

## **BOOKS FOR MIDDLE GRADE CHILDREN: A FEW FAVORITES FROM 2008**

Barbara Kiefer, Charlotte S. Huck Professor- The Ohio State University

### ***Picturebooks***

Aston, Diana Hutts, The Moon over Stars. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, Penguin Dial ,  
2008. Coretta Scott King Illustrator HonorAward

Elliott, Zelia. Bird. Illustrated by Shadra Strickland. Lee& Low, 2008. Coretta Scott  
King/ John Steptoe New Talent Award.

Hutchins, Hazel and Herbert, Gail. Mattland. Illustrated by Dušan Petričić. Annick, 2008.  
K-2

Hale, Shannon and Dean Hale. Rapunzel's Revenge. Illustrated by Nathan Hale.  
Bloomsbury, 2008,

Reibstein, Mark. Wabi Sabi. Illustrated by Ed Young. Little Brown, 2008.

Shulevitz, Uri. How I Learned Geography. Farrar, 2008. a 4-8 Caldecott Honor  
Wood, Don. Into the Volcano. Scholastic, 2008.

### ***Poetry***

Creech, Sharon. Hate That Cat. HarperCollins, 2008.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett. America at War: Poems Selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins.  
Illustrated by Stephen Alcorn. Simon & Schuster, 2008. gr 5-8

Engle, Margarita. The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom.  
2008. gr 6-12

Giovanni, Nikki. Hip Hop Speaks to Children. Jaberwocky, 2008.

Grimes, Nikki . The Blacker the Berry. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. HarperCollins, 2008.

Johnston, Tony. Voices from Afar: Poems of Peace. Illustrated by Susan Guevara.  
Holiday, 2008.

Lewis, J. Patrick & Paul B. Janeczko. Birds on a Wire. Boyds, 2008.

Prelutsky, Jack. Pizza, Pigs, and Poetry: How to Write a Poem. Greenwillow, 2008. a 7-  
10

Smith, Hope Anita. Keeping the Night Watch. Illustrated by E. B. Lewis. Holt, 2008. gr  
5-8

Sidman, Joyce. This is Just to Say Illustrated by Pamela Zagorinsky. Houghton 2007.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Becoming Billie Halliday. Boyds, 2008.

***Nonfiction***

**Biography**

Bryant, Jen. A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams. Illustrated by Melissa Sweet. Eerdmans, 2008.

Capaldi, Gina. A Boy Named Beckoning: the True Story of Dr. Carlos Montesuma, Native American. Carolrhoda, 2008.

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. Helen Keller : the World in Her Heart. Illustrated by James Ransome. HarperCollins, 2008.

Grimes, Nikki. Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. Simon, 2008.

Kerley, Barbara. What to Do About Alice?. Illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham. Scholastic, 2008. 2-4

Parker, Robert Andrew. Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum. Random, 2008 K-4  
Schneider Family Award.

**Science and History**

Cherry, Lynne and Braasch, Gary. How We Know What We Know about Our Changing Climate: Scientists and Kids Explore Global Warming. Dawn, 2008. gr 4-8

Colman, Penny. Thanksgiving: The True Story. Holt, 2008.

Deem, James. Bodies from the Ice. Houghton, 2008.

Jackson, Ellen. The Mysterious Universe. Photographs by Nic Bishop. Scientist in the Field Series. Houghton Mifflin, 2008

Nelson, Kadir. We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball. Hyperion, 2008. gr

Nelson, Scott Reynolds and Aronson, Marc. Ain't Nothing But a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry. National Geographic, 2008. gr 6-9

***Contemporary Realism***

Balliett, Blue. The Calder Game. Illustrated by Brett Helquist. Scholastic, 2008.

Birdsall, Jeanne. The Penderwicks of Gardam Street. Knopf, 2008.

Conner, Leslie. Waiting for Normal. HarperCollins, 2008.

Doherty, Berlie. The Girl Who Saw Lions. Roaring Brook, 2008

Dowd, Siobhan. The London Eye Mystery, Random, 2008

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. Phineas McGuire ... Blasts Off. Atheneum, 2008.

Horvath, Polly. My One Hundred Adventures. Random, 2008. gr 4-6

Lee, Ingrid. Dog Lost. Scholastic, 2008.

Nicholls, Sally. Ways to Live Forever. Scholastic 2008.ages 9-12

Nuzum, K. A. The Leanin' Dog. Harpercollins, 2008.

Qamar, Amjed. Beneath My Mother's Feet. Athenuem, 2008.

Winston, Sherri. The Kayla Chronicles. Little, Brown, 2008.gr 5-9

Woodson, Jacqueline After Tupac and D. Foster Putnam, 2008. 6-10

### ***Historical Fiction***

Erdrich, Louise. The Porcupine Year. HarperCollins, 2008. gr 4-7

Hesse, Karen Brooklyn Bridge. Feiwel, 2008.

Ibbotson, Eva The Dragonfly Pool. Dutton, 2008.

LeZotte, Ann Claire. T 4. Houghton, 2008. (Verse)

Scieszka, Jon. Knucklehead Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories about Growing up Scieszka. Viking, 2008.

Springer, Nancy. The Case of the Peculiar Pink Fan: An Enola Homes Mystery. Philomel, 2008. mystery

Venkatraman, Padma. Climbing the Stairs. Putnam, 2008. gr 6-9

Winters, Kay. Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak. Illustrated by Larry Day. Dutton, 2008. gr 4-7

White, Ruth. Little Audrey. Farrar, 2008 gr 5-8

### ***Fantasy***

Appelt, Kathi. The Underneath. Illustrated by David Small. Gr 4-8

Broach, Elise. Masterpiece. Holt, 2008.

Collins, Suzanne. The Hunger Games. Scholastic, 2008.

Cowley, Joy. Chicken Feathers. Illustrated by David Elliot. Philomel, 2008. gr 3-5

Ferris, Jean. Twice Upon a Marigold. Hartcourt, 2008. 10+

Forester, Victoria. The Girl Who Could Fly. Feiwel and Friends. Gr 4-7

Gaiman, Neil. The Graveyard Book. HarperCollins, 2008.

Haddix, Margaret Petersen. Found. The Missing Book 1. Simon, 2008.

Law, Ingrid. Savvy. Dial, 2008. a 9-11

Levine, Gail Carson. Ever. HarperCollins, 2008. gr 5-9

Lowry, Lois. The Willoughbys. Houghton, 2008

- Martin, Ann and Laura Godwin. The Runaway Dolls. Illustrated by Brian Selznick. Scholastic, 2008.
- Medina, Meg. Milagros, Girl From Away. Holt, 2008.
- Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. Princess Ben: Being a Wholly Truthful accounted of Her Various Discoveries and Misadventures, Recounted to the Best of Her Recollections, in Four Parts. Houghton, 2008. gr 6-10
- Pfeffer, Susan Beth. The Dead and the Gone. Harcourt, 2008. 12+
- Pratchett, Terry Nation. HarperCollins, 2008. 12+
- Reeve, Philip. Here Lies Arthur. Scholastic, 2008. 12+
- Reeve, Philip. Mothstorm. Bloomsbury, 2008.
- Riordan, Rick. Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book Four: Battle of the Labyrinth. Hyperion, 2008.a 10+
- Rutkowski, Marie. The Cabinet of Wonders; The Kronos Chronicles, Book I. Farrar 2008. 10+
- Stewart, Trenton Lee. The Mysterious Benedict Society. Illustrated by Diana Sudyka. Little, Brown, 2008. gr 4-7

### ***Making Connections***

#### **Purely silly**

- Almond, David. My Dad's a Birdman. Illustrated by Polly Dunbar. Walker, 2008.
- Krull, Kathleen and Brewer, Paul. Fartiste. Illustrated by Boris Kulikov. Simon & Schuster, 2008. 4-8
- Schaefer, Lola M. and Heather Lynn Miller. Look Behind!. Illustrated by Jane Manning. Greenwillow.

#### **William Carlos Williams**

- Bryant, Jen. A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams. Illustrated by Melissa Sweet. Eerdmans, 2008.
- Creech, Sharon. Hate That Cat. HarperCollins, 2008.
- Creech, Sharon. Love That Dog. HarperCollins, 2001.
- Lewis, J. Patrick & Paul B. Janeczko. Birds on a Wire. Boyds, 2008.
- Sidman, Joyce. This is Just to Say Illustrated by Pamela Zagorinsky. Houghton 2007.

## **Human Rights**

Doherty, Berlie. The Girl Who Saw Lions. Roaring Brook, 2008

Johnston, Tony. Voices from Afar: Poems of Peace. Illustrated by Susan Guevara.  
Holiday, 2008.

Milway, Katie Smith. One Hen. Illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes. Kids Can, 2008. gr 2-5

Myers, Walter Dean. Sunrise Over Fallujah. Harpercollins, 2008. Age 12+

Nivola, Claire A. Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai. Farrar,  
2008. 2-4

Qamar, Amjed. Beneath My Mother's Feet. Athenuem, 2008.

Rumford, James. Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad. Houghton Mifflin 2008.

Venkatraman, Padma. Climbing the Stairs. Putnam, 2008. gr 6-9

Wilson, Janet. One Peace: True Stories of Young Activists. Orca, 2008.