

3-5th Grade LYRC 2012
Annotated Title List

Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson. 40 p. Good news about *Bad News!* Bass Reeves, a former African-American slave, rode into history by bringing justice to the Wild West. Fans of biographies and shoot ‘em ups will enjoy this fast-paced picture book. (2010 Coretta Scott King Author Winner, biography) **MG - BL: 5.2 - AR Pts: 0.5**
Hardback. Lerner Publishing Company. 2009. 0-8225-6764-4. \$17.95.

The Blue Shoe: A Tale of Thievery, Villainy, Sorcery, and Shoes by Roderick Townley. 272 pages. Everyone likes a good challenge, especially Hap Barlo. The trouble is that this dreamer is sitting behind bars, awaiting transport to the mines for destroying the Blue Shoe. In the mines, human and elf prisoners are forced to dig each day but are not told what they are digging for. Hap wants to rescue everyone. He helps unite the prisoners and incites a revolt. This book has a little bit of everything: fantasy, magic, adventure, elves, an evil mayor, and a dash of romance. In this classic clash of good versus evil, the mystery of the blue shoes is finally resolved. (Fantasy adventure)
IL: **MG - BL: 4.2 - AR Pts: 6.0**
Hardback. Alfred A. Knopf Incorporated. 2009. 0-375-85600-5. \$16.99.
Paperback. Random House Children’s Books. 2011. 0-375-84741-3. 6.99.

The Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity (The Brixton Brothers Series Book 1) by Mac Barnett. 208 p. While seeking to unravel a Social Studies project on American quilts, Steve Brixton is led to the public library. There, he uncovers a national treasure, unmasks criminal minds, and unveils librarians as the highly trained intelligence agents that they are. Look for more of Steve’s escapades in this new series. (Mystery, adventure, spies) IL: **MG - BL: 4.1 - AR Pts: 4.0**
Hardback. Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing. 2009. 1-4169-7815-1. \$14.99.
Trade Paper. Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing. 2010. 1-4169-7816-X. \$5.99.
Compact Disc. Random House Audio. 2010. 0-307-71040-8. \$25.00.

The Dream Stealer by Sid Fleischman. 96 pages. Set in Mexico, this story is about the Dream Stealer bandit who steals children’s nightmares. He is supposed to steal only nightmares but makes the mistake of stealing a good dream from Susana. This good dream is about her friend who has moved far away. Susana is very smart and is determined to get her good dream back. (Multicultural, Mexican folk tale characters)
IL: **LG - BL: 3.8 - AR Pts: 1.0**
Hardback. HarperCollins Publishers. 2009. 0-06-175563-X. \$16.99.

The Dunderheads by Paul Fleischman. 56 pages. When tyrannical teacher, Miss Breakbone, takes away Junkyard’s cat figurine that he plans to give his mother, the students in her class decide that she has gone too far. The students unite and hatch a plan to retrieve the item from Miss Breakbone’s home. (Early chapter book, illustrated, humorous) IL: **LG - BL: 3.0 - AR Pts: 0.5**
Hardback. Candlewick Press. 2009. 0-7636-2498-5. \$16.99.

Extra Credit by Andrew Clements. 192 Pages. In order to pass 6th grade, Abby takes on an extra credit project. She develops a pen pal relationship with Sadeed, an English language student in Afghanistan. Corresponding with a girl is not appropriate so Sadeed is told to write as though the letters are from his sister. Eventually their growing friendship becomes a problem for both communities. (Realistic fiction, multicultural)
IL: **MG** - BL: **5.3** - AR Pts: **5.0**

Hardback. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. 1-4169-4929-1. \$16.99.
Compact Disc. Simon & Schuster Audio. 0-7435-8204-7. \$19.99.

Flight of the Phoenix (Nathaniel Fludd, Beastologist Series Book 1) by R. L. LaFevers. 144p. Nate hasn't seen his parents for 3 years. He was told by Miss Lumpton that their job was dangerous. He is told that his parents are lost at sea, and he now must live with his Aunt Phil. Immediately upon arrival at Aunt Phil's he finds himself starting on an adventure to oversee the birth of a phoenix in Arabia. This book is packed with adventure, and it leaves the reader looking forward to the next adventure.
(Fantasy, historical fiction setting, adventure) IL: **MG** - BL: **4.2** - AR Pts: **3.0**

Hardback. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishers. 2009. 0-547-23865-7. \$16.00.

The Hidden Bestiary of Marvelous, Mysterious, and (Maybe Even) Magical Creatures by Judy Young. 32 p. In this gorgeous picture book, readers join explorer Basil Bernard Barnswritten (B.B.B.). He is exploring the world over to find creatures; many are extinct, others are endangered, and some never existed at all except in people's imagination. Can you tell which is which? Each illustration has hidden pictures. (Non-Fiction, animals: extinct, endangered, & mythical) IL: **LG** - BL: **5.7** - AR Pts: **0.5**

Hardback. Sleeping Bear Press. 2009. 1-58536-433-9. \$16.95.

Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11 by Brian Floca. 48p. Forty years after the Eagle landed in the gray dust of the moon, Brian Floca brings the suspense and excitement of the historic expedition of Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins to a new generation of readers. The story simply and clearly unfolds in poetic form, lavishly illustrated with acrylics and pen and ink, to capture each step of the journey from a quiet moonlit field to splashdown. (Non-fiction, picture book, space, astronauts) IL: **LG** - BL: **4.8** - AR Pts: **0.5**

Hardback. 2009. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. 141695046X. \$17.99.
Compact Disk. 2009. Spoken Arts. 0-8045-4206-6. \$29.95.
Audio Cassette. 2009. Spoken Arts. 0-8045-6981-9. \$27.95.

Redwoods by Jason Chin. 40 pages. While waiting on the subway platform, a boy finds an abandoned book about redwood trees. As his eyes read through the pages filled with beautiful illustrations, his imagination travels through what these giant marvels of nature must have experienced and "seen" during their lifetime. Information about the redwoods is given with wonderful watercolor illustrations. (Picture Book, Conservationism)
IL: **LG** - BL: **5.6** - AR Pts: **0.5**

Hardback. 2009. Roaring Brook Press. 1-59643-430-9. \$16.99.

Little Sister Is Not My Name (Sassy Series Book 1) by Sharon Draper. 112 pages. Sassy is having identity issues. She hates her nickname “Little Sister,” so she tries to get her family and friends to call her Sassy. She does not like how she got her name Sassy; her dad named her Sassy because when she was born she stuck her tongue out at him. He started laughing and said “Isn’t she a sassy one”. This light-hearted story proves that even if you are the youngest and the smallest you can still do things that bigger people may not be able to do. (African-American, family relationships, girl interest, realistic fiction)
IL: **LG** - BL: **3.8** - AR Pts: **3.0**

Hardback. 2009. Scholastic. 0-545-07151-8. \$14.99.

Paperback. 2010. Scholastic. 0-545-07155-0. \$4.99.

Tsunami! Kimiko Kajikawa. 32 pages. The village people rely on the advice of the wise rice farmer, Ojiisan. The day of the rice festival, when the villagers are celebrating on the beach, Ojiisan is unable to tell the villagers of the impending danger he sees coming from the sea, a tsunami! He must find a way to warn and save the villagers even if it means a great personal sacrifice. (Non-Fiction, Multi-cultural, Japan, Picture Book)

IL: **LG** - BL: **3.4** - AR Pts: **0.5**

Hardback. 2009. Penguin Group. 0-399-25006-9. \$16.99.

Sea of the Dead by Julia Durango. 144 pages. Every kid thinks his world is the center of the universe. For Kehl of the Teshic Empire, the fate of his world does depend on his success or failure. With the crew of a renegade ship, Kehl goes forth and takes the reader with him. (Historical Fiction, action adventure, Pirates) IL: **MG** - BL: **5.3** - AR Pts: **3.0**

Hardback. 2009. Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing. 1-4169-5778-2. \$15.99.

We Can’t All Be Rattlesnakes by Patrick Jennings. 128 pages. This story is told through the eyes of a gopher snake. Gopher snakes resemble rattlesnakes to most human eyes. The snake feels insulted when it is captured by an “oily, filthy, fleshy human child”. It is taken to the human child’s home and treated as a pet. The human boy, Gunnar, names his new pet snake Crusher. Gunnar believes that Crusher is a male snake, but he is wrong. Crusher waits for the right moment to make her grand escape while maintaining a running commentary on the filthy habits of humans. This is a very entertaining story that that would make a great read-aloud. (Humorous, snakes, boy interest)

IL: **LG** - BL: **3.9** - AR Pts: **3.0**

Hardback. HarperCollins Publishers. 2009. 0-06-082114-0. \$15.99.

Wild Girl by Patricia Reilly Giff. 160 pages. Twelve-year-old Liddie is looking forward to joining her older brother and father in New York City at the racing stable that her father runs. But coming from Brazil isn’t easy; her family treats her like a little girl, and in school, communication in English is hard. At the same time, a new filly at the stable, Wild Girl, is also adjusting to changes in her life. (Horses, girl interest, realistic fiction, multi-cultural) IL: **MG** - BL: **4.3** - AR Pts: **4.0**

Hardback. Random House Publishing Group. 2009. 0-375-83890-2. \$15.99.

Trade Paper. Random House Publishing Group. 2010. 0-307-57983-2. \$6.99.

Compact Disc. Random House Audio. 2009. 0-307-57983-2. \$25.00.

Cassette Tape. Random House Audio. 2009. 0-307-57985-9. \$30.00.