself with dictionaries and other books to isolate herself from the outside world. But when a glamorous neighbor named Virginia Somerset moves next door with her servant Patel and a mischievous French bulldog named Mister Kinyatta, Cornelia discovers that the world is a much more exciting place than she had originally thought.

Carbone, Elisa Lynn, **Blood on the River: James Town 1607**, 0670060607

This blend of fact and fiction takes Samuel Collier from his voyage to life in the new colony of Jamestown. From the award-winning author of "Stealing Freedom." When 12-year-old Samuel Collier boards a ship bound for the New World, he can't believe his good fortune. Collier learns he can be whomever he wants in the New World settlement of Jamestown.

DiCamillo, Kate, **Mercy Watson Fights Crime**, 0763625906

The beguiling porcine wonder turns bucking bronco in order to snare a robber in this hilarious new addition to the "New York Times" bestselling series.

DiCamillo, Kate, **The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane**, 0763625892

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

Flanagan, John, **The Burning Bridge**, 0399244557

In this rousing sequel to "The Ruins of Gorlan," the Rangers brace for a final clash with the evil Morgarath, and choose Will, along with his friend Horace, as special envoys to Celtica. But the simple mission soon takes an unsettling turn.

Funke, Cornelia Caroline, **Ghosthunters and the Incredibly Revolting Ghost**, 0439849586

A timid boy named Tom reluctantly agrees to help professional ghostbuster Hetty Hyssop dispel an IRG (Incredibly Revolting Ghost) from an old house.

## Intermediate (continued)

Goscinny, Rene with illustrations by Jean-Jacques Sempe, **Nicholas Again**, 0714845647

Mischievous French schoolboy returns in this follow-up to 2006 Batchelder Honor book *Nicholas* (2005). A French classic, recently translated into English by Anthea Bell.

Jennings, Sharon, **Franklin & The Bubble Gum**, 1553378164  
Kids and bubble gum—what goes together better than these two? Then put Franklin in the mix and you have a great story.

Lowry, Lois, **Gossamer**, 0618685502

In a haunting story that tiptoes between reality and imagination, a lonely, sensitive woman and a damaged, angry boy face their own histories and discover what they can be to one another, renewed by the strength that comes from a tiny, caring creature they will never see.

Pennypacker, Sara, **Clementine**, 0786838825

Clementine is spunky like Ramona—but not as obnoxious as Junie B. Jones. Lively illustration by Marla Frazee make this a good read alone for kids new to “chapter books”. Fun to read aloud too!

Salisbury, Graham, **House of the Red Fish**, 0385731213

Over one year after Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor and the arrest of Tomi’s father and grandfather, Tomi and his friends try to salvage a sunken boat.

# Young Adult

Barry, Dave & Pearson, Ridley, **Peter and the Shadow Thieves**, 078683787X

A continuation (Peter and the Starcatchers) of a prequel to J.M. Barrie's "Peter Pan". Great read for all ages.

Boyne, John, **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas**, 0385751079

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out With," Bruno befriends a boy in striped pajamas.

Budhos, Marina, **Ask Me No Questions**, 1416903518

Fourteen year old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family.

Gilbert Murdock, Catherine, **Dairy Queen**, 0618683070

Welcome to the summer that 15-year-old D.J. Schwenk of Red Bend, Wisconsin, learns to talk--and ends up having an awful lot of stuff to say. She realizes when people don't talk, much remains unsaid, like why her best friend, Amber, isn't so friendly anymore and why her little brother, Curtis, never opens his mouth.

Horowitz, Anthony, **Ark Angel**, 0399241523

Great adventure story for young adults to read. Losing millions of dollars on his project to build the first luxury hotel in outer space, Nikolei Drevin will stop at nothing to end his financial losses, even if it means blowing up the hotel or kidnapping Alex.

Jaffe, Michele, **Bad Kitty**, 0060781084

Get to know Jasmine Callihan and her crew of clue-spotting friends as they solve a mystery in Las Vegas with the help of a three-legged cat and some other colorful characters.

Lisle, Janet Taylor, **Black Duck**, 0399239634

Years afterwards, Ruben Hart tells the story of how, in 1929 Newport, Rhode Island, his family and his best friend's family were caught up in the violent competition among groups trying to control the local rum smuggling trade.

## Young Adult (continued)

Patterson, James, **Maximum Ride – School's Out Forever**,  
0316155594

Bird children try to outstep the FBI in the second installment of action packed drama.

Zusak, Markuas, **The Book Thief**, 0375831002

Liesel Meminger, a foster child living outside Munich during World War II, scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist--books--in this unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.

# Non-Fiction

Allen, Thomas, **Harriet Tubman Secret Agent**, 072278895

Not your usual biography. This book includes actual codes used by union spies during the civil war. Painting a clear picture of the underground railroad and that of its “passengers.” Excellent for read-aloud or alone.

Dorling Kindersley (Publishers), **Go! The Whole World of Transportation**, 0756622247

This book looks at different modes of transportation.

Johnson, Dolores, **Onward**, 0792279158

Biography of Matthew Alexander Henson-Explorer. The conquest of the North Pole was an elusive, almost impossible goal at the beginning of the last century. But a son of patrician parents, Robert E. Peary, and a son of sharecroppers, Matthew Henson, shared a dream of conquering the unconquered North Pole and were brave enough to risk their lives numerous times before they finally succeeded.

Rex, Adam, **Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich**, 0152057668

For grades 1 through 8. A funny collection of poetry with a monstrous twist accented by great illustrations! Nineteen hilarious poems delve into the secret lives of Frankenstein, Wolfman, Dracula, the Creature from the Black Lagoon, Bigfoot, Godzilla, and others.

Sheehan, Thomas F., **Playground Science**, 1595154108

A great look at science in a location every child has visited. This low-level series covers six different science topics focusing on their place in a city environment. The books are science standards-based and are rich in content and science vocabulary.