

Texas Bluebonnet Award

Annotated 2012-2013 Master List

THE TEXAS BLUEBONNET COMMITTEE AND THE TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SPONSOR
THE TEXAS BLUEBONNET AWARD READING LIST FOR GRADES 3-6
SOLELY TO ENCOURAGE FREE VOLUNTARY READING.



Arnosky, Jim. 2011. **Thunder Birds: Nature's Flying Predators**. New York: Sterling. Trade: 978-1-402756610.

Jim Arnosky and his wife traveled all over the country, observing and researching these majestic birds of prey. Filled with scale models of the wings, feet, and bills of these beautiful, fearsome hunters, this book is sure to engage readers with chatty, fact-filled text and gorgeous paintings.

Cardillo, Margaret. 2011. **Just Being Audrey**. Illustrated by Julia Denos. New York: Balzer & Bray. Trade: 978-0-06-185283-1, Library Binding: 978-0-06-185284-8.

Author Margaret Cardillo and illustrator Julia Denos bring the best qualities of Aubrey Hepburn to life for a new generation of readers. *Just Being Audrey* gives you an insightful and delightful view of the icon as a young girl, an actress, and a celebrity who used her notoriety to do good.

Deedy, Carmen Agra and Randall Wright. 2011. **The Cheshire Cheese Cat: A Dickens of a Tale**. Illustrated by Barry Moser. Atlanta: Peachtree. Trade: 978-1-56145-595-9.

Carmen Deedy and Randall Wright combine their talents in writing a delightfully British cheese-loving cat and literate mouse "tale." Barry Moser's drawings contribute images of the characters and settings that you will have a "dickens of a time" forgetting.

Durango, Julia. 2010. **Under the Mambo Moon**. Illustrated by Fabricio VandenBroeck. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge. Reinforced: 978-1-57091-723-3, E-book: 978-1-60734-278-6.

On summer evenings, Marisol works at her father's music store. Through the stories and memories shared by friends and family who stop and visit, Marisol experiences the music and dance of Latin America.

Fleming, Candace. 2010. **Clever Jack Takes the Cake**. Illustrated by G. Brian Karas. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books. Library Binding: 978-0-375-95697-3, Trade: 978-0-375-84979-4.

Jack decides to bake a cake to please the princess, who has everything, on her birthday. Though several mishaps and just plain bad luck ruin Jack's gift, they do not stop him from giving the princess the most clever gift of all.

Hatke, Ben. 2010. **Zita the Spacegirl**. New York: First Second. Trade: 978-1-59643-695-4, Paperback: 978-1-59643-446-2.

What would you do if you found a strange egg-shaped device with a red button in a meteoroid crater? Zita and her friend Joseph discover it leads to an adventure in an unknown land on the brink of destruction in Hatke's first full-length graphic novel.

Jonell, Lynne. 2010. **Hamster Magic**. Illustrated by Brandon Dorman. New York: Random House. Trade: 978-0-375-86660-9, Library Binding: 978-0-375-96660-6, Paperback: 978-0-375-86616-6, E-book: 978-0-375-89672-9.

When six-year-old Celia mistakenly makes the wrong "hamster wish," she and her siblings must go on a journey to find the Great Hamster to reverse the spell. A night of adventure brings the family closer together while convincing them that perhaps having to move to a new house isn't so bad after all.

Kennedy, Kim. 2010. **Misty Gordon and the Mystery of the Ghost Pirates**. Illustrated by Greg Call. New York: Amulet Books. Trade: 978-0-8109-9357-0.

Life in the town of Ashcrumb is anything but ordinary, especially if your parents own a store called the Dearly Departed Antiques Store and drive a former ice-cream truck with D.E.A.D. on it. Misty stumbles upon a mystery about the town's secret past that is full of ghosts, pirates, and an adventure into the unknown.

Lupica, Mike. 2010. **Hero**. New York: Philomel Books.

Trade: 978-0-399-25283-9, Paperback: 978-0-14-241960-1 (Puffin), Audio-CD: 978-0-14-242819-1.

A departure from Mike Lupica's normal sports-going fare, *Hero* tells the story of Zach Harriman who, after his father's death, begins to live up to his own potential on levels that he didn't know were possible or even existed.

McElligott, Matthew and Larry Tuxbury. 2010. **Benjamin Franklinstein Lives!** Illustrated by Matthew McElligott. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons. Trade: 978-0-399-25229-7, Paperback: 978-0-14-241935-9.

Benjamin Franklin never died – believe it or not, he was placed in suspended animation and was just found by Victor Godwin, science geek extreme. Readers will enjoy the mystery and excitement of visiting this futuristic history filled with humorous one-liners and mock 18th century illustrations.

Ramsey, Calvin A. 2010. ***Ruth and the Green Book***. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books. Library Binding: 978-0-7613-5255-6, E-book: 978-0-7613-6218-0.

Playwright Calvin Ramsey recalls a more obscure part of history in his account of “The Negro Motorist Green Book,” which guides travelers to businesses that serve African Americans. Floyd Cooper’s muted shade illustrations encourage readers to enjoy the trip with Ruth and her family through 1950s America.

Selznick, Brian. 2011. ***Wonderstruck***. New York: Scholastic Press. Trade: 978-0-545-02789-2.

Rose is running away from home – to her mother and brother – while Ben is searching for his father with few clues to go on. Set in two different times and written in two different formats, Brian Selznick merges these parallel stories in a climax that explores deafness and the miracle of family.

Smith, Cleve Barrett. 2011. ***Aliens on Vacation***. Illustrated by Christian Slade. New York: Disney Hyperion Books. Reinforced: 978-1-4231-3363-6, E-book: 978-1-4231-4750-3, Audio-CD: 978-1-4558-0134-3.

What a surprise when Scrub realizes that his grandmother’s Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast has some very interesting, yet weird-looking guests. If you liked the movie *Beetle Juice*, then you will love this book!

Sternberg, Julie. 2011. ***Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie***. Illustrated by Matthew Cordell. New York: Amulet Books. Trade: 978-0-8109-8424-0.

Eleanor is crushed when Bibi, her beloved babysitter, must move away to care for her elderly father. As she adjusts to life without Bibi, to a new babysitter, and to the start of the school year, Eleanor finds that change isn’t always as sour as pickle juice on a cookie.

Swaim, Jessica. 2010. ***Scarum Fair***. Illustrated by Carol Ashley. Honesdale, PA: Wordsong. Trade: 978-1-59078-590-4.

Spooks and monsters and creeps, oh my! Beware...the Scarum Fair has arrived, with poems that will make you laugh or cry. Take a ride on the Scary-Go-Round, and maybe a bowl of cat hair stew may be found!

Sylver, Adrienne. 2010. ***Hot Diggity Dog: The History of the Hot Dog***. Illustrated by Elwood H. Smith. New York: Dutton Children's Books. Trade: 978-0-525-47897-3.

This fast-paced picture book takes the reader on a madcap journey through the hot dog’s history from the ancient Romans to its modern vegetarian reincarnation. Cartoon art and sidebars set a rapid pace for all the fun facts about this popular kid food!

Taback, Simms. 2011. ***Postcards from Camp***. New York: Nancy Paulsen Books. Trade: 978-0-399-23973-1.

Michael’s first experience at sleep-away camp starts out as a very scary affair. He sends out a slew of urgent letters and postcards to his Dad in the hopes he will be rescued from his alien counselor, his prankster bunkmates, and the constant rain. His quick-witted dad replies with cool encouragement, reminding him that he met some of his best buddies at camp. As expected, all ends well!

Warner, Sally. 2011. ***ElRay Jakes is Not a Chicken***. Illustrated by Jamie Harper. New York: Viking. Trade: 978-0-670-06243-0, Paperback: 978-0-14-241988-5 (Feb 2012).

Short on size (no pun intended) but long on personality, ElRay Jakes navigates the pitfalls of 3rd grade, including Jared the bully; and in doing so, he becomes a great example to readers who have ever faced or are now facing similar challenges.

Weinstein, Muriel Harris. 2010. ***Play, Louis, Play: The True Story of a Boy and His Horn*** Frank Morrison. New York: Bloomsbury. Trade: 978-1-59990-375-0.

Play, Louis, Play, by Muriel Harris Weinstein is a swinging biography of jazz great Louis Armstrong told from the point of view of Louis’ companion – his horn!

Yohalem, Eve. 2009. ***Escape Under the Forever Sky***. San Francisco: Chronicle. Trade: 978-0-8118-6653-8, Paperback: 978-0-8118-7874-6.

Lucy’s mother serves as the United States Ambassador to Ethiopia where she keeps thirteen-year-old Lucy close to home for protection. In Eve Yohalem’s first page-turning adventure, kidnapped Lucy must rely on her courage and knowledge of survival to escape and make it home safely.