



Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Program 2005-2006

Grades 3-5

Adler, David. ***Andy Russell, Not Wanted by the Police.*** Gulliver Books Paperbacks, ©2005.

Andy and his pal, Tamika, are watching the neighbor's house while the Perlman's are on a business trip to South America. After a few days, a mystery begins to build with the discovery of some smelly clues. Andy fears someone has broken into the neighbor's house and may be living there. After an unsuccessful encounter with the police, Andy refuses to stop his investigations until he solves the mystery. Fans of the Andy Russell series will enjoy this story, filled with likable characters and humorous text.

Alvarez, Julia. ***How Tía Lola Came to Visit Stay.*** Yearling, ©2002.

Miguel does not fit in to the Vermont town after moving from New York City when his parents are divorced. To add to his embarrassment, his flamboyant Tia Lola comes to visit from the Dominican Republic. With her brightly flowered dresses, red lipstick, and maracas, Tia Lola makes quite an impression on the little town. She brings humor to the story as she tries to learn English, but she also brings stability and love to the lives of Miguel and his sister. Readers will be delighted with this heartwarming and uplifting story.

Birney, Betty. ***The World According to Humphrey.*** Puffin, ©2005.

Curious and likeable Humphrey the hamster narrates this story about life in classroom 26. Through weekend trips home with humans, Humphrey learns about their problems and finds ways for them to learn from one another. He manages to change for the better the lives of the principal, teacher, custodian, and a shy student. Readers will enjoy this lively and engaging animal tale filled with humor and wisdom.

Butler, Dori Hillestad. ***Trading Places with Tank Talbott.*** Albert Whitman, ©2005.

Jason's parents insist he takes swimming lessons even though he hates putting his face in the water. Tank Talbott's parents enroll him in dance lessons. All Jason wants to do is finish writing his horror-movie script and Tank would rather do anything other than be mistaken for a dork face like Jason. Since the boys look alike, they team up in an unlikely switch of the classes. As Tank thrashes his way through swim class and Jason learns all the right moves in dance class, the two boys also learn about life and friendship in this well-written and up-to-date tale.

Collins, Suzanne. ***Gregor the Overlander.*** Scholastic Paperbacks, ©2004.

Gregor and his two-year-old sister Boots fall down an air vent in their New York apartment laundry room and into the Underland, a fantastic subterranean world inhabited by translucent-skinned humans, giant talking cockroaches, spiders, and rats. Fast-paced action ensues as the unlikely warrior hero Gregor fulfills the prophecy to save the humans and his father from the warlike rats. This engrossing adventure will have fantasy fans quickly turning the pages and looking forward to the next Gregor challenge.

Creech, Sharon. ***Granny Torrelli Makes Soup.*** HarperCollins, ©2005.

Everyone should have an Italian grandmother like Granny Torrelli! She not only teaches twelve-year-old Rosie how to make soup, but she also teaches her about friendship and life. When Rosie and her best friend Bailey's friendship needs mending, Granny Torrelli has the perfect recipe. She shares stories that help Rosie understand the ever-changing demands of friendship. These nourishing bits of wisdom are sprinkled throughout this skillfully written, humorous story that is filled with sage advice and spiced with Italian words.

Ferris, Jean. ***Once Upon a Marigold.*** Harcourt Paperbacks, ©2003.

This quirky fantasy is filled with lighthearted fun and likeable characters from Edric the Troll to the doting father, King Swithbert. Taking center stage, however, are the lovely princess Marigold and strong-willed, clever, young Chris. Meanwhile, the evil mother, Queen Olympia, supplies the plot twists by planning to murder Marigold and the king in order to become the sole ruler of the country. This fast-paced story, filled with romance and comedic subplots, moves quickly to a satisfying conclusion.

Greene, Stephanie. **Owen Foote, Super Spy.** Clarion Books, ©2001.

Owen and his buddies embark on their most daring adventure yet, spying on the school principal. Outfitted with camouflage headgear (made from Dad's boxer shorts) and walkie talkies, the boys embark on their covert assignment. But after a tumble down the hill, Owen is left to face the consequences of their actions. Owen's fans will not be disappointed with this latest lighthearted addition to the series.

Gutman, Dan. **Million Dollar Kick.** Hyperion, ©2003.

Whisper Nelson hates soccer, but, when her sports star sister is too young, Whisper enters a contest to kick a goal past the town's leading professional star. If she scores, she wins a million dollars. Not wanting to be humiliated, seventh grader Whisper decides to learn about the game. Well-developed characters, realistic dialogue, and soccer tidbits carry this engaging sports story to its exciting conclusion.

Hannigan, Katherine. **Ida B.** Greenwillow, ©2004.

Fourth grader Ida B is an unforgettable, sensitive character who likes predictability and nature. However, when her mother becomes ill, Ida B and her family must face unexpected changes and make difficult decisions. Ida B returns to public school after being homeschooled for several years which requires many adjustments. Additionally, her parents must sell acres of her beloved woods. Ida B feels betrayed and angry, but with the help of her understanding parents, Ida B begins to heal. Readers will become absorbed in this tender, and compelling story of human emotions.

Kehret, Peg. **Escaping the Giant Wave.** Aladdin, ©2004.

The family spent three weeks planning their dream vacation to Oregon. Thirteen-year-old Kyle's dad was receiving the Salesman of the Year award and, as an added bonus, this would be Kyle's first time flying. The family's plans soon unravel after they arrive in the small Oregon beach town and progressively worsen when an earthquake and tsunamis hit the area. Kyle's fast thinking helps save his younger sister Bee Bee and himself during this traumatic time. A bibliography of books, Internet sites, a videorecording, and pamphlets are also included.

Lowry, Lois. **Gooney Bird Greene.** Yearling, ©2004.

Feisty Gooney Bird Greene tells her second grade class fantastic, but "absolutely true" stories. Her eccentric outfits of pajamas with cowboy boots, a pink tutu over green stretch pants, or gray sweatpants with a sleeveless lacey blouse and long black gloves help to embellish the telling of the improbable stories. Readers will be anxious to read more about this likable, freckle-faced storyteller.

Myers, Laurie. **Lewis and Clark and Me.** Scholastic, ©2002.

Detailed illustrations help tell the tale of Seaman, the bear-dog, who traveled with Lewis and Clark when they explored the United States' western territory. Seaman narrates this fictionalized account of the journey and his interactions with other animals he meets such as squirrels, bears, buffalo, and beaver. This short, easy read is certain to be a winner with both animal lovers and history buffs.

Philbrick, Rodman. **The Young Man and the Sea.** Scholastic, ©2005.

In this takeoff of the *Old Man and the Sea*, twelve-year-old Skiff deals with the death of his mother, a grieving father, and a sabotaging bully. With his father reduced to a grieving drunk and thousands of dollars needed to repair their boat, Skiff looks for ways to make money. After Tyler, the rich bully, sabotages his lobster pots, Skiff decides to fish out in the ocean for the huge bluefin tuna in his small 10-foot plywood boat. This leads to a heart-pounding adventure featuring Skiff's courage and endurance.

Wait, Lea. **Seaward Born.** Aladdin, ©2004.

In 1808, courageous thirteen-year-old Michael decides to escape to freedom in the North by stowing away on a sailing ship leaving from Charleston harbor. Throughout his journey, Michael's skills as a seaman and a cook help make him a valuable crewman and earn him needed money. Cleverly woven into the narrative are historical details on slavery life showing hardships endured during those troubled times. Historical notes and a bibliography complete this fast-paced novel.