

2010 - 2011

Oregon Battle of the Books

Grades 3-5



Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and other Scary Things by Lenore Look (2008). Realistic Fiction AR 3.8 600L 172 pages.

A boy in Concord, Massachusetts, who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything. *2011 ORCA, BCCCA Nominee*

The Arrow Over the Door by Joseph Bruchac (2002). Historical Fiction AR 5.2 810L 89 pages.

In the summer of 1777, when a young Abenaki Indian scouting for King George enters the Quaker Meetinghouse where Samuel Russell worships, the two boys share an encounter that neither will ever forget.

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo (2000). Realistic Fiction AR 3.9 610L 182 pages.

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie. *Newbery Medal/Honor, Young Reader's Choice Award*

The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau (2003). Science Fiction AR 5 680L 270 pages.

Built as an underground refuge for the human race, the city of Ember begins to deteriorate as its lights start to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must decipher the message before the lights go out on Ember forever. *Sunshine State Young Reader's Award, Young Hoosier Book Award and many other state awards*

Diamond Willow by Helen Frost (2008). Fantasy AR 4.3 670L 111 pages.

In a remote area of Alaska, twelve-year-old Willow helps her father with their sled dogs when she is not at school, wishing she were more popular, all the while unaware that the animals surrounding her carry the spirits of dead ancestors and friends who care for her.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos (1999). Realistic Fiction AR 4.9 970L 153 pages.

Joey Pigza's got heart, he's got a mom who loves him, and he's got "dud meds," which is what he calls the Ritalin pills that are supposed to even out his wild mood swings. Sometimes Joey makes bad choices. He learns the hard way that he shouldn't stick his finger in the pencil sharpener, or swallow his house key, or run with scissors. *Sasquatch Award, National Book Awards Nominee*

Keeping Score by Linda Sue Park (2008). Historical Fiction AR 5.4 770L 202 pages.

In Brooklyn in 1951, a die-hard Giants fan teaches nine-year-old Maggie, who is a "Bums" (Dodgers) fan, how to use a technique to keep score of a baseball game which creates a special friendship between them. *Nene Award*

Marco? Polo! by Jon Scieszka (2006). Science Fiction AR 3.5 550L 90 pages.

The Time Warp Trio find themselves in a desert in China, and, in order to retrieve their magical book from the court of Kublai Khan, they must pose as astrologers and join the caravan of Marco Polo and his father.

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Masterpiece by Elise Broach (2008). Fantasy AR 4.8 700L 292 pages.

After Marvin, a beetle, makes a miniature drawing as an eleventh birthday gift for James, a human with whom he shares a house, the two new friends work together to help recover a Durer drawing stolen from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. *2011 ORCA, E.B. White Read Aloud Award*

Paint the Wind by Pam Muñoz Ryan (2007). Realistic Fiction AR 3.8 780L 327 pages.

After her overprotective grandmother has a stroke, eleven-year-old Maya, an orphan, leaves her extremely restricted life in California to stay with her mother's family on a remote Wyoming ranch, where she discovers a love of horses and encounters Artemisia, a wild mare that her mother once rode. *Nene Award*

Poppy by Avi (1995). Fantasy AR 4.5 670L 147 pages.

Poppy, a deer mouse, urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas. *Land of Enchantment Book Award*

Rapunzel's Revenge by Shannon and Dean Hale (2008). Fantasy AR 3.2 500L 144 pages.

Rapunzel, having grown up in a lovely castle with the woman she thought was her mother, is placed in a very tall hollow tree as punishment after her curiosity prompts her to climb the castle wall and look at the ruin of the world beyond her home, but she is able to escape and with the help of Jack, embarks on a plan to free the land from the grip of the witch. *2011 ORCA*

Secret Identity by Wendelin Van Draanen (2004). Mystery AR 3.3 520L 138 pages.

Creating a secret identity for himself when he writes an exposé of a bully for the school newspaper, Nolan Byrd launches Shredderman.com, a place where truth and justice prevail--and bullies get what's coming to them.

Small steps: The Year I Got Polio by Peg Kehret (1996). Nonfiction/Biography AR 5.2 890L 179 pages.

Peg Kehret writes about months spent in a hospital when she was twelve, first struggling to survive a severe case of polio, then slowly learning to walk again.

Young Hoosier Book Award

Who was Ben Franklin? by Dennis Brindell Fradin (2002). Nonfiction/Biography AR 5.2 750L 105 pages.

A biography of the eighteenth-century printer, publisher, inventor, scientist, and statesman who played an influential role in the early history of the United States.

The Willoughbys by Lois Lowry (2008). Realistic Fiction AR 5.2 790L 174 pages.

A tongue-in-cheek take on classic themes in children's literature, in which the four Willoughby children set out to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny. *2011 ORCA, Parents Choice Awards, Nene Award*