

Commonalities in content of international children's book awards: what does this tell us about children, culture and reading interests across the globe?

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Abstract

Children's book awards give us a mirror of the culture of a country and the books that children enjoy. While the majority of school librarians are very familiar with the books that win awards in their country, very few are cognizant of books that win awards in other countries. This paper examines major awards for children's books in as many countries as these awards could be determined. This examination will look at numerous aspects of these books—genre, format (picture, chapter book, graphic novel), age and gender of protagonists, theme, philosophy and/or spiritual beliefs, personal values, traditions and customs.

Introduction

Children's book awards, especially those chosen by children, mirror the culture of the country of the award as well as tell us what books children enjoy reading. While the majority of librarians are very familiar with the books that win awards in their country or in their state, very few have knowledge of books that win awards in other states or in other countries.

We live in an increasingly global society and knowledge of other cultures has become more and more important. Discovering ways in which our lives are similar and different is an important aspect of a child's education. Books are a way of understanding other cultures as well as a way of finding out just how alike yet different all cultures and humans are.

An examination of numerous award winners across the globe looked at specific aspects of award winning books. Criteria for examination of the books included:

- Recipient of an international, national or regional award (i.e. state, province) between the years 2000-2010
- Inclusion on an international book list such as the United States Board on Books for Young People's Outstanding International Books, chosen by International Board on Books for Young People members of their respective countries, or the White Ravens list provided by the International Youth Library.

These books were categorised by

- Format (picture, chapter, graphic)
- Genre

Forty were selected for a more intense analysis although not all of these books are part of the 89 on the award winning list used for the initial analysis. These books were all winners of child selected awards rather than adult selected. This analysis looked at:

- Type of protagonist (i.e. human, animal with human characteristics)
- Age of protagonist
- Gender (if applicable or important to the story)
- Theme/Plot

- Philosophy or spiritual beliefs/personal values
- Traditions or customs unique or related to country of origin

An overview of children's book awards

The first modern book award for children's and young adult literature, the Newbery Medal, awarded by the United States Association of Library Services for Children (ALSC) division of the American Library Association, began in 1922. With the charge of honouring the author of the most distinguished contribution to children's literature published in the United States in the preceding year, the prize is limited to US residents and citizens (ALA 2010).

Other national awards quickly followed. The United Kingdom's Carnegie Medal, sponsored by the British Library Association and given to the author of a children's book of outstanding merit, written in English and first published in the United Kingdom, began in 1937. The Caldecott Medal from the United States which honours the illustrator of the most distinguished picture book published in the US was first awarded in 1938. Other early awards include New Zealand's Esther Glen Award, 1945; Australia's Book of the Year Awards, 1946; the Canadian Library Association's Book of the Year for Children Award, 1947; and the United Kingdom's Kate Greenaway Award, 1956.

By the 1990s, many other countries were giving awards for outstanding children's literature. Unfortunately for the researchers, the only book which lists international awards, Laura Smith's *Children's Book Awards International, 1990-2000*, is currently out of print and out of date (2003). Information about awards given by the English-speaking countries—Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States, and Scotland—is easily accessible. All of these countries give awards and provide detailed information and lists of winners. Finding information about awards from other countries tends to be *hit and miss* with no one source providing the information. Most awards outside of those given in the English-speaking world do not have websites providing information or the websites provide only limited information. The International Children's Digital Library (ICDL) has a section of award winning books but since countries and publishers identify books for inclusion and because only a limited number of books have been digitized, it is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list. Wikipedia, children's literature textbooks and handbooks provided a few additional awards as did the Bowker Books in Print database. Most Internet searches failed to discover any book awards, despite the use of multiple and varied search terms.

Because of the difficulty in finding information about awards for the majority of the world's countries, the books and awards examined for this paper are only a small sample. Award winning books from Australia, Canada, Croatia, France, Iran, Ireland, Kenya, Mongolia, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Rwanda, Scotland, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Philippines, United Kingdom, United States, and Wales were examined. This research looks at representative books that have been selected for forty-six awards or booklists. Not all books that won any award during the ten years of the study were examined. Also, not all American, Canadian, Australian, or United Kingdom awards were included in order to give a more balanced picture. (See Appendix A for a list of awards.)

Adult selected vs child selected awards

Adults nominate and choose the award winner for most national awards. A committee generally chooses books that members think exemplify quality literature and excellence in writing and illustration. *Child appeal* or popularity is rarely one of the criteria for winning the award.

Child-selected book awards tend to be regional or state awards, and while there is some overlap in books that win both adult-chosen awards and children's choice awards, children tend to ignore *quality* as a criteria.

In the United States, every state except for Mississippi, has some form of a state book award program. The majority of these awards are child selected. The Pacific Northwest Young Reader's Award is the oldest of the state book awards, first given in 1940 with five states and two Canadian provinces participating in giving

the award—Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Washington, Oregon, Alberta and British Columbia. The first single state to give a children's book award was Kansas; the William Allen White Children's Book Award first given in 1952. Hawaii, another early entry, gave its first Nene award in 1959, the year it became a state. The US chapter of the International Reading Association also has a Children's Choices book list each year, with 12,500 students participating in reading and determining the list.

Canada, Australia, and the UK also have children's choice book awards. Canadian provinces Alberta and British Columbia have been part of the Pacific Northwest Young Readers Award since 1940. The Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award, named after the Toronto bookseller and her sister, began in 1976, and is an award given by Ontario booksellers. (Canada does have additional children's choices awards but this paper is too short to include all of them.) Both Australia's KOALA (Kids Own Australian Literature Awards) and the UK's Red House Children's Book Award began in 1981. Both of these children's choice awards are national awards. Queensland, Australia, also has the BILBY Award (Books I Love Best Yearly) which was first awarded in 1990.

Children's choice book award nominations and voting are handled in a variety of ways. In the United States, generally, anyone—librarians, teachers, parents, students, other interested adults—can nominate titles and a committee chooses books for the list. Students are required to read a certain number of books and vote for their favorite. The committee tallies the votes and announces the winners. Of course, there are numerous variations in this with adults choosing the titles for the list or students nominating with the list determined by the books with the most nominations.

For the Canadian Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Award, a committee of booksellers selects the short list and juries of school children from a school selected by the Ontario Arts Council choose the actual winner. In Australia for the KOALA and BILBY awards, children nominate books and a short list is drawn from these nominations. Children then vote on the winning titles after reading a required number of books. The United Kingdom's Red House Children's Book Award uses testing panels of groups of children to determine the shortlist and then children vote for the winners—one overall winner and three category winners.

What the awards tell us about children and reading

Of the eighty-nine books examined, both child and adult selected, thirty-five were realistic fiction and twenty-six were fantasy. The remaining books were myth/legend/folktale, science fiction, historical fiction, mystery, and poetry, all with fewer than ten winners. Over half of the books were picture books.

A *quick and dirty* analysis shows several trends in winning books, although the results may be skewed because many of the award winners are from the International Digital Library Collection which has only a limited number of book digitised. The majority of titles listed under the ICDL "Awarding Winning Books" are from Iran. As a result, a large number of the books examined are Iranian, even though the list of books examined does not include all of the Iranian books listed. The other factor skewing the list is the fact that other than Iran, only a few awards and winners could be found for most countries other than Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States, all of which have both a great number of awards and easy availability of lists of winners.

Still, some generalisations can be made, especially about books chosen by adults.

- Books that reflect the culture of a country are popular award winners. As a result, books of folktales, myths, and legends frequently win awards. These books, usually picture books, are lavishly and beautifully illustrated. Some awards, like the Welsh Tir na n_Og Award, are designed to promote the culture and language of a country. Many of the Iranian winners fit this category.
- Picture books often deal with children and their imaginations. Award winning books dealt with eating a magic pill that makes a little girl invisible (Iran); a little girl whose mother is late picking her up who imagines fantastic and humorous reasons why (Philippines); a sad little girl who dreams of seeing her mother again and a strange bird that helps her return to her mother (Croatia); a little girl

- who goes to the seashore every day because she is lonely and makes friends with the wind (Iran); a flying train takes two children on an adventure to outer space (Sri Lanka), a little boy who goes to the dentist and when leaving all kinds of funny things begin to happen (Nicaragua); a little boy who uses his imagination, rocks and sticks to create “Mattland” (Canada); a pencil that draws an entire world where everyone is happy until it draws an eraser that begins rubbing everything out (UK).
- Picture books, while not necessarily didactic, often deal with *lessons* for children to learn: a little boy learns to count by counting his parents and himself and then learns to subtract and multiply (Iran); a crippled boy who is kind to everyone and never asks for help is lost until others help him (Iran); a golden deer destroys corn crops until a boy convinces him to stop and together they convey the message of living together in harmony and mutual respect (Slovenia); a story teaches the importance of the housemaid in a Filipino family (Philippines); a child who is afraid of the dark discovers it is not really scary when he can see beautiful stars and fireflies (Philippines); after white stork’s home is destroyed by war, he searches for a new place to live but discovers there is no place like home (Croatia); a young boy dreams of going to America but runs into trouble trying to get there and learns a good lesson at the end (Kenya); a little boy discovers that although a person may change as he grows up, there are important things that do not change (Philippines); with the help of family and friends, a little boy learns how to *tame* a bully at school who becomes his friend (New Zealand); a witch’s daughter learns that true beauty comes from being beautiful on the inside (Sri Lanka); a little mouse is afraid of many of the same things that children are afraid of and documents his fears (UK); a bunny uses his large feet for many things, learns about the world, and discovers the importance of finding his own *feet* (UK); when a boy helps an injured bird, he learns that a little kindness goes a long way (Australia); a little girl ponders the future (Ireland).
 - Picture books with animals as characters are popular worldwide. These stories usually involve animals behaving in some human way, often with elements of fantasy included. Books fitting this category include a speckled frog who sings differently from other frogs (Iran); a feuding cat and canary who become friends (Iran); a hungry cat that dreams of eating stars in the sky (Iran); an elephant who offers to put a mouse’s food in his house for safekeeping and then refuses to give it back (Rwanda); a bunny who is sad because his brother is hungry (Sri Lanka); a cat and a picture book maker who feud over who is the star of the show (Canada); the adventures of a classroom chameleon who is taken home by the students who document his adventures (Australia); and an old bear who dreams about everything he loves in his forest home (US).
 - Chapter books that win awards tend to deal with more serious issues whether they are realistic, fantasy, science fiction, or historical. Some of the topics dealt with in award winning books include: having a friend with home to share problems and private feelings (Canada); boys discovering some unpleasant truths about a friend who died and how they might have contributed to his death (Scotland); a young boy and his young brother who must travel from Guatemala to America to find their father (Canada); life in the soccer and pop-celebrity culture that results in murder (UK); a girl who struggles with confidence and betrayal (Canada); wars in various parts of the world (France, Canada, South Africa); dealing with prejudices, social stigma and tolerance (UK, Canada); dealing with the death of a parent, whether the death was natural, accidental, murder (Canada, Wales, France); issues of friendship (Australia); dealing with personal illness (US).

Twenty book picture books and twenty chapter books that won child selected book awards were examined in more detail. Four picture books and four chapter books from each of the five countries with identified child selected awards were chosen for further analysis that looked at type of protagonist, gender, theme, philosophy/beliefs/values, and any elements in the book that was unique to that country. For the chapter books, genre was also examined.

While the sample was small, certain trends in children’s choice winners are obvious:

- Children are more likely to choose humorous books than are adults.

- Winners in the picture book category generally use animal characters with human characteristics and tend to have more male protagonists than female (although in many cases no gender is given but maleness can be implied because of dress). In the twenty picture books examined, the main characters included a pigeon, possums, prairie dogs, dogs, pigs, foxes, a penguin, a wolf, a chameleon, a teddy bear, a wombat, a fish, cats, various zoo animals, and a squirrel. One book had a pencil as the protagonist. When books had human characters, they were often equally as important as an animal character. Only four books had solely human protagonists and one of these was a boy from the sun.
- The plots and themes of the picture books frequently deal with solving problems and handling emotions such as selfishness and fear. In many books, the smaller or weaker character outwits the larger, scarier character. All have happy endings. Most are colourfully illustrated and even those with more muted palettes have a great deal of appeal. In general, the books are humorous, even when dealing with serious subjects. While a number of the adult chosen award winners had stories that were very explicit to the culture of the country of the author, the award winners chosen by children were mostly culturally neutral with the exception of some terminology (i.e. “loo” vs “bathroom”).

It is in the chapter books, though, that the most cohesiveness is seen.

- Two strong trends emerged in the twenty books examined: fourteen books were fantasy and fourteen books were volumes from a series. Three books—*Twilight* (US, Australia), *The Lightning Thief* (US, UK) and *Eragon* (US, Australia)—won awards in at least two different countries and all three books are both fantasy and series books.
- A number of these books have been made into movies: *Eragon*, *The Lightning Thief*, *The Tale of Despereaux*, *Twilight*. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* is in production and will be released in 2010 or 2011.
- As with the picture books, the protagonist is usually male although a number of the books have both a male and a female as the main characters. Two books have animals as the protagonists and both the mouse and the dinosaur are male. Only two books had singular female characters and each of these had animal sidekicks—a cat and a dragon—who are male.
- Parents and adults are generally absent or ineffectual as is true with most young adult literature.

Conclusion

While there are commonalities in the books adults choose as award winners and books that children choose, there is not much of an overlap in award-winning titles. While it is impossible to completely explain why this happens, several reasons can be ascertained. At least in the United States where most children’s choice awards are administered by states, many have the restriction that books that won the Newbery or Caldecott are not eligible for state awards. Also, adult awards are more concerned with quality writing while children are more likely to choose books with strong *kid appeal*.

This study only touches the surface and much more research needs to be done.

Reference

Award-Winning Books. (2010). International Children’s Digital Library. Retrieved May 20, 2010, from <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>

Bowker’s Books in Print with Reviews. (2010). University of North Texas library databases. Retrieved May 29, 2010, from <http://BooksinPrint.com>

APPENDIX A AWARDS

Australian Children's Book of the Year (Australia)
Belgrade Book Fair (Serbia)
Best Original Slovenian Illustrated Children's Book (Slovenia)
BILBY Award (Australia)
Bisto Awards (Ireland)
BolognaRaguzzi New Horizons (International)
Bratislava Biennial of Illustrations (Slovakia)
Caldecott Medal (US)
Canadian Children's Book Center Our Choice Awards (Canada)
Canadian Library Association Book of the Year for Children (Canada)
Carnegie Medal (UK)
Concurso Nacional de Literatura Libros para Niños (Nicaragua)
Concurso Nacional de Literatura Infantil (Nicaragua)
Costa Whitbread Award (UK)
Elementary Teacher's Association of Ontario Writer's Award (Canada)
Esther Glen Award (New Zealand)
Festival of Books for Children and Young Adults (Iran)
Gintong Aklat Prize (Philippines)
Governor Generals Literary Awards (Canada)
Gregor Vitez Award (Croatia)
Guardian Children's Fiction Prize (UK)
Iran's Selected Titles (Iran)
Islamic Theological Sciences Center (Iran)
Jomo Kenyatta Prize for Literature in Swahili (Kenya)
Kate Greenaway Medal (UK)
Koala Award (Australia)
Michael Printz Award (US)
National Children's Foundation, Best Books (Sri Lanka)
Newbery Medal (US)
New Zealand Post Book of the Year Award (New Zealand)
Noma Concours for Picture Book Illustrations (Iran)
Oita Biennial of Illustrations (Philippines)
Percy Fitzpatrick Award (South Africa)
Philippines National Book Award (Philippines)
Philippines PBBY Illustrator's Award (Philippines)
Philippines Salanga Writer's Prize (Philippines)
Prix des Lyceens Allemands (France)
Prix Nouvelle Revue Pédagogique (France)
Red House Children's Book Award (UK)
Royal Mall Award for Scottish Children's Books (Scotland)
R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature (Canada)
Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award (Canada)
Shabaviz Grand Festival (Iran)
State Literary Award (Sri Lanka)
Tir na n-Og Award (Wales)
White Ravens (International)

APPENDIX B
BOOKLIST OF AWARD WINNERS

Note: Annotations are not original and were copied from source of award, ICDL, Books in Print, or publishers' information.

TITLE: ABRAHAM
AUTHOR: Rahmandoust, Mostafa
PUBLICATION DATE: 2004
COUNTRY: Iran
LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi
FORMAT: Picture
GENRE: Myth (biblical)
AWARDS: BolognaRaguzzi New Horizons (for the series)
BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Story of Abraham and Nimrod

TITLE: ALL LOVE AND FOUR BROTHERS
AUTHOR: Rahmandoust, Mostafa
PUBLICATION DATE: 2003
COUNTRY: Iran
LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi
FORMAT: Picture
GENRE: folktale
AWARDS: BolognaRaguzzi New Horizons (for the series)
BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: All Love must perform four impossible tasks. "Brothers" = seasons.

TITLE: THE ANGEL AND THE MOON
AUTHOR: Mirkiyae, Mehdi
PUBLICATION DATE: 2006
COUNTRY: Iran
LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi
FORMAT: Picture
GENRE: Folktale
AWARDS: Noma Concours for Picture Book Illustrations 2006
BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: One night the good angel visited an old sculptor. She secretly carried the clay on his bench to the moon and replaced it with clay from the moon for the old man.

TITLE: AN ANGEL IS BORN
AUTHOR: Azad, Marjan Keshavarzi
PUBLICATION DATE: 2004
COUNTRY: Iran
LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi
FORMAT: Picture
GENRE: Folktale
AWARDS: Islamic Theological Sciences Center 2006
BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: An angel flew into a couple's dream, knowing that the couple longed for a child so she asked God to let her be their child. This is how children are born.

TITLE: AN APPLE IN THE SHAWL
AUTHOR: Vasinovic, Ljubica (ed)
PUBLICATION DATE: 2002
COUNTRY: Serbia

LANGUAGE: Serbian
FORMAT: Picture (80 pp, illustrated)
GENRE: Poetry
AWARDS: Best Children's Book Prize Belgrade Book Fair 2002
BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Collection of folk poetry

TITLE: ASLEEP AND AWAKE

AUTHOR: Azita, Arta

PUBLICATION DATE: 2002

COUNTRY: Iran

LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Folktale

AWARDS: BolognaRaguzzi New Horizons (for the series)

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: A stranger told Mahan, a merchant, he had profited from a trade and asked him to follow him. He followed the stranger into the desert but the stranger disappeared. Mahan wandered many days in the desert until he reached a pretty garden owned by witches. Prophet Khizr rescues him.

TITLE: ATASAY

AUTHOR: Yousef, Mohamma Reza

PUBLICATION DATE: 2004

COUNTRY: Iran

LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: BolognaRaguzzi New Horizons (for the series)

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Atasay ate a magic pill that made her invisible. While invisible, she realized that others could replace her in some situations, but that her mom could never find a replacement for her

TITLE: AUTUMNALS

AUTHOR: Rahmandoust, Mostafa

PUBLICATION DATE: 2002

COUNTRY: Iran

LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Poetry

AWARDS: Award winner of the 10th Festival of the Books for Children and Young Adults 2002

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: poems about autumn

TITLE: WHY IS MY MOMMY LATE

AUTHOR: Canon, Kristine

PUBLICATION DATE: 2001

COUNTRY: Phillipines

LANGUAGE: Filipino/English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) Grand Prize Salanga Writer's Prize, 2001; PBBY Grand Prize Illustrator's Award, 2001

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: A girl refuses to let fear overcome her when her mother is late to pick her up. Instead, her wild imagination leads her to think of whimsical situations like riding on the back of a turtle or flying with an eagle that may explain her mothers' tardiness.

TITLE: BAREFOOT BRIDE

AUTHOR: Kaymaran, Naucheher

PUBLICATION DATE: 2003

COUNTRY: Iran

LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: BolognaRaguzzi New Horizons (for the series)

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: A farmer and his wife pray for a child, but when she finally gives birth, it's to a kitten! Meanwhile, the governor's son is looking for a bride...

TITLE: THE BEAUTIFUL POND

AUTHOR: Kalvand, Kambiz

PUBLICATION DATE: 2004

COUNTRY: Iran

LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Animal Fantasy

AWARDS: BolognaRaguzzi New Horizons (for the series); : Islamic Theological Sciences Center 2005

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Speckled Frog used to sing differently so the other frogs poured a "song syrup" into her mouth that made her silent. A fish finds a flute at the bottom of the pond and brings it to her. Speckled Frog played very well, and everyone in the pond enjoyed her music.

TITLE: BLACK PENCIL AND RED PENCIL

AUTHOR: Shams, Mohammad Reza

PUBLICATION DATE: 2004

COUNTRY: Iran

LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Grand Prix Winner of Bratislava Biennial of Illustration 2005

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Black Pencil wrote stories all day, but his stories were dull and silly. Red Pencil always scolded Black Pencil. She told him to write well and stop wasting paper. But Black Pencil couldn't stop from writing. He wrote and wrote and grew shorter and shorter until he died a natural death. A mouse caught Red Pencil and chewed her to death before she could write her masterpiece.

TITLE: THE BLUE SKY

AUTHOR: Huseinovic, Andrea Petrlik

PUBLICATION DATE: 2001

COUNTRY: Croatia

LANGUAGE: Croatian, English, German, Italian, Persian, Farsi, Romanian, Spanish

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Gregor Vitez Award; Gold Plaque Winner of Bratislava Biennial of Illustration 2003

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: A sad and lonely little girl dreams of seeing her mother again as she watches the clouds in the sky. One day, she meets a strange bird who helps the girl return to her mother.

TITLE: THE BOY WHO KNEW HOW TO COUNT

AUTHOR: Haddad, Hoda

PUBLICATION DATE: 2005

COUNTRY: Iran

LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Award winner at Shabaviz Grand Festival 2005 and 12th Festival of Books for Children and Young Adults 2006; Islamic Theological Sciences Center Award 2007

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: A boy first learned to count his parents, which made two. Then he added himself to make three. Next he learned to multiply and subtract.

TITLE: THE BOY WHO SEES THINGS IN A DIFFERENT WAY

AUTHOR: Dashdondog, Jambyn

PUBLICATION DATE: 2005

COUNTRY: Mongolia

LANGUAGE: Mongolian, English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: White Ravens selected title 2006

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Story of a boy who had his own way of seeing things.

TITLE: THE BOY WHO WAS LOST

AUTHOR: Mohseni, Abbas Ghadi

PUBLICATION DATE: 2005

COUNTRY: Iran

LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic?

AWARDS: Islamic Theological Sciences Center Award 2007

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: A crippled boy who is kind to everyone and never asks for help is lost.

TITLE: THE BOY WITH A LITTLE RED HOOSD

AUTHOR: Peklar, Andreja

PUBLICATION DATE: 2005

COUNTRY: Slovenia

LANGUAGE: Slovenian

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Best Original Slovenian Illustrated Children's Book 2006; White Ravens selected title 2006

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: This is the story of a Golden Deer who destroyed corn crops in a land of richness. But a boy convinced him to stop and together they convey the universal message to people about living together in harmony and mutual respect.

TITLE: BREEZE

AUTHOR: Shirazi, Atusa Negahi

PUBLICATION DATE: 2000

COUNTRY: Iran

LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Iran's Selected Titles 2001

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Nasim goes to the seashore everyday to escape her loneliness. There, she makes friends with the wind and goes on many short trips with him.

TITLE: BROWN CAT

AUTHOR: Jaafari, Laleh

PUBLICATION DATE: 2004

COUNTRY: Iran

LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Selected Title 1st International Festival of Books for Children and Young Adults 2005; Selected Title Shabaviz Grand Festival 2005

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: A girl had a cat, a canary, and a chick. The naughty cat scared the canary and the chick with her meowing sounds. To punish the cat, the girl took the cat to a park far away. When she got home, the chick was upset because the canary was gone. The girl and the chick found the canary playing in the park with the cat. The canary was teaching the cat how to sing.

TITLE: THE CAT AND THE STARS

AUTHOR: Kakavand, Kambiz

PUBLICATION DATE: 2004

COUNTRY: Iran

LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Bologna Ragazzi Award—New Horizons 2004; Selected Title 1st International Festival of Books for Children and Young Adults 2005

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: A hungry cat dreams of eating stars in the sky

TITLE: THE CAT WITH A BELL

AUTHOR: Yusefi, Mohammad Reza

PUBLICATION DATE: 2003

COUNTRY: Iran

LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Selected Title 1st International Festival of Books for Children and Young Adults 2005

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: The cat had made life difficult for the mice. So Little Mouse concocted a plan to keep the cat away from the mice forever!

TITLE: CELEBRATION NIGHTS

AUTHOR: Haddad, Hoda

PUBLICATION DATE: 2004

COUNTRY: iran

LANGUAGE: Persian/Farsi

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Award winner Shabaviz Grand Festival 2005

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Mahak loved her grandpa Bahram, who was the priest that kindled the sacred fire during the New Year holidays. Bahram lived in a temple and recorded the history of their town. He appeared once a year to kindle the sacred fire. One year the people gathered wood and were waiting for Bahram to kindle their fire, but they saw flames rising from the temple. Mahak entered the burning temple and saved Bahram's records.

TITLE: CHENYLYN! CHENELYN!

AUTHOR: Garlitos, Rhandee

PUBLICATION DATE: 2003

COUNTRY: Philippines

LANGUAGE: Filipino/Tagalog
FORMAT: Picture
GENRE: Realistic
AWARDS: Gintong Aklat Award Children's Book Category 2000 (date is as posted)
BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Story about the importance of the house maid in a Filipino family

TITLE: CHING, WHO IS AFRAID OF THE DARK

AUTHOR: Batnag, Aleli Dew
PUBLICATION DATE: 2002
COUNTRY: Philippines
LANGUAGE: Filipino/Tagalog
FORMAT: Picture
GENRE: Realistic
AWARDS: Gintong Aklat Award Children's Book Category 2000 (date is as posted)
BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: This story is about a child who is afraid of the dark. He was scared by his cousin so he would not go out at night. But he discovers that it's not really scary in the dark. It is where he can see beautiful things like stars shining in the sky and fireflies in the trees.

TITLE: WHITE STORK

AUTHOR: Huseinovic, Andrea Petrlik
PUBLICATION DATE: 2003
COUNTRY: Croatia
LANGUAGE: Croatian, English, Spanish
FORMAT: Picture
GENRE: Fantasy
AWARDS: Grand Prize Oita Biennial of Illustrations, 2004; Selected Title White Ravens 2004
BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: When the white stork's Croatian village is destroyed by war, he searches for a new place to live. However, he finds out that there's no place like home.

TITLE: DREAMING ABOUT AMERICA

AUTHOR: Waliborn, Ken
PUBLICATION DATE: 2001
COUNTRY: Kenya
LANGUAGE: Swahili
FORMAT: Chapter
GENRE: Realistic
AWARDS: jomo Kenyatta Prize for Literature in Swahili 2003
BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: A young boy named Issa from rural Kenya narrates his adventures to us. "You can't go to America until you have dreamed about America" says his friend. Issa dreams about America, and then runs into trouble trying to get there, with a good lesson to learn at the end

TITLE: THE FLYING TRAIN

AUTHOR: Sooriyanrachchi, Janaki
PUBLICATION DATE: 2003
COUNTRY: Sri Lanka
LANGUAGE: English
FORMAT: Picture
GENRE: Fantasy
AWARDS: State Literary Award 2004
BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: One night, a flying train takes Jimmy and Nelly on an adventure to outer space. Was it all just a dream?

TITLE: THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN MOUSE AND ELEPHANT

AUTHOR: John Kilaka

PUBLICATION DATE: 2004?

COUNTRY: Rwanda

LANGUAGE: Kinyarwanda

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Bologna Ragazzi New Horizons Award 2005; Selected Title White Ravens 2006

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Elephant was best friends with Ratsi, the mouse. When a famine came, Elephant offered to put Ratsi's food in his house for safekeeping, but then he refused to give it back.

TITLE: THE GIANT MUSHROOM

AUTHOR: Sooriyanrachchi, Janaki

PUBLICATION DATE: 2003

COUNTRY: Sri Lanka

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: National Children's Foundation, Best Books

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Skippy the bunny is sad because his brother is hungry. Will he be able to find something for his brother to eat?

TITLE: MY MOTHER DARNA WILL NOW COME HOME

AUTHOR: Samar, Edgar

PUBLICATION DATE: 2003

COUNTRY: Philippines

LANGUAGE: Filipino

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: PBBY Grand Prize Salanga Writer's Prize and Illustrator's Prize

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: A story about a young boy named Popoy who cannot wait for his mother to come home because his father told him that she is "Darna", the good and tough Filipino superhero.

TITLE: WHERE IS KUYA EMIL?

AUTHOR: Yia, Germaine

PUBLICATION DATE: 2000

COUNTRY: Phillipines

LANGUAGE: Filipino,English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: PBBY Grand Prize Salanga Writer's Prize 2000

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: "Where is Kuya Emil?" is a story about a young boy and his teenage cousin Emil. Join him as he discovers that even though a person may change as they grow up, there are important things that remain in one's heart.

TITLE: EL NINO RADIO Y OTRES CUENTOS

AUTHOR: Moya, Dixon; Enrique Pilarte, Luis Felipe Ulloa

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: Nicaragua

LANGUAGE: Spanish

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Finalistas del II Concurso Nacional de Literatura "Libros para Niños 2006 (date is as shown)
BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: In the first history, a boy goes to the dentist of his town and when leaving they begin to happen very strange and funny things to him. Second, it tells us of five camels that must cross the desert to give a load, the trip will leave very important lessons them for the life. In the third history, two gangs or maras are about to face and their leaders end up facing a full situation of mystery that will transform the lives of all.

TITLE: A DOZEN BROTHERS

AUTHOR: Molina, Russell

PUBLICATION DATE: 2003

COUNTRY: Philippines

LANGUAGE: Filipino, English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: PBBY Grand Prize - Salanga Writers' Prize, 2003; PBBY Grand Prize - Alcala Illustrators' Prize, 2003

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: boy has twelve older brothers - all of whom look different from one another! He lives in an orphanage so his family may be unusual, but they are very happy.

TITLE: TAMING THE TANIWHA

AUTHOR: Tipene, Tim

PUBLICATION DATE: 2001

COUNTRY: New Zealand

LANGUAGE: English, Maori

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Selected Title White Ravens 2002

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: With the help and support of his family, Tama finds a way to tame the bully at school who becomes his friend.

TITLE: A TIME FOR EVRON

AUTHOR: Smillie, Bryan

PUBLICATION DATE: 2001

COUNTRY: Canada

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Science Fiction

AWARDS: Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (Canada) Writer's Award, 2004; Canadian Children's Book Centre Our Choice Award 2003

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Evron, along with eleven of his dog friends, have come to Earth from another planet far away in space. They are here to see how Earth's kids respond to them. The dogs are confidantes to the young people and so the kids talk to them about their private feelings. They can always talk to their Evron friend in privacy. A number of issues arise throughout the book from first love and friendship problems, to low self-esteem, abuse and racism. Evron is always there to guide the young people. Sometimes he gives direct advice; other times, he helps them to work out decisions on their own.

TITLE: AN UNEXPECTED SHIPWRECK

AUTHOR: Medrano, Ulises Salazar

PUBLICATION DATE: 2007

COUNTRY: Nicaragua

LANGUAGE: Spanish

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Ganador del Premio Unico del Concurso Nacional de Literatura Infantil, 2006

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Using simple household items of daily life, the author makes readers navigate a fun adventure at sea. This story is a celebration of mischief and imagination with which children can create a world free of the sanctions in which they can live.

TITLE: WEAVING EARTH AND SKY: MYTHOS AND LEGENDS OF AOTEAROA

AUTHOR: Sullivan, Robert

PUBLICATION DATE: 2002

COUNTRY: New Zealand

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Illustrated chapter

GENRE: Legend

AWARDS: New Zealand Post Book of the Year Award 2003

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Six traditional Maori tales: the creation of voyages; Tāne and Hine Tītama; the stories of Māui; the adventures of Tāwhaki; the adventures of Rata; Kupe's voyage

TITLE: THE WITCH'S DAUGHTER

AUTHOR: Janaki Sooriyarchchi

PUBLICATION DATE: 2005

COUNTRY: Sri Lanka

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: State Literary Award 2007

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Broccolina, the witch's daughter, learns that true beauty comes from being beautiful on the inside.

TITLE: FIRST AID FOR FAIRIES AND OTHER FABLED BEASTS

AUTHOR: Don, Lari

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: UK/Scotland

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Royal Mall Award for Scottish Children's Books 2009

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Helen has absolutely no interest in becoming a vet like her mother. So she is pleased when asked to help an injured horse. Only this horse isn't entirely normal ... and nor are his friends. Without warning, Helen is thrust into an extraordinary world full of magical rituals, fantastical creatures and a dangerous, powerful beast known as the Master, who would destroy it all. Everything hinges on finding the lost Book of Wisdom before the Winter Solstice. Can Helen work out the riddles and help her new friends to make amends for a foolish prank. This is a wonderful mixture of fable and fiction, woven together into an exciting race through Scotland, diverse landscapes, accompanied by an array of creatures from mythology and folklore.

TITLE: MANFRED THE BADDIE

AUTHOR: Fardell, John

PUBLICATION DATE: 2009

COUNTRY: UK/Scotland

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic?

AWARDS: Royal Mall Award for Scottish Children's Books 2009

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Kidnapping inventors, stealing from art museums, conducting acts of piracy on the high seas. Will Manfred ever learn his lesson? He is even nasty to his own henchmen! John Fardell's inventive story and richly detailed artwork combine to make an exciting, hilarious book that children will want to read time and time again.

TITLE: OSTRICH BOYS

AUTHOR: Gray, Keith

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008 UK/ 2010 US

COUNTRY: UK

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Royal Mail Award for Scottish Children's Books 2009

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Ross is dead, and Blake, Sim, and Kenny are furious. To make it right, they steal Ross' ashes and set out from their home on the English coast for the tiny village of Ross in southern Scotland, a place their friend had always wanted to go. What follows is an unforgettable journey with illegal train rides, bungee jumping, girls, and high-speed police chases, all with Ross's ashes along for the ride. As events spin wildly out of control, the three friends must take their heads out of the sand long enough to answer the question: What really happened to Ross?

TITLE: CHESTER'S BACK

AUTHOR: Watt, Melanie

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: Canada

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award (children's choice)

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: In this uproarious sequel to Chester, the battle of the picture-book makers continues. Which author-illustrator will come out on top -- Chester or Melanie Watt -- is anybody's guess! This time, there's no denying (in Chester's mind) that he's the star of the show. His already outside ego has ballooned even more due to a spate of "fan mail" on the heels of his self-titled debut. As Chester sees it, who needs Melanie Watt when they have Chester? He's got no shortage of his own storytelling ideas. With heavy paw and red marker, this control-freak cat does not hesitate to commit them to paper. When Chester starts acting far too Hollywood, Melanie calls an open audition to replace the high-maintenance feline. This isn't a move that Chester will take lying down.

TITLE: LIBERTAD

AUTHOR: Fullerton, Alma

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: Canada

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award (children's choice)

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: With their father gone to America to make money for his family, Libertad, his little brother Julio and their mother scrape a living out of a dump in Guatemala City. Although it is too late for him, Libertad is determined that his little brother should go to school. Taught to play the marimba by his father, Libertad uses his talent as a street musician to raise enough money for his brother's school supplies. But his dreams for their future are destroyed when their mother is killed in a freak accident. Libertad must face the inevitable truth; they cannot survive on the streets of Guatemala City alone. There is

only one thing to do. They must set out on the long and lonely journey to the Rio Grande River, where they plan to cross the water and enter the United States to find their father

TITLE: DARKWING

AUTHOR: Opper, Kenneth

PUBLICATION DATE: 2007

COUNTRY: US but Canadian Award

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award (children's choice)

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: As the sun sets on the time of the dinosaurs, a new world is left in its wake. . . . Dusk He alone can fly and see in the dark, in a colony where being different means being shunned-or worse. As the leader's son, he is protected, but does his future lie among his kin? Carnassial He has the true instincts of a predator, and he is determined that his kind will not only survive but will dominate the world of beasts.

TITLE: THE BOY FROM THE SUN

AUTHOR: Weller, Duncan

PUBLICATION DATE: 2007

COUNTRY: Canada

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award (children's choice)

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: **TITLE:** The Boy from the Sun starts on an ordinary day. As three children sit on the sidewalk after school, wondering what to do to make the day special, a little boy with a yellow shining head floats down beside them. The children soon make friends with the strange new boy, and thus begins a magical journey that helps all the children see the world through new eyes.

TITLE: MATTLAND

AUTHOR: Hutchins, Hazel and Gail Herbert

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: Canada

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Matt is miserable. The subdivision where he now lives is surrounded by nothing but muddy fields of rocks and sticks. But when Matt ventures out, his imagination kicks in. He draws a muddy, winding line and names it Snake River. A pile of rocks becomes the Dog Tooth Mountains. Just like that, Mattland is born. Soon a girl shows up with a handful of helpful odds and ends. Piece by piece, she and Matt expand their new world with popsicle-stick bridges and scrap-paper boats. And when a rainstorm finally threatens to wash everything away, all the neighborhood kids appear and help stave off the flood

TITLE: STITCHES

AUTHOR: Huser, Glen

PUBLICATION DATE: 2003

COUNTRY: Canada

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: A boy's aspirations to become a puppeteer make him a target for the school bully.

TITLE: EXPOSURE

AUTHOR: Peet, Mal

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008 (2009 US)

COUNTRY: UK

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Guardian Children's Fiction Prize

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Mal Peet takes a searing look at the world of soccer and pop-celebrity culture - and the lives of three street kids caught in its glare. When a black South American soccer star signs on to a team in the country's racist south, headlines blare. And when he falls for the sensual Desmerelda, a stunning white pop singer and daughter of a wealthy politician, their sudden and controversial marriage propels the pair to centre stage, where they burn in the media spotlight. But celebrity attracts enemies; some very close to home. And its dazzle reaches into the city's hidden corners, exposing a life of grit and desperation the glitterati could never imagine. When a girl is found murdered, reporter Paul Faustino is caught between worlds as he witnesses the power of the media in making - and breaking - lives.

TITLE: THE KNIFE OF NEVER LETTING GO

AUTHOR: Ness, Patrick

PUBLICATION DATE: 2007 (US 2008)

COUNTRY: UK

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Science Fiction

AWARDS: Guardian Children's Fiction Prize

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Readers are in for a white-knuckled journey in this series that follows a boy and girl on the run from a town where all thoughts can be heard—and the passage into manhood embodies a horrible secret.

TITLE: BELLA'S TREE

AUTHOR: Russell, Janet

PUBLICATION DATE: 2009

COUNTRY: Canada

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Governor Generals Literary Awards

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Bella's Tree tells the story of a grandmother who has become "crooked" because she's too old to go out and find the perfect Christmas tree. Her spunky granddaughter, Bella, and Bruno the dog are certain they can do the job and put a smile on Nan's face. They sing for inspiration and enlist the help of some birds to help them pick the right tree. Will it be "the beauty, the beautier," or "the beautiest?" Will they come through for Nan?

TITLE: PIECES OF ME

AUTHOR: Gingress, Charlotte

PUBLICATION DATE: 2009

COUNTRY: Canada

LANGUAGE: English (translated)

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Governor Generals Literary Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Mirabelle's art teacher tells her she has talent, but what good is it doing her? Almost fifteen and friendless, Mira is plagued by dark thoughts. Her body seems to be changing daily. Her mother is domineering and half-crazy and her father -- well, he's her ex-father, mostly out of Mira's life and awkward when he's around. Then she meets free-spirited, confident Catherine, a knockout who makes the boys' jaws drop. Not only is Catherine good at art like Mira, she also knows about kissing boys. Mira has never kissed anyone and doesn't understand the hungry way boys are beginning to look at her. Now that Mira's finally found someone she can talk to, her dark thoughts are vanishing. But as her friend encourages her to come out of her shell, Mira finds that her new-found confidence can still be shattered in an instant. Only after Mira faces a betrayal and a tragedy can she begin to put the fragmented pieces of herself together.

TITLE: LITTLE MOUSES BIG BOOK OF FEARS

AUTHOR: Gravett, Emily

PUBLICATION DATE: 2007

COUNTRY: UK

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Kate Greenaway Medal

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Young children will identify with the little mouse who documents his fears in the pages of this book from loud noises and the dark to being sucked down the plughole.

TITLE: HARRIS FINDS HIS FEET

AUTHOR: Rayner, Catherine

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: UK (also US)

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Kate Greenaway Medal

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: And so begins a beautiful and remarkable story about a child's journey to independence. With help from his grandfather, Harris learns how to use his enormous feet to hop high into the sky. He climbs to the tops of mountains and runs really fast until suddenly he is on his own. Gorgeous and highly imaginative watercolors illustrate how Harris not only learns about the world around him, but also discovers the importance of finding his own feet.

TITLE: SMASHED

AUTHOR: Hager, Mandy

PUBLICATION DATE: 2007

COUNTRY: New Zealand

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Esther Glen Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Smashed tells the story of three teenage friends, and how their friendship, loyalties and values are thrown into confusion when the main character's younger sister is raped by one of his best friends. His reaction sets in motion a "ripple effect", which culminates in a violent act of revenge upon the rapist.

TITLE: GENESIS

AUTHOR: Beckett, Bernard

PUBLICATION DATE: 2006

COUNTRY: New Zealand

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Science Fiction/Dystopian

AWARDS: Esther Glen Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: In a terrifying and stifling examination environment a young Academy candidate, Anaximander, is put through a grueling exercise in interpreting the history and origins of her society. Though her answers, we learn that in 2052, New Zealand has been renamed The Republic after a reforming Governor, Plato. It has separated itself from a plague-ridden globe with a gargantuan ring fence guarded with military outposts. All approaching boats, exploratory air craft or refugees are shot on sight. Society is strictly divided and individuals deviate from their assigned roles at their peril. When one man, Adam Forde (2058-2077) insists on his right to independent thought and action, The Republic is set at grave risk. Adam is imprisoned: his sentence is to become the participant in a programming experiment with a new brand of artificial intelligence.

TITLE: THE ASK AND THE ANSWER

AUTHOR: Ness, Patrick

PUBLICATION DATE: 2009

COUNTRY: UK (US)

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: SciFi

AWARDS: Costa Whitbread

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Having escaped from the dystopian, all-male Prentisstown, teenagers Todd and Viola have fled to the city of Haven, only to discover that Prentisstown's mayor, a powerful and charismatic sociopath, has gotten there first, intent on controlling the entire planet. Separated, the friends are caught up on opposite sides of a horrific, morally ambiguous civil war, with Todd coming close to madness. (Viola later reminds Todd, who has undertaken some shocking and cruel responsibilities while working with the mayor.

TITLE: JUST HENRY

AUTHOR: Magorian, Michelle

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: UK (US)

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Historical

AWARDS: Costa Whitbread Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: It's 1949 and life is bleak for Henry. He misses his father who died a war hero, and he escapes from his annoying stepfather and stepsister whenever he can by going to the movies. One day he meets Mr. Beaumont, a man who also loves films and agrees to lend Henry a camera for his school project. Henry is disgusted to learn that he's been put in a group with Jeffries, the son of a man who went AWOL, and Pip, who was born illegitimate. Henry begins to learn that tolerance and friendship are more important than social stigmas when he processes the film and makes an alarming discovery. Like a bomb waiting to explode, Henry's world is about to unravel, and he will need his new friends to keep disaster in check.

TITLE: THE SHEPHERD'S GRANDDAUGHTER

AUTHOR: Carter, Anne Laurel

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: Canada

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: CLA Book of the Year for Children Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Amani longs to be a shepherd like her beloved grandfather Sido, who has tended his flock for generations, grazing sheep on their family's homestead near Hebron. Amani loves Sidos many stories, especially one about a secret meadow called the Firdoos. But as outside forces begin to encroach upon this hotly contested land. Amani struggles to find suitable grazing for her family's now-starving herd. While her father and brother take a more militant stance against the intruding forces, Amani and her new American friend Jonathan accidentally stumble upon the Firdoos and begin to realize there is more to life than fighting over these disputed regions.

TITLE: THE CRAZY MAN

AUTHOR: Porter, Pamela

PUBLICATION DATE: 2005

COUNTRY: Canada

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Historical

AWARDS: CLA Book of the Year for Children Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES:

It is 1965, and 12-year-old Emaline, living on a wheat farm, must deal with a family that is falling apart. When her dog, Prince, chases a hare into the path of the tractor, she chases after him, and her father accidentally runs over her leg, leaving her with a long convalescence and a permanent disability. Even worse, from Emaline's point of view, is that in his grief and guilt, her father shoots Prince and leaves Emaline and her mother on their own. Despite the neighbors' disapproval, Emaline's mother hires Angus, a patient from the local mental hospital, to work their fields. Though the small town's prejudice creates a cloud of suspicion around Angus that nearly results in tragedy, he just may hold the key to Emaline's coming to grips with her injury and the loss of her father.

TITLE: BOG CHILD

AUTHOR: Dowd, Siobhan

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: UK (US)

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Carnegie Medal

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Digging for peat in the mountain with his Uncle Tally, Fergus finds the body of a child, and it looks like she's been murdered. As Fergus tries to make sense of the mad world around him--his brother on hunger-strike in prison, his growing feelings for Cora, his parents arguing over the Troubles, and him in it up to the neck, blackmailed into acting as courier to God knows what, a little voice comes to him in his dreams, and the mystery of the bog child unfurls.

TITLE: HERE LIES ARTHUR

AUTHOR: Reeve, Philip

PUBLICATION DATE: 2007

COUNTRY: UK

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Legend

AWARDS: Carnegie Medal

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Gwynna is just a girl who is forced to run when her village is attacked. She is discovered in the woods by Myrddin the bard, a traveler and spinner of tales. He agrees to protect Gwynna if she will agree to be bound in service to him. Gwynna is frightened but intrigued and says yes for this. Myrddin serves the young, rough, and influential Arthur. In the course of their travels, Myrddin transforms Gwynna into a lady goddess, a boy warrior, and a spy. It is part of a plot to turn Arthur from the leader of a ragtag war band into King Arthur.

TITLE: PENCIL OF DOOM!

AUTHOR: Griffiths, Andy

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: Australia

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: BILBY award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Henry McThrottle and his friends never know what's going to happen when they get to their fifth-grade class. Flying lessons? Possible. Banana-appreciation exams? Definitely possible. High jinks galore? Guaranteed. In this case, the wackiness is fueled by the Pencil of Doom a strange and powerful pencil that Henry has inherited, which appears to be able to write the future as well as it can write on paper. In the right hands, it's a thing of fantasy. And in the wrong hands, it could spell ruination for the whole school!

TITLE: DIRTY OF A WOMBAT

AUTHOR: French, Jackie

PUBLICATION DATE: 2002

COUNTRY: Australia

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Bilby Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Picture storybook for young children, humorously presenting the activities (and inactivity) of a wombat with attitude, Mothball, and her impact on the family she decides to 'train'.

TITLE: TALES FROM OUTER SUBURBIA

AUTHOR: Tan, Shaun

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: Australia

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Illustrated Chapter

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Australian Children's Book of the Year Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: An exchange student who's really an alien, a secret room that becomes the perfect place for a quick escape, a typical tale of grandfatherly exaggeration that is actually even more bizarre than he says... These are the odd details of everyday life that grow and take on an incredible life

TITLE: HOW TO HEAR A BROKEN WING

AUTHOR: Graham, Bob

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: Australia

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Australian Children's Book of the Year Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: When Will helps an injured bird, he learns that a little kindness can go a long way. No one in the busy city sees the bird lying on the pavement, its wing broken. No one but a small boy called Will. He and his mum carry it home and, with time, rest, and a little bit of hope, the wing mends...and they set the bird free to soar over the city once more.

TITLE: MERLIN'S MAGICAL CREATURES

AUTHOR: Howells, Graham

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: Wales

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Illustrated Chapter

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Tir na n-Og Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: This is a guide to the magical world of Merlin...Just imagine that Merlin kept a notebook, detailing all the wonderful curious creatures in his world of magic and mystery. Imagine too, that hundreds of years later author-illustrator Graham Howells found that notebook and set to work deciphering Merlin's mystical drawings and descriptions. The result? A stunning, illustrated handbook, providing a reference guide to the magical world of Merlin the Wizard which will delight Merlin watchers everywhere.

TITLE: BOWNSIO

AUTHOR: Huws, Emily

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: Wales

LANGUAGE: Welsh

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Tir na n-Og Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: About a teenage girl who discovers that her mother is not dead after all. It is a novel which deals with private hope and the harsh reality of life.

TITLE: ANNYL SMOTYN BACH

AUTHOR: Roberts, Lluecu

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: Wales

LANGUAGE: Welsh

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: SciFi

AWARDS: Tir na n-Og Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: A novel for older teenagers set in the future in which Big Brother keeps an eye on everything; it tells the tale of a pregnant young woman who attempts to escape and break free from the regime.

TITLE: THERE

AUTHOR: Fitzpatrick, Marie-Louise

PUBLICATION DATE: 2009

COUNTRY: Ireland (US)

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Bisto Book of the Year Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: When will I get there? How will I know? A little girl ponders what the future holds, steadfast in her determination to find out for herself. Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick's gorgeous landscapes and the briefest of text speak to the power of imagination.

TITLE: SOLACE OF THE ROAD

AUTHOR: Dowd, Siobhan

PUBLICATION DATE: 2009

COUNTRY: Ireland (UK, US)

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Bisto Merit Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: When Holly Hogan finds a long, blond wig, everything changes. She's transformed into Solace, the girl with the slinkster walk and the supersharp talk. She's older, more confident-kind of girl who can walk right out of her humdrum life, hitch to Ireland, and find her mum.

TITLE: CREATURE OF THE NIGHT

AUTHOR: Thompson, Kate

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: Ireland

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Bisto Merit Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Who is the Creature in the Night? Bobby lives a reckless life smoking, drinking, and stealing cars in Dublin. So his mother moves the family to the country. But Bobby suspects their cottage might not be as quaint as it seems.

TITLE: THE BOY WHO TOUCHED HEAVEN

AUTHOR: Li, Iris Gem

PUBLICATION DATE: 2006?

COUNTRY: Philippines

LANGUAGE: English, Filipino

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic?

AWARDS: Philippines National Book Award 2007

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: A young Ifugao boy dreamed of touching the sky. He would spend hours watching and pretending to catch the clouds that float by.

TITLE: REX

AUTHOR: Dubosarsky, Ursula

PUBLICATION DATE: 2006

COUNTRY: Australia

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Koala Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Rex, a tiny chameleon, is the class pet. Every day someone gets to take him home, along with a notebook for recording his adventures. How cool is that? But what's really cool about

Rex is that those exploits are depicted as though each classmate has actually done the artwork. In the course of 32 pages, Rex manages to go for a swim, fall out of a window, and get dressed up as Malibu Barbie

TITLE: GARDEN OF THE PURPLE DRAGON

AUTHOR: Wilkinson, Carole

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: Australia

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Historical

AWARDS: Koala Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Ancient China, Han Dynasty. Ping thinks she is safe hiding in the shadow of the Tai Shan mountains. Here she struggles to care for Kai, the baby dragon she is responsible for. But even in her remote mountain hideout, Ping's enemies find her. It is Kai they want. Who can Ping trust? It is impossible to distinguish friend from foe. The easy road beckons. Will they find sanctuary in the Garden of the Purple Dragon? Will Ping embrace her true destiny?

TITLE: BROKEN MEMORY: A NOVEL OF RWANDA

AUTHOR: Combres, Elisabeth

PUBLICATION DATE: 2007

COUNTRY: France

LANGUAGE: French (English translation—US/Canadian publication 2009)

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Historical

AWARDS: Prix Nouvelle Revue Pédagogique; Prix des lycéens allemands

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Hiding behind a chair, five-year-old Emma can't see her mother being murdered, but she hears everything. When the assassins finally leave, the terrified girl stumbles away from the scene, motivated only by the memory of her mother's last words: "You must not die, Emma!" Eventually, Emma is taken in by an old Hutu woman who risks her own life to hide the child. A quiet bond grows between the two, but long after the war ends, Emma is still haunted by nightmares. When the country establishes gacaca courts to allow victims to face their tormentors, Emma is uneasy and afraid. But through her growing friendship with a young torture victim and the encouragement of an old man charged with helping child survivors, Emma finds the courage to begin the long journey to healing.

TITLE: SKYLINE

AUTHOR: Pinnock, Patricia Schonstein

PUBLICATION DATE: 2007

COUNTRY: South Africa

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Percy Fitzpatrick Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: A run-down block of flats in central Cape Town, home to refugees and illegal immigrants, becomes a young girl's gallery of self-discovery in this moving story of the emotional carnage caused by Africa's civil wars. Drug dealers from Nigeria, Zimbabwean wire-workers, immigrants from Rwanda and Sudan, a Mozambican refugee – all seeking the peace of a newly democratic South Africa – bear down on her fragile world, then scoop her up into theirs. Skyline is an unflinching look at one girl's coming of age in the colourful and violent streets of a city waking up to the rest of Africa.

TITLE: SAVANNAH 2116 AD

AUTHOR: Robson, Jenny

PUBLICATION DATE: 2004

COUNTRY: South Africa

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Science Fiction

AWARDS: Percy Fitzpatrick Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: This title takes us to the year 2116AD and tells us the story of Savannah, who is neither a Golden Armbander nor a Con but just an ordinary Homosap – and therefore must know not to dream or aspire. But Savannah is not willing to let go of her dreams so easily, and in one swift movement strikes a blow for all who dare to question.

TITLE: BLOOD TIES

AUTHOR: McKenzie, Sophie

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: UK

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Science Fiction

AWARDS: Red House Children's Book Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: When Theo discovers the father he thought died when he was a baby is still alive, he's determined to find him. The clues lead him to the lonely Rachel, who has problems of her own, including parents who compare her unfavourably to her long-dead sister. But when Rachel and Theo are attacked by men from RAGE - the Righteous Army against Genetic Engineering - at Rachel's school disco, they are rescued by strangers and taken to meet a mysterious figure. There, they both make some startling discoveries about their identities, which will affect their past, present, and future in dramatic and life-altering ways.

TITLE: THE PENCIL

AUTHOR: Ahlberg, Allan and Bruce Ingman.

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: UK/US

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Red House Children's Book Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: A pencil draws a boy, a dog, a cat and a whole world for them to play in. Then the pencil draws a brush, and the brush adds colour to everything. Everyone is very happy, until the pencil draws an eraser ... which begins rubbing everything out!

TITLE: DAISY AND THE TROUBLE WITH ZOOS

AUTHOR: Grey, Kes

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: England

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Red House Children's Book Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: It's Daisy's birthday and she's having a special birthday treat! Mum has arranged for Daisy to go into the actual penguin cage with the actual zoo keeper and FEED actual penguins! REAL ACTUAL PENGUINS! Trouble is, Daisy gets a bit over excited and there are lots and lots of other zoo animals to see before it's time to visit the penguins. Daisy has lots of thoughts about everything they see. When at last it's penguin feeding time, Daisy is surprised by how slimy the fish are . . . But the real surprise is Mum's face on the way home when Daisy suddenly asks for a bag of frozen peas. Mum knows Daisy has

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misinterpreted what it means to adopt a baby animal and a rather cute one (who needs to be kept chilled!) is hiding under her coat.

TITLE: OLD BEAR

AUTHOR: Henkes, Kevin

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: US

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Realistic (animal character)

AWARDS: Caldecott Medal

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Snug and warm, curled and furry, Old Bear sleeps .Red, orange, and brown leaves fly through the air, and it is snowing hard. Old Bear doesn't notice. Old Bear is dreaming about being a cub again. He is dreaming about the beauty of the world. He is dreaming of everything he loves about the forest that is his home.

TITLE: THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET

AUTHOR: Selznick, Brian

PUBLICATION DATE: 2007

COUNTRY: US

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Illustrated not chapter or graphic

GENRE: Historical

AWARDS: Caldecott Medal

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks-like the gears of the clocks he keeps-with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the train station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy. A cryptic drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man, and a hidden message from Hugo's dead father form the backbone of this intricate, tender, and spellbinding mystery.

TITLE: THE LION AND THE MOUSE

AUTHOR: Pinkney, Jerry

PUBLICATION DATE: 2009

COUNTRY: US

LANGUAGE: Wordless

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Folk tale

AWARDS: Caldecott Medal

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: In award-winning artist Jerry Pinkney's wordless adaptation of one of Aesop's most beloved fables, an unlikely pair learns that no act of kindness is ever wasted. After a ferocious lion spares a cowering mouse that he'd planned to eat, the mouse later comes to his rescue, freeing him from a poacher's trap.

TITLE: WHEN YOUR REACH ME

AUTHOR: Stead, Rebecca

PUBLICATION DATE: 2009

COUNTRY: US

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Historical science fiction

AWARDS: Newbery Medal

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Four mysterious letters change Miranda's world forever. By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it's safe to go, like the local grocery store, and they know whom to avoid, like the crazy guy on the corner. But things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a new kid for what seems like no reason, and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The apartment key that Miranda's mom keeps hidden for emergencies is stolen. And then Miranda finds a mysterious note scrawled on a tiny slip of paper: I am coming to save your friend's life, and my own. I must ask two favours. First, you must write me a letter. The notes keep coming, and Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows all about her, including things that have not even happened yet. Each message brings her closer to believing that only she can prevent a tragic death. Until the final note makes her think she's too late.

TITLE: THE GRAVEYARD BOOK

AUTHOR: Gaiman, Neil

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

COUNTRY: US

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Newbery Medal

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor of the dead. There are dangers and adventures in the graveyard for a boy-an ancient Indigo Man beneath the hill, a gateway to a desert leading to an abandoned city of ghouls, the strange and terrible menace of the Sleer. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under attack from the man Jack--who has already killed Bod's family.

TITLE: GOOD MASTERS! SWEET LADIES! VOICES FROM A MEDIEVAL VILLAGE

AUTHOR: Schlitz, Laura Amy

PUBLICATION DATE: 2007

COUNTRY: US

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Picture

GENRE: Poetry

AWARDS: Newbery Medal

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Characters from a medieval village speak in a play format about their lives and jobs.

TITLE: GOING BOVINE

AUTHOR: Bray, Libba

PUBLICATION DATE: 2009

COUNTRY: US

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Fantasy

AWARDS: Michael Printz Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Can Cameron find what he's looking for? All 16-year-old Cameron wants is to get through high school - and life in general - with a minimum of effort. It's not a lot to ask. But that's before he's given some bad news: he's sick and he's going to die. Which totally sucks. Hope arrives in the winged form of Dulcie, a loopy punk angel/possible hallucination with a bad sugar habit. She tells Cam there is a cure - if he's willing to go in search of it. With the help of a death-obsessed, video-gaming dwarf and a yard gnome, Cam sets off on the mother of all road trips through a twisted America into the heart of what matters most.

TITLE: JELlicOE ROAD

AUTHOR: Marchetta, Melina

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008 (Published as On the Jellicoe Road, Australia, 2007)

COUNTRY: US/Australia

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

GENRE: Realistic

AWARDS: Michael Printz Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: Abandoned by her mother on Jellicoe Road when she was eleven, Taylor Markham, now seventeen, is finally being confronted with her past. But as the reluctant leader of her boarding school dorm, there isn't a lot of time for introspection. And while Hannah, the closest adult Taylor has to family, has disappeared, Jonah Griggs is back in town, moody stares and all. Nothing is as it seems and every clue leads to more questions as Taylor tries to work out the connection between her mother dumping her, Hannah finding her then and her sudden departure now, a mysterious stranger who once whispered something in her ear, a boy in her dreams, five kids who lived on Jellicoe Road eighteen years ago, and the maddening and magnetic Jonah Griggs, who knows her better than she thinks he does. If Taylor can put together the pieces of her past, she might just be able to change her future.

TITLE: The WHITE DARKNESS

AUTHOR: McCaughrean, Geraldine

PUBLICATION DATE: 2007 (Originally published UK 2005)

COUNTRY: US (England)

LANGUAGE: English

FORMAT: Chapter

AWARDS: Michael Printz Award

BRIEF SUMMARY/NOTES: "I have been in love with Titus Oates for quite a while now-which is ridiculous, since he's been dead for ninety years. But look at it this way. In ninety years I'll be dead, too, and the age difference won't matter." Sym is not your average teenage girl. She is obsessed with the Antarctic and the brave, romantic figure of Captain Oates from Scott's doomed expedition to the South Pole. In fact, Oates is the secret confidant to whom she spills all her hopes and fears. But Sym's uncle Victor is even more obsessed-and when he takes her on a dream trip into the bleak Antarctic wilderness, it turns into a nightmarish struggle for survival that will challenge everything she knows and loves.

**APPENDIX C
CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARD WINNERS USED FOR ANALYSIS**

PICTURE BOOKS

TITLE: DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS

AUTHOR: Willems, Mo

AWARD AND COUNTRY: US-- 6 state book awards

PROTAGONIST TYPE: Pigeon (animal with human characteristics)

GENDER: assumed to be male

THEME/PLOT: Pigeon wants to drive bus; tries to convince everyone to let him

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: some things are not allowed or good for you

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: no other than elements of an industrial society

TITLE: EPOSSUMONDAS

AUTHOR: Salley, Coleen

AWARD AND COUNTRY: US—7 state book awards

PROTAGONIST TYPE: possum, other animals (animals with human characteristics)

GENDER: Male

THEME/PLOT: archetypal noodlehead story

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: child makes mistakes, mother tries to teach by gently correcting

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: southern setting, flow of language, very New Orleans

TITLE: THE GREAT FUZZ FRENZY

AUTHOR: Stevens, Janet and Susan Stevens Crummel

AWARD AND COUNTRY: US—9 state book awards

PROTAGONIST TYPE: prairie dog, dog (animals with human characteristics)

GENDER: assumed male but not important

THEME/PLOT: selfishness and sharing

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: you get in trouble when you try to take more than your share

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: prairie dogs live only in North America

TITLE: MY LUCKY DAY

AUTHOR: Kasza, Keiko

AWARD AND COUNTRY: US—11 state book awards

PROTAGONIST TYPE: fox, dog (animals with human characteristics)

GENDER: assumed male

THEME/PLOT: pig outwits fox

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: cleverness is better than strength

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: 3 little pigs type tale

TITLE: THE PENCIL

AUTHOR: Ahnberg, Allan and Bruce Ingman

AWARD AND COUNTRY: UK Red House Children's Book Award

PROTAGONIST TYPE: a pencil

GENDER: n/a

THEME/PLOT: A pencil draws a boy, dog, cat, and a world for them to play in but then draws an eraser which begins rubbing everything out. Pencil manages to devise plan to save the day.

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: imagination/happy ending

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: no

TITLE: PENGUIN

AUTHOR: Dunbar, Polly
AWARD AND COUNTRY: UK Red House Children's Book Award
PROTAGONIST TYPE: boy, penguin, lion
GENDER: male
THEME/PLOT: Boy is given a penguin for his birthday but can't make it talk until a passing lion intervenes.
BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: some things are worth the work and the wait
ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: no

TITLE: WHO'S IN THE LOO?
AUTHOR: Willis, Jeanne and Adrian Willis
AWARD AND COUNTRY: UK Red House Children's Book Award
PROTAGONIST TYPE: Various zoo animals
GENDER: n/a
THEME/PLOT: Variety of animals in line for bathroom at zoo.
BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: Bodily functions are normal and it's okay to talk about them
ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: language—loo, widdle, tiddle, etc.-- very British

TITLE: PIGS MIGHT FLY
AUTHOR: Emmett, Jonathan and Steve Cox
AWARD AND COUNTRY: UK Red House Children's Book Award
PROTAGONIST TYPE: pigs, big bad wolf
GENDER: probably male but not important
THEME/PLOT: Take off of 3 little pigs story with pigs trying to outwit wolf in an air race
BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: cultural fairy tales important for children to know; cleverness better than strength
ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: classic fairy tale

TITLE: REX
AUTHOR: Dubosarsky, Ursula and David MacKintosh
AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia KOALA
PROTAGONIST TYPE: Chameleon
GENDER: male
THEME/PLOT: Chameleon is class pet. Students take him home and document his adventures.
BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: Treatment of animals; imagination and creativity
ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: Possibly but book not available to check

TITLE: ANNIE'S CHAIR
AUTHOR: Niland, Deborah
AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia KOALA
PROTAGONIST TYPE: girl
GENDER: female
THEME/PLOT: Someone is sleeping in Annie's chair and she is very mad.
BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: selfishness vs. sharing
ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS:

TITLE: CHATTERBOX
AUTHOR: Wild, Margaret and Debra Niland
AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia KOALA
PROTAGONIST TYPE: Baby
GENDER: Female

THEME/PLOT: Baby won't talk and everyone is trying to get her to talk. Once she does, she spouts a stream of questions and comments.

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: value of words

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a

TITLE: DOUGAL THE GARBAGE DUMP BEAR

AUTHOR: Dray, Matt

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia KOALA

PROTAGONIST TYPE: Bear

GENDER: Male

THEME/PLOT: A shy little teddy bear gets left out in the rain and put in the garbage dump but he makes the best of the situation and makes new friends.

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: "When life give you lemons, make lemonade"; friendship

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: locations, some terminology

TITLE: DIARY OF A WOMBAT

AUTHOR: French, Jackie

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia BILBY

PROTAGONIST TYPE: Wombat

GENDER: Female

THEME/PLOT: Mothball the wombat has a busy week playing, sleeping, digging holes—and training her family to bring her food and treats on demand.

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: Determination

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: Wombat is Australian animal.

TITLE: UGLY FISH

AUTHOR: LaReau, Kara

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia BILBY

PROTAGONIST TYPE: fish

GENDER: Male

THEME/PLOT: Ugly Fish is big and mean and won't share his tunnel until a bigger and meaner fish arrives and he gets his comeuppance.

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: Bullying

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a

TITLE: OLD TOM'S HOLIDAY

AUTHOR: Hobbs, Leigh

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia BILBY

PROTAGONIST TYPE: human, cat

GENDER: female, male

THEME/PLOT: Angela wins a trip and leaves her cat Old Tom at home—or so she thinks but she keeps thinking she sees him

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: choices, tricks

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: terminology—use of "holiday" rather than vacation

TITLE: BABY BOOMSTICKS

AUTHOR: Wild, Margaret

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia BILBY

PROTAGONIST TYPE: Baby

GENDER: Male

THEME/PLOT: A very large baby is born to very tiny parents who live in a tiny village. One day he claps his hands and causes a large rain storm that floods the village and now he must save everyone.

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: taking responsibility for actions

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a

TITLE: CHESTER'S BACK

AUTHOR: Watts, Melanie

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Canada—Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award

PROTAGONIST TYPE: cat, human

GENDER: male, female

THEME/PLOT: Chester the cat the author feud over who will be "top cat." When Chester moves to Hollywood, Melanie calls an audition to replace him.

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: Conflict solving; egoism

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a

TITLE: THE BOY FROM THE SUN

AUTHOR: Weller, Duncan

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Canada—Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award

PROTAGONIST TYPE: Boy from sun

GENDER: Male

THEME/PLOT: It is a rather boring day when the boy from the sun floats down and helps the children see the world in a new way.

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: looking at things differently

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a

TITLE: SCAREDY SQUIRREL

AUTHOR: Watt, Melanie

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Canada—Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award

PROTAGONIST TYPE: Squirrel

GENDER: Male

THEME/PLOT: Scaredy Squirrel is too scared to leave his tree and he keeps a good supply of antibacterial soap, bandages, etc. But one day he falls out of the tree, into a world of dangerous things, and makes a surprising discovery

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: Overcoming fears.

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a

TITLE: MONKEY BUSINESS

AUTHOR: Edwards, Wallace

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Canada—Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award

PROTAGONIST TYPE: n/a

GENDER: n/a

THEME/PLOT: A collection of illustrated idioms

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: value of language and understanding it

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: Common idioms to English-speaking countries

CHAPTER BOOKS

TITLE: ERAGON

AUTHOR: Paolini, Christopher

AWARD AND COUNTRY: US—21 state book awards

GENRE: Fantasy

GENDER: Male

THEME/PLOT: Eragon believes he is just a poor farm boy until his destiny as a dragon rider is revealed. (Book 1 of series)

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: friendship, fate/destiny, struggles to achieve

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: conventional fantasy

TITLE: THE LIGHTNING THIEF

AUTHOR: Riordan, Rick

AWARD AND COUNTRY: US—23 state book awards

GENRE: Fantasy

GENDER: Male

THEME/PLOT: Percy Jackson, although a good kid, gets in trouble a lot. When he discovers that he is the son of Poseidon, he is drawn into a war between the gods and goddesses. (Book 1 of series)

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: fate/destiny, family values

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: based on Greek myth blended with US settings

TITLE: THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX: BEING THE STORY OF A MOUSE, A PRINCESS, SOME SOUP, AND A SPOOL OF THREAD

AUTHOR: DiCamillo, Kate

AWARD AND COUNTRY: US—15 state book awards; Newbery Medal

GENRE: Fantasy

PROTAGONIST TYPE: Mouse

GENDER: Male

THEME/PLOT: A mouse who loves music, stories and a princess named Pea, a serving girl, and a rat embark on a journey of great adventure.

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: friendship, dreams can come true

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a

TITLE: TWILIGHT

AUTHOR: Meyer, Stephenie

AWARD AND COUNTRY: US—20 state book awards

GENRE: Fantasy (Magical Realism)

GENDER: Female

THEME/PLOT: Girls falls in love with a vampire; a friend who is a werewolf falls in love with her. Battles with other vampire groups. (Book 1 of series)

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: Love overcomes anything.

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: US settings; Native American legend

TITLE: Skullduggery Pleasant

AUTHOR: Landy, Derek

AWARD AND COUNTRY: UK—Red House Children's Book Award

GENRE: Fantasy

GENDER: Male (Skullduggery Pleasant); female (Sidekick)

THEME/PLOT: A skeleton detective and his sidekick have all sorts of adventures as they solve mysteries. (Book 1 of series)

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: friendship, ingenuity; good vs. evil

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a

TITLE: DAISY AND THE TROUBLE WITH ZOOS

AUTHOR: Grey, Kes

AWARD AND COUNTRY: UK—Red House Children's Book Award

GENRE: Realistic

GENDER: Female

THEME/PLOT: Daisy and her friends are taken to the zoo for her birthday and she brings home a baby penguin. (Book 2 of series)

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: humor

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: some of the terminology; not afraid to talk about bodily functions

TITLE: THE LIGHTNING THIEF

AUTHOR: Riordan, Rick

AWARD AND COUNTRY: UK—Red House Children's Book Award

GENRE: See previous entry

GENDER:

THEME/PLOT:

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY:

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS:

TITLE: OTTOLINE AND THE YELLOW CAT

AUTHOR: Riddell, Chris

AWARD AND COUNTRY: UK—Red House Children's Book Award

GENRE: Mystery

GENDER: Female (Ottoline); Male (Mr. Munroe)

THEME/PLOT: Ottoline and a small furry creature named Mr. Munroe solve mysteries. (Book 1 of series)

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: Cleverness, good vs evil

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a

TITLE: GARDEN OF THE PURPLE DRAGON

AUTHOR: Wilkinson, Carole

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia--KOALA

GENRE: Fantasy

GENDER: Female

THEME/PLOT: Ping must care for Kai, the baby dragon, but there is danger all around.

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: Friendship; loyalty

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: not for Australia—setting is ancient China

TITLE: THE WIZARD OF RONDO

AUTHOR: Rodda, Emily

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia--KOALA

GENRE: Fantasy

GENDER: Male and Female

THEME/PLOT: On this visit to Rondo, Leo and Mimi must rescue a wizard. (Book 2 of series)

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: loyalty

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a

TITLE: THE KEY TO RONDO

AUTHOR: Rodda, Emily

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia--KOALA

GENRE: Fantasy

GENDER: Male and Female

THEME/PLOT: When a powerful witch is released, Leo and Mimi must save the kingdom. (Book 1 of series)

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: bravery; obeying rules

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a

TITLE: MAO'S LAST DANCE

AUTHOR: Cunxin, Li

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia--KOALA

GENRE: Autobiography

GENDER: Male

THEME/PLOT: A dancer in Mao's cultural revolution sent to US to dance; defects.

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: self preservation, family values, politics

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a

TITLE: TWILIGHT

AUTHOR: Meyer, Stephenie

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia--BILBY

GENRE: see earlier entry

GENDER:

THEME/PLOT:

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY:

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS:

TITLE: ERAGON

AUTHOR: Paolini, Christopher

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia--BILBY

GENRE: see earlier entry

GENDER:

THEME/PLOT:

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY:

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS:

TITLE: HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS

AUTHOR: Rowling, J.K.

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia--BILBY

GENRE: Fantasy

GENDER: Male

THEME/PLOT: Final showdown between good and evil as the Harry Potter series ends. (Book 7 of series)

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: good vs evil, loyalty, friendship

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: very British in setting

TITLE: JUST SHOCKING

AUTHOR: Griffiths, Andy

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Australia--BILBY

GENRE: Short Stories

GENDER: n/a

THEME/PLOT: Collection of crazy and humorous stories. (Part of series—order cannot be determined)

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: Humor; reading can be fun

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: Some stories based on his boyhood in Australia.

TITLE: Libertad

AUTHOR: Fullerton, Alma

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Canada—Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award

GENRE: Realistic

GENDER: Male

THEME/PLOT: When their mother is killed, Julio and his brother must make the dangerous trip from Guatemala to the United States to find his father.

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: importance of family, self-reliance
ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a

TITLE: Darkwing

AUTHOR: Opper, Kenneth

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Canada—Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award

GENRE: Fantasy

GENDER: Male (Dinosaur)

THEME/PLOT: As the son of the leader, Carnassi is determined that his species will not die. (Prequel to series)

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: Leadership, loyalty, survival

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a

TITLE: I Am a Taxi

AUTHOR: Ellis, Deborah

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Canada—Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award

GENRE: Realistic

GENDER: Male

THEME/PLOT: With his parents in a Bolivian prison and Diego in charge of keeping the family together, he goes to the jungle to work as a virtual slave in the cocaine trade.

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: importance of family, choices

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a

TITLE: Skybreaker

AUTHOR: Opper, Kenneth

AWARD AND COUNTRY: Canada—Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award

GENRE: Fantasy (steampunk)

GENDER: Male and Female (Matt and Kate)

THEME/PLOT: Now at the Academy, Matt and Kate are in a race to rescue a long lost airship. (Book 2 of series)

BELIEFS/VALUES/PHILOSOPHY: friendship, self reliance, bravery

ANY CULTURAL UNIQUENESS: n/a