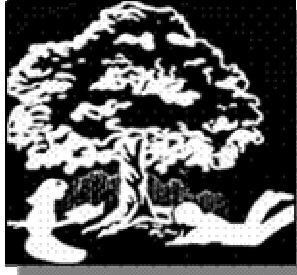


# Placer Area Reading Council



## Fall 2009 NEWSLETTER

### President's Message

Welcome back to school - am I the only one who loves the excitement of setting up a classroom and welcoming new students? It is a teacher high for sure as we roll out the red carpet to our rooms! Welcome back also to a full year of events planned by your Placer Area Reading Council just for you.

At my school, most teachers have heard about "Brain Gym", but not everyone does it regularly. There is a huge surge right before STAR testing in the spring because we really want those kids focused on the test - right? But what about focusing on their learning every day? Our first speaker of the year gave teachers the "whys" and "hows" to do just that. Betsy Stynklyft does seminars nationally on brain based learning and is a popular teacher in the graduate program at CSU Sacramento. On Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> Betsy presented to 60 teachers and they heard the latest brain research that links movement to learning. The whole group was up and moving for the part that also gave practical movements to incorporate immediately into the school day. Research based and practical---a huge success!

October 22<sup>nd</sup> is an author reception for me! I am proof that a classroom teacher can share teaching ideas with a broader audience. Of course, you know that I have copied, adapted and collaborated on every idea with Placer and Sacramento teachers that have taught with me since I moved to Roseville in 1984. In fact, the dedication page on my latest book names 34 teachers who directly influenced my teaching and my students all these years! As Lola May used to say "Good teachers aren't born...they are made by the teacher next door." Thank you to all of you who have been "next door".

November 7<sup>th</sup> we will be attending the reading conference sponsored by our sister council, the Sacramento Area Reading Association. Look for information to come on speakers and topics that will make our teaching easier or stretch us to try something new.

Writing is our theme for February 4th with two dynamite speakers at Heritage Oaks School in the Dry Creek District. When I asked Sherrill Renfro to speak about writing, I asked her to suggest a title. She said what teachers **really**

want is the "down and dirty of how to teach it". So, that's our title: Down and Dirty, Teaching Writing. Sherrill is a popular speaker with the Writing Project and she will speak to K-2 teachers that afternoon. Debi Pitta will share her wisdom as a 6 Traits Writing Trainer with 3-8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. Not to be missed!

Speaking of writing, as you encourage writing in your classroom this year, don't forget about our Young Writers' Celebration on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Last year, over 100 students and their proud families were feted at Skyridge School in Auburn. This year, the hosts will be Maidu School in the Eureka Union School District. The best news? Teachers nominate their own students to honor or encourage. Your hearts will swell with pride when each student is recognized with a certificate, medal around his or her neck, and button captioned with *I Am an Honored Author*. Every school is encouraged to participate.

One last thought! Our back to school event at Resource Area for Teachers (RAFT) was a big success in August. Because you are a member of PARC, you are entitled to membership any time during the year for the reduced price of \$20. That's down from \$35 and entitles you to a year of shopping for inexpensive school materials and hands-on projects for your classroom. Check out this nonprofit's website at [www.sacraft.org](http://www.sacraft.org).

Judy Lynch  
President



### BOOKMARK OUR PARC WEB SITE



<[www.placerareareadingcouncil.org](http://www.placerareareadingcouncil.org)>

Kevin Kurtz (Principal of Lincoln Crossing Elementary School) is our webmaster. Kevin helped maintain our website last school year and has now officially taken over responsibility. Look for flyers, information, events, book club titles and dates, newsletters, and membership forms!





## LITERACY EVENTS OF INTEREST TO PARC MEMBERS



### PARC BUSINESS MEETINGS

Meetings are from 4:30 - 6:00. **PARC members, guests, and potential members are welcome**; meetings include not only planning for PARC events, but also lively discussions about reading, teaching, new book titles, and local, state, and national reading and literacy issues. This school year we are meeting at Jerico Coffee in Granite Bay located on Sierra College Blvd. just south of Douglas and across the street from the Safeway plaza. Call Judy for directions and/or to confirm dates. Scheduled meetings: October 12, November 16, January 11, and March 8.

### BANNED BOOK WEEK CELEBRATING THE FREEDOM TO READ September 26-October 3, 2009

[www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/bannedbookweek/index.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/bannedbookweek/index.cfm)  
Check out the American Library Organization to find a calendar, ideas, resources, and lists of frequently challenged books. Many titles will surprise you if you are not familiar with these lists. Celebrate intellectual freedom with information about the event, as well as discussions related to literature, reading and social science. Learn that a "challenge" rarely results in an actual "banning." Often displays of some of the challenged titles creates renewed interest in reading such books as *Where's Waldo*; *The Call of the Wild*; *And Tango Makes Three*; *Harry Potter*; *Bridge to Terebithia*; *Olive's Ocean*; *Julie of the Wolves*; *In the Night Kitchen*. And then make sure that your district's classroom and library selection and challenge policies are up-to-date.



### READ FOR THE RECORD October 8, 2009

<http://www.readfortherecord.org/site/PageServer>

Join other teachers and educators as children around the world set a record for reading the same book on the same

day. This year's title is Eric Carle's *Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The program benefits Jumpstart, a literacy organization that matches students with tutors and volunteers. Check out the web site for more information and to sign up and help children become a part of this unique and growing annual event. Related materials are available at the web site; sponsors include Pearson Foundation and Walmart.

### NATIONAL BOOK AWARD <http://www.nationalbook.org/> October 18, 2009

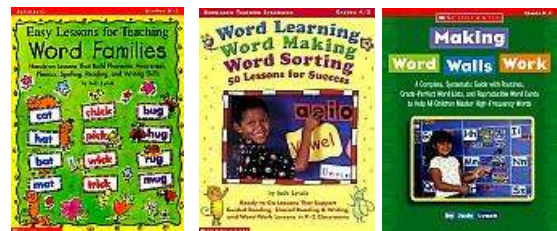
On October 18<sup>th</sup>, The National Book Foundation will announce the 20 Finalists for the National Book Award which is given in November. Check out the web site for past winners and nominees for the Young People's Literature award; the list is an early glimpse into the books for 2009 that will endure and go on to win other accolades. Presented annually to recognize achievements in fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and young people's literature. This year the foundation is celebrating 60 years of honoring great American books.



### TEEN READ WEEK October 18-24, 2009 <http://www.ala.org/>

Key *Teen Read Week* into the Search Box  
*Read Beyond Reality @ your library*

Encourages teens to read something out of this world, just for the fun of it! Check out the web site for ideas to celebrate and motivate.



### PARC EVENT AUTHOR CELEBRATION October 22, 2009

Judy Lynch's **4<sup>th</sup> Book**:  
*First Grade in Photographs*  
(for Scholastic Professional Books)

4:30 - 6:30

Wine and Cheese

411 Outrigger Ct., Roseville

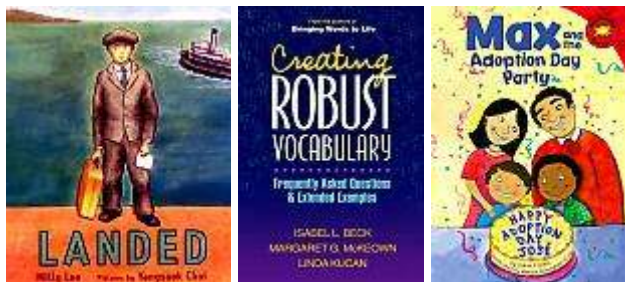
You should have an e-mailed flyer or call for information!

Continued on the next page ...

SACRAMENTO AREA LIBRARY ORGANIZATION  
PRESENTS  
LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

5:00 pm Tuesday, October 27, 2009  
South Natomas Public Library

Guest speakers: Tim Gardes, Library Media Services, Twin Rivers USD, and Judy Laird from Treasured Times Books. Share holiday books and activities; no/charge; bring finger food to share; phone Penny Kastanis at 916-455-5682 or email her at [pkastanis@comcast.net](mailto:pkastanis@comcast.net)



S.A.R.A.: VOCABULARY AND WRITING  
*Making a Connection*

Saturday November 7, 2009 8:30-3:00  
Del Dayo Elementary School  
[www.sacramentoreads.org/](http://www.sacramentoreads.org/)

Sacramento Area Reading Association, San Juan Teachers Association, San Juan Unified SD, and the Penny and Terry Kastanis Trust are sponsoring a one day mini-conference. \$25 includes breakfast and lunch; speakers: Dr. Francie Alexander, Dr. Isabel Beck, Dr. Aria Klein, Dr. John Shefelbine, Dr. Armin Schultz, and author Millie Lee. Register early as space is limited; 6 hours of continuing education available; check the above S.A.R.A. web site under *events* for a flyer, more information, and how to register.



CALIFORNIA SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

November 19-22, 2009  
<http://www.csla.net/>

*Embrace the Serendipity of Learning*  
Ontario Convention Center

Join school library staff members and supporters at their annual conference. Speakers include: Michael Cart, Kathleen Baxter, Joe McHugh, Ellen Siminoff (CEO of Shmoop.com), CYRM author Linda Bailey, Barbara Jeffus (CDE), author Bruce Hale, and national presenter and school librarian, Deborah Ford.



PARC EVENT  
HOLIDAY TEA AND BOOK TALK  
California Young Reader Medal Books  
December 3, 2009 4:30-6:30 pm

This annual festive event will be held at 7330 Sierra Drive in Granite Bay; join other PARC members and guests for holiday music, delicious snacks, and hear teacher-librarians Kathy Goodwin and Joanne Ligamari book talk this year's CYRM nominated titles. Watch for an e-mailed flyer!



PARC EVENT  
"DOWN AND DIRTY: TEACHING WRITING"

February 4, 2010 4:30-6:30 pm  
K-2 Speaker: Sherrill Renfro  
Gr. 3-8 Speaker: Debi Pitta  
Heritage Oaks, Dry Creek SD

Connections to standards; learn techniques to help students become expert writers from two experienced and enthused presenters. Watch for an e-mailed flyer!



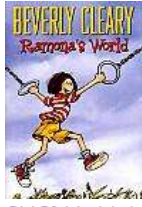
READ ACROSS AMERICA  
March 2, 2010  
[www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross)

Check out the site early and order a free calendar and start preparing for this annual celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday! Check out links to NEA partners such as Reading Rockets and Reading is Fundamental. School Tube has created a *Read Across America* channel to share student and educator designed videos related to the event. For more information, link to [www.schooltube.com](http://www.schooltube.com)

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK  
Communities thrive @ your library  
April 11-18, 2010

[www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/hqops/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/hqops/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.cfm)  
Tools for creating library events will be available soon including a Public Service Announcement for spreading the word about your events; tips for organizing and promoting National Library Week are posted on *The Campaign for America's Libraries'* Web site: [www.ala.org/@yourlibrary](http://www.ala.org/@yourlibrary).

Continued on the next page ...



**NATIONAL DROP EVERYTHING AND READ DAY  
D.E.A.R.**

April 12, 2010

[www.dropeverythingandread.com/](http://www.dropeverythingandread.com/)

Look for book marks, activities, templates, and help from "Ramona" to assure that everyone in your classroom, home, and/or library drops everything and reads on April 12<sup>th</sup>! Plan for some reading time on 4/12/10!



**PARC EVENT  
YOUNG AUTHORS' CELEBRATION**

April 22, 2009

4:30 - 6:00

Maidu Elementary School - Eureka SD

Watch for an e-mailed flyer and encourage writing by getting your students involved in this annual program to honor young writers!!

**CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK**

May 10-16, 2010

<http://www.bookweekonline.com/>

An event sponsored by Children's Book Council; check out the web site early in 2010 for bookmarks, ideas for celebrating, a downloadable poster, and links to numerous web sites for well-known children's authors and illustrators.



**TIP FOR SAVING REMINDERS ABOUT EVENTS, BOOK TITLES, AND WEB LINKS:** Create a folder; name it *PARC Newsletters*; use the *save as* option to keep this document; you'll have these live web links, dates, and book titles until you push the delete key!



**BOOK PROJECT FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN  
AFFECTED BY THE AUBURN FIRES**

September/October, 2009



PARC members should have received a flyer about this project, but if you overlooked it and would like to help, please contact Judy Lynch at [judylynch@surewest.net](mailto:judylynch@surewest.net) ASAP and she will e-mail you information.

Each volunteer will coordinate collecting books for a child or young person who has lost his or her personal reading materials. Judy is looking for 18 Placer Area Reading Council members or supporters; each volunteer will collect new or gently used books for one child or young person (ranging in age from 14 months to 20 years) ... students and their siblings from Rock Creek Elementary School.

Sierra Hills (Linda Ashcraft) and Stoneridge (Alisa DeLeo) will serve as drop-off places for the books collected. Kathy Goodwin and Joanne Ligamari (teacher-librarians) can offer advice and suggestions on books. Please consider taking on this worthwhile project to help families in our south Placer community! If you are a teacher, staff members at your school would certainly contribute and help you with this project to restore reading materials lost in the fire.



**📖 CALIFORNIA YOUNG READER MEDAL 📖**

The California Young Reader Medal program encourages recreational reading of popular literature among the young people of our state. By April 1st of each year, students have read or listened to all the nominated books in an interest level or grade level category and voted for their favorites. Students may vote in more than one category, but must have read all the books in that group. Information on the program and forms for voting are linked to the official web sites of each of the four supporting organizations. The four sponsors are the following: California Reading Association, California Library Association, California School Library Association, and California Association of Teachers of English. Winning authors in each CYRM category are usually honored at annual conferences (November through January) held by these organizations. More information on the CYRM program can be found on the official web site:

<[www.californiayoungreadermedal.org](http://www.californiayoungreadermedal.org)> A list of current nominated books is included later in this newsletter.



### PARC BOOK CLUB IS ALIVE AND READING!

although we did meet this summer in a graveyard ...

In July the book was this year's Newbery Award winning title, *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaimon and our club met at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery. Members wandered among the tombstones, learned a bit about Sacramento history, and admired the flowers cared for by a group of dedicated volunteers. Then the group moved on to an Ethiopian restaurant on Broadway where the book was discussed over a delicious lunch.

PARC members and supporters have been meeting every four to six weeks since 1997. If you would like to join us, e-mail [kathymgoodwin@hotmail.com](mailto:kathymgoodwin@hotmail.com) with your mailing address and a request to receive the flyer which is sent out about every four or five months with books to be discussed, meeting dates, times, and places. See below for recently selected titles, dates, and locations:

#### *The Birth of Venus*

by Sarah Dunant

October 24, 2009

noon at the High-Hand Café in Loomis

#### *Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat ...*

by Vicki Myron

November 12, 2009

6:00 for dinner at the home of Linda Ashcraft

#### *The War Against Miss Winter*

by Kathryn Miller Haines

December 9, 2009

6:00 for dinner at the home of Joanne Ligamari

#### *The 47<sup>th</sup> Samurai*

by Steven Hunter

January 12, 2010

6:00 for dinner at the home of Billee Landry

#### *Great Expectations*

by Charles Dickens

February 24, 2010

6:00 for dinner at *The Royal Thai* in Auburn



## Web Sites

of interest to educators ...

Note: The first few are ones almost always included in this column because of their importance to California teachers and members of CRA.



### California Reading Association

[www.californiareads.org](http://www.californiareads.org)

Includes information about conferences, membership, councils, forms for joining CRA and local councils. **As most of you know, the annual CRA Conference was cancelled** due to statewide budget problems which have overflowed into many professional organizations. However, check out the web site for information on other CRA events: **On October 17<sup>th</sup>, John Archambault will be celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his book *Chick Chicka Boom Boom*; October 24<sup>th</sup> author Valerie Hobbs will receive her CYRM award for *Sheep*; both events will be held at the CRA office.**

### ReadWriteThink

[www.readwritethink.org](http://www.readwritethink.org)

Administered by the IRA, NCATE, and the MarcoPolo Education Foundation. Approximately 500 peer-reviewed K-12 lesson plans.

### International Reading Association

[www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)

A wealth of information; links for ordering materials, research articles, conferences, state, and local councils.

### California Recommended Literature: K-12

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/rl/ll/index.asp>

Produced by CDE: "... a collection of outstanding literature for children and adolescents." The web site says the list has been updated with award-winning titles although winners from the last two years did not appear when I searched. It could be the budget difficulties have delayed updates. In 2007/2008 a committee worked on *California Social Science and History Recommended Literature: K-12* and it should have been ready to go by now, but has been delayed because of budget problems; there should be a link at the web site above when/if the database goes online.

Continued on the next page ...

## Newspapers in Education

[www.sacbee.com/nie](http://www.sacbee.com/nie)

A local newspaper link to resources and lessons that can be used by teacher for NIE projects; includes teachers' guides and instructions on how to enroll in the program.



<http://www.google.com/doodle4google/index.html>

Check out the web site early in 2010 for information about next year's competition. From the web site: "Doodle 4 Google is a competition where we invite K-12 students to reinvent Google's homepage logo. Both our country and our world are undergoing significant change and this year we invited students to doodle around the theme 'What I Wish for the World'. At Google we believe in thinking big, and dreaming big, and we can't think of anything more important than encouraging students to do the same." Here is this year's winner framed below:



## Word Clouds

<http://www.wordle.net/>

A very creative and cool site! From the web: "Wordle is a toy for generating 'word clouds' from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. You can tweak your clouds with different fonts, layouts, and color schemes. The images you create with Wordle are yours to use however you like. You can print them out, or save them to the Wordle gallery to share with your friends." Not for student-use; the site does not track or censor any "inappropriate" use of language. Certain uses require the user to cite the web site. I've used Wordle to create posters for book fairs, to promote new books, for a tribute for the parents of a child who died.

## Series Books for Children: Four Web Sites

When I help students find books in the libraries I support, one of the most frustrating problems that many students encounter is finding what title comes "next" in a series. With our understaffed and under financed California school libraries, often all the books even in high-quality series have not been purchased or, if they have, students don't get help quickly because the staff is too busy! And the same goes for the not-so-highly-reviewed but high-interest titles which should be available to students to help keep them reading

until they are ready for those "other" books! The sites below might help you and them find the information needed, and, if your school library does not own the title, tell students about the public library and interlibrary loan!

### KidsRead

<http://www.kidsreads.com/series/index.asp>

Part of the *Book Report Network*, this site includes 80 series and has an A to Z search function. For each series, the titles are listed in order of publication and sidebars have related links such as author talks, games, and activities.

### The Children's Series Binder

[http://seriesbinder.lishost.org/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://seriesbinder.lishost.org/index.php?title=Main_Page)  
A wiki created by the Webster Public Library (near Rochester, NY); includes books with films or TV adaptations and links to author web sites.

### Books in a Series

<http://www.monroe.lib.in.us/childrens/serieslist.html>

An extensive list (search by last name of the author) created by the staff of the Monroe County Public Library (Indiana); includes older series as well as new ones.

### Children's and YA Author Cynthia Leitich Smith

<http://www.cynthialeitichsmith.com/index.html>

Click on Resources on the right and then on Fantasy; many of the new series books are in the fantasy genre; this site is not extensive, but the author's writing and expertise make it a great one to browse; listed as an ALA Great Website Award winner.

## Nancy Keane's Children's Literature Webpage

<http://www.nancykeane.com/>

A wealth of information for teachers and librarians: over 5,000 ready-to-use Booktalks; includes lists of Children's Literature Resources; recommended lists of books on almost any topic one can imagine; Nancy is a school librarian who teaches children's literature classes and promotes reading and technology through television interviews and shows.

### Link on Nancy Keane's Webpage: Readalikes

<http://nancykeane.com/rl/#Readalikes>

Often teachers, parents, and librarians meet up with the student/child who is "stuck" on a particular author or series and needs help with finding something "almost" as good to read next. This link takes you to numerous titles to help students build a bridge that will lead to other doors in the castle!

### Dewey Browse

<http://www.deweybrowse.org/index.html>

Web sites for K-12 students and teachers organized by Dewey numbers; check out the connections at 332.6 (for Business units) Investing for Kids or 930 for sites related to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Ancient Civilization projects. The section on Search Engines is especially useful as it has links for kid-friendly searches.



## Too good To miss ...

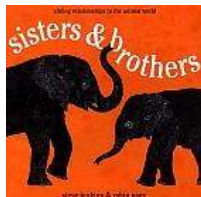


### PRIMARY



#### *The Lion and the Mouse* Jerry Pinkney

In this almost wordless retelling of an Aesop fable, an adventuresome mouse proves that even small creatures are capable of great deeds when he rescues the King of the Jungle. The expressions on the faces of the animals are priceless; Pinkney's book is sure to become a favorite; watch for this one to show up on best books lists later in the year! (2009)



#### *Sisters and Brothers* Steve Jenkins and Robin Page

A picture book illustrated with Jenkins usual cut-and-torn-page collages; investigates sibling relationships within the animal kingdom; an informational book appropriate for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> graders but could be used

with older or younger students. Includes additional facts at the end. (2008)



#### *One Boy*

Laura Seeger (illustrated by the author)

An amazing and creative book on many "best books" lists. A boy creates ten paintings in this counting book that also explores the relationship of words within words. (2008)



#### *Flat Stanley*

#### *The Great Egyptian Grave Robbery*

Created by Jeff Brown

Written by Sara Pennypacker

A new series for 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders: Flat Stanley's *World Wide Adventures*. Flat Stanley sets out on another adventure and finds himself in Egypt, where he must stop a band of grave robbers from stealing priceless artifacts. Sure to please teachers looking for new early chapter books for beginning readers. (2008)



#### *Birds*

Kevin Henkes (illustrated by Laura Dronzek)

Fascinated by the colors, shapes, sounds, and movements of the many different birds she sees through her window, a little girl is happy to discover that she and they have something in common. Preschool and up. Informational and beautifully illustrated and written! (2009)

## MIDDLE/UPPER GRADES



### *Every Soul a Star*

Wendy Mass

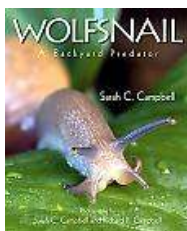
Ally, Bree, and Jack meet at Moon Shadow, an isolated campground, to watch a total eclipse of the sun; but soon they begin to learn a great deal about themselves, each other, and the universe. Told in the voices of three young middle school students, the book may also create interest in learning more about solar eclipses. Information and resources are given at the end of this intriguing fiction book. Gr. 5-8. (2008)



### *The Girl Who Saw Lions*

Berlie Doherty

In alternating voices, thirteen-year-old Rosa and her mother are trying to adopt a Tanzanian child in England, while in Tanzania, nine-year-old Abela watches her family die after which her uncle illegally sends her to England, and hopes to "sell" her. Eventually the two stories merge; a moving story with strongly realized characters. Includes sensitive topics such as AIDs which are handled well for young readers. Gr. 6+ (2007)



### *Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator*

Sarah C. Campbell

(photos: Sarah & Richard Campbell)

Close-up photographs and simple text describe how a wolf snail hunts, attacks, and eats its prey. On many

best-books lists for 2008-09. Gr. 2 or 3+ but also of interest to older reluctant readers and science oriented students. (2008)



### *Swindle*

Gordon Korman

After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palomino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back, planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the Smart Pick fruit picker. High-interest adventure story in which eventually the kids learn some lessons and all turns out OK! A sequel, *Zoobreak*, features the same sixth-graders. (2008)



### *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*

Jacqueline Kelly

In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is the middle child of six brothers. She studies the natural world with her grandfather, and together, they make an important scientific discovery. Starred reviews for this historical fiction book with a central character who is strong and full of untraditional ideas. Could be a contender for this year's Newbery. (2009)

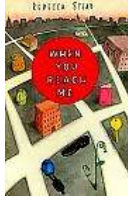


### *Lincoln and His Boys*

Rosemary Wells illustrated by P.J. Lynch

Short historical fiction; captures life in the 1800s and with a famous and loving father who allows and encourages his sons to carry on with the business of childhood; told from Willie and Taddie's viewpoints.

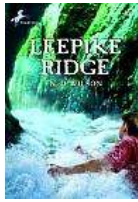




### *When You Reach Me*

Rebecca Stead

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. A complex mystery sure to be on many best books lists. Gr. 5+ (2009)



### *Leepike Ridge*

N. D. Wilson

Eleven-year-old Thomas is upset when his widowed mother hints that she might remarry. He goes out to the river, accidentally falls in, and is presumed drowned. Tom drifts on the river and finds himself trapped in a series of underground caves with another survivor and a dog, and pursued by murderous treasure-hunters. A well-written adventure story to capture the interest of middle graders. Gr. 4+ (2007)



### *Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out*

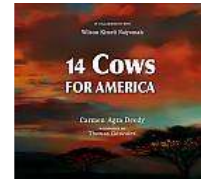
Introduction by David McCullough

"Created by 108 renowned authors and illustrators and the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance." Includes bibliographical references (p. 231) and index. A collection of essays, personal accounts, historical fiction, and poetry that traces the history of the

White House through the eyes of the children who have lived and visited there. A treasure for creating interest in Presidents, the White House and Government; Social Science connections for Grades 5 and 8. (2007)

## PICTURE BOOKS

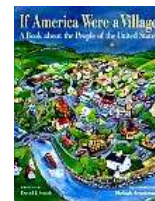
SOME FOR ALL AGES AND OTHERS FOR OLDER READERS



### *Fourteen Cows for America*

Carmen Agra Deedy (illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez)

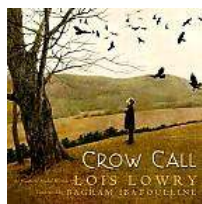
Written by master storyteller Deedy in collaboration with Wilson Kimeli Naiyomah. The book tells the true story of a gift of fourteen cows given by the Maasai people of Kenya to the U.S. as a gesture of comfort and friendship in the wake of the attacks of September 11, 2001. Recommended by Valerie Lewis and sure to be on many best books lists. (2009)



### *If America Were a Village*

David Smith (illustrated by Shelagh Armstrong)

Presents a metaphor for the United States, simplifying it as a village of one hundred people in order to assist with understanding of ethnic origins, religions, family profiles, wealth, occupations, belongings, and other demographic details. By the same author who wrote *If the World Were a Village*. Students probably won't pick this up on their own, but teachers will find ways to connect it with social science, statistics, math and discussions about diversity. (2009)



### *Crow Call*

**Lois Lowry (illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline)**

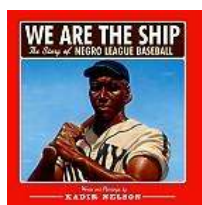
Nine-year-old Liz accompanies the stranger who is her father, just returned from the war, when he goes hunting for crows in Pennsylvania farmland. A touching story of a family reuniting and a father's sensitivity to a daughter he is just getting to know. Fiction but based on the author's memories of her own father. (2009)



### *One*

**Kathryn Otoshi**

Red picks on Blue while Yellow, Orange, Green, and Purple wonder what they can do until One unites the colors and helps everybody learn about acceptance, tolerance, and boundaries amidst bullying while the reader learns numbers and primary and secondary colors. Truly a book for all ages ... a vivid, "colorful" and brilliant book for starting a discussion on kindness versus bullying. (2008)

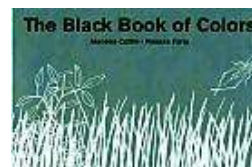


### *We Are the Ship*

**The Story of Negro League Baseball**

**Kadir Nelson (illustrated by the author)**

This award-winning illustrator shows that he can also research and write in this award-winning and fascinating informational title. Explores the history of Negro League baseball teams, discussing owners, players, hardships, wins, and losses; and includes illustrations by a Caldecott-winning illustrator. (2008)



### *The Black Book of Colors*

**Menina Cottin (illustrated by Rosana Faria)**

Text in English and braille; translated from the Spanish; braille translation provided by CNIB. Raised black line drawings on black pages encourage people to use their other senses to experience art, helping them understand what it is like to be blind. This "Best Book" title is amazing! (2006)



### *She Touched the World*

**Laura Bridgman, Deaf-Blind Pioneer**

**Sally Hober Alexander and Robert Alexander**

Chronicles the life of Laura Bridgman, who, at the age of five, became both deaf and blind; recounts how she learned to communicate with people and became one of the most famous women in the world. Excellent picture biography. (2008)



### *Testing the Ice*

**A True Story About Jackie Robinson**

**Sharon Robinson (illustrated by Kadir Nelson)**

As a testament to his courage, Jackie Robinson's daughter shares memories of him, from his baseball career to the day he tests the ice for her, her brothers, and their friends. Truly an inspiring story for all ages. (2009)

**Note: Some annotations include words and phrases from the Library of Congress C.I.P. Book covers are from Follett's web site: [www.titlewave.com](http://www.titlewave.com)**



## California Young Reader Medal



### California Young Reader Medal Nominees 2009-2010

#### PRIMARY CATEGORY

##### *A Frog Thing*

Eric Drachman, 2006

##### *Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners*

Laurie Keller, 2007

##### *My Life as a Chicken*

Ellen Kelley; illustrated by Michael Slack, 2007

##### *Velma Gratch and the Way Cool Butterfly*

Alan Madison; illustrated by Kevin Hawkes, 2007

##### *Millie Waits for the Mail*

Alexander Steffensmeier, 2007

#### INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY

##### *No Talking*

Andrew Clements, 2007

##### *A Friendship for Today*

Patricia McKissack, 2007

##### *A Crooked Kind of Perfect*

Linda A. Urban, Random House, 2007

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL/JR. HIGH

##### *Blood on the River: James Town 1607*

Elisa Carbone, 2006

##### *Alabama Moon*

Watt Key, 2006

##### *The Wednesday Wars*

Gary D. Schmidt, 2007

#### YOUNG ADULT

##### *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

Sherman Alexie, illustrated by Ellen Forney, 2007

##### *Saint Iggy*

R. L. Going, 2006

##### *Story of a Girl*

Sara Zarr, 2007

#### PICTURE BOOKS FOR OLDER READERS

##### *Armando and the Blue Tarp School*

Edith Hope Fine and Judith Pinkerton Josephson; illustrated by Hernan Sosa, 2007

##### *Owney: the Mail-Pouch Pooch*

Mona Kerby; illustrated by Lynne Barasch, 2008

##### *Willy & Max: a Holocaust Story*

Amy Littlesugar; illustrated by William Low, 2006

#### ABOUT THE PROGRAM ...

The California Young Reader Medal program encourages recreational reading of popular literature among the young people of our state. By April 1st of each year, students have read or listened to all the nominated books in an interest level or grade level category and voted for their favorites. Students may vote in more than one category, but must have read all the books in that group. Information on the program and forms for voting are linked to the official web sites of each of the four supporting organizations. The four sponsors of the program are the following: California Reading Association, California Library Association, California School Library Association, and California Association of Teachers of English. Winning authors in each CYRM category are honored at annual conferences (November through January) held by these organizations. More information on the CYRM program can be found on the official CYRM web site: [www.californiayoungreadermedal.org](http://www.californiayoungreadermedal.org)

## PARC BOARD MEMBERS 2009/10

Members are always welcome at our board meetings. See dates and location on the second page of the newsletter. We plan events, ask for help with related tasks, share news related to teaching, reading, and education, and share food and laughter! Pass on the membership form below to friends and co-workers!

President:	Judy Lynch	<a href="mailto:judylynch@surewest.com">judylynch@surewest.com</a>	916-781-3243
Past-President:	Joanne Devine	<a href="mailto:joannetdevine@yahoo.com">joannetdevine@yahoo.com</a>	916-771-1800
President-Elect:	Jody Anderson	<a href="mailto:jland56@yahoo.com">jland56@yahoo.com</a>	916-660-9626
Vice-President	Taffy Maurer	<a href="mailto:Taffy.Maurer@twinriversusd.org">Taffy.Maurer@twinriversusd.org</a>	916-566-1900
Recording Secretary	Beth Furdek	<a href="mailto:tbfurdek@comcast.net">tbfurdek@comcast.net</a>	916-780-3374
Hospitality:	Betsy Stenklyft	<a href="mailto:akabets@surewest.net">akabets@surewest.net</a>	916-786-3656
Corresponding Sec:	Muriel Seeker	<a href="mailto:mseeker@newcastle.k12.ca.us">mseeker@newcastle.k12.ca.us</a>	916-663-3307
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Site Representative	Katherine Beilby	<a href="mailto:PARCevents@yahoo.com">PARCevents@yahoo.com</a>	916-772-6308
Webmaster	Kevin Krutz	<a href="mailto:kincc@comcast.net">kincc@comcast.net</a>	
Area Director	Betsy Stenklyft	<a href="mailto:akabets@surewest.net">akabets@surewest.net</a>	916-786-3656

### Placer Area Reading Council MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please tear off this portion and mail with your appropriate membership dues (payable to CRA):  
PARC C/O Debi Pitta, 1768 Stone Canyon Drive, Roseville, CA 95661

A PARC member automatically makes you a member of CRA and both are valid for 12 months from the date of the application:

- \$40.00 per year regular individual membership       \$20.00 per year full-time student, BTSA teacher, or retired individual

Name (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I can help by being a site rep (five minutes a month)