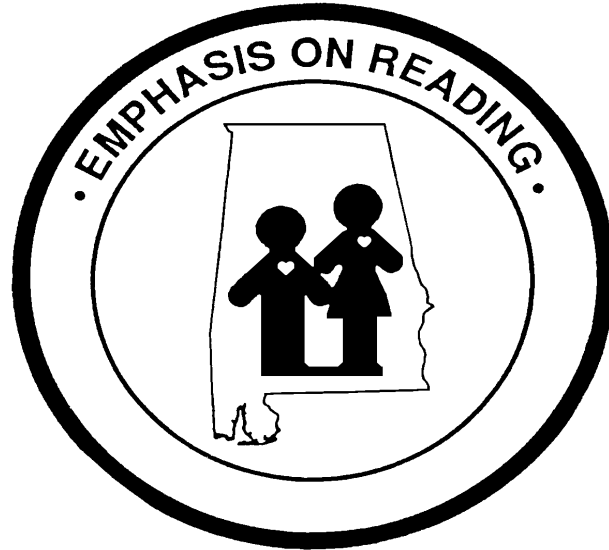


Emphasis on Reading Program 2007-2008 Book List



Good books get to the heart of things!

Alabama's children's choice book award program for 27 years.

**Joseph B. Morton
State Superintendent of Education
Alabama Department of Education**

We would like to thank the following people for their time and effort in selecting these books for the coming year.

K-1 Committee—Shelby County Schools

Heather Mays, Chair—Teacher Resource Center
Jeanna Dennis—Valley Elementary School
Mary Foy—Valley Intermediate School
Amy Hogan—Oak Mountain Elementary School
Laura Kaylor—Calera Elementary School
Stephen Kearley—Elvin Hill Elementary School
Jackie Killingsworth—Creek View Elementary School
Judith Lay—Wilsonville Elementary School
Steven McClendon—Vincent Elementary School
Pam Reach—Shelby Elementary School
Linda W. Sears—Oak Mountain Intermediate School
Allison Shaw—Chelsea Park Elementary School
Laurie Watson—Meadow View Elementary School

2-3 Committee—Auburn City Schools

Jennifer Dempsey, Chair—Wrights Mill Road Elementary School
Peggy Delaney
Celeste Dorman
Ann Harrell
Pam Kent—Drake Middle School
Anita Meadows—Dean Road Elementary School
Deana Schnuelle—Ogletree Elementary School

4-6 Committee—Clarke County Schools

Alice Moore, Chair—Grove Hill Elementary School
Sallie Brown—Jackson Middle School
Susan Burton—Clarke County High School
Shelia Finch—W. S. Public Library
Jennifer Hancock—Jackson Intermediate School
Gay Lynn—Jackson High School
Jan South—Gillmore Elementary School
Barbara Whittington—Wilson Hall Middle School
Danielle Wilson—Coffeetown High School

7-8 Committee—Talladega County Schools

Kitty Forbus, Chair—Watwood Elementary School
Rita Harper—Munford Middle School
Natalie Martin—C.R. Drew Middle School
Joan Miller—Talladega County Central High School
Teresa Offord—B.B. Comer Memorial High School
Kim Smithwick—Watwood Elementary School

Grades K-1

About Marsupials: A Guide for Children, written by Cathryn Sill, illustrated by John Sill, unpagged, Peachtree Publishers, 2006, ISBN 1-56145-358-7, \$15.95.

About marsupials is a thoughtful yet entertaining first glimpse into the world of nature for young children.

Chickens to the Rescue, written and illustrated by John Himmelman, unpagged, Henry, Holt, and Company, LLC, 2006, ISBN 978-0-8050-7951-7, \$16.95.

Six days a week the chickens help the Greenstalk family and their animals recover from mishaps that occur on the farm, but they need one day to rest.

Looking for a Moose, written by Phyllis Root, illustrated by Randy Cecil, unpagged, Candlewick Press, 2006, ISBN 978-0-7636-2005-9, \$15.99.

Four children set off into the woods to find a moose.

Mama, I'll Give You the World, written by Roni Schotter, illustrated by S. Saelig Gallagher, unpagged, Schwartz & Wade Books, 2006, ISBN 978-0-375-83612-1, \$16.95.

At Walter's World of Beauty, Luisa's secret plans are underway to create a very special birthday celebration for her hard-working, single mother who is employed there as a stylist.

Max's Words, written by Kate Banks, illustrated by Boris Kulikov, unpagged, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006, ISBN 978-0-374-39949-8, \$16.00.

When Max cuts out words from magazines and newspapers, collecting them the way his brothers collect stamps and coins, they all learn about words, sentences, and storytelling.

Now & Ben—The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin, written and illustrated by Gene Barretta, unpagged, Henry, Holt, and Company, LLC, 2006, ISBN 978-0-8050-7917-3, \$16.95.

In this informative book, Gene Barretta brings Benjamin Franklin's genius to life, deepening our appreciation for one of the most influential figures in American history.

One Potato, Two Potato, written by Cynthia DeFelice, illustrated by Andrea U'Ren, unpagged, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006, ISBN 978-0-374-35640-8, \$16.00.

A very poor, humble couple live so simple a life they share everything, until the husband discovers a pot with magical powers buried under the very last potato in the garden.

Railroad John and the Red Rock Run, written by Tony Crunk, illustrated by Michael Austin, unpagged, Peachtree Publishers, 2006, ISBN 1-56145-363-3, \$16.95.

Lonesome Bob and Granny Apple Fritter have to get to Red Rock by two o'clock or Lonesome will miss his wedding, but Railroad John has never been late so nothing will keep him from pulling the train in by 1:59.

Sally Jean, the Bicycle Queen, written by Carl Best, illustrated by Christine Davenier, unpagged, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005, ISBN 978-0-374-36386-4, \$16.00.

When Sally Jean outgrows her beloved bicycle, Flash, she experiments with various ideas for acquiring a new, bigger one.

This Jazz Man, written by Karen Ehrhardt, illustrated by R. G. Roth, unpagged, Harcourt, Inc., 2006, ISBN 978-0-15-205307-9, \$16.00.

Presents an introduction to jazz music and nine well-known jazz musicians, set to the rhythm of the traditional song, "This Old Man." Includes brief facts about each musician.

Grades 2-3

Barnum Brown Dinosaur Hunter, written and illustrated by David Sheldon, unpagged, Walker and Company, 2006, ISBN 978-0-8027-9602-8, \$16.95.

Barnum Brown has one ambition as a child: to grow up to be a great dinosaur hunter. And that's just what he did when he was hired by the American Museum of Natural History—working to build their astounding collection.

Clementine, written by Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Marla Frazee, 136 pages, Hyperion Books for Children, 2006, ISBN 0-7868-3882-5, \$14.99.

Clementine is having not so good of a week. One Monday she's sent to the principal's office for cutting off Margaret's hair. Tuesday, Margaret's mother is mad at her. And the week goes on. Okay, fine. Clementine is having a DISASTROUS week.

The Diary of a Killer Cat, written and illustrated by Anne Fine, 58 pages, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006, ISBN 978-0-374-31779-9, \$15.00.

Tuffy the pet cat tries to defend himself against accusations of terrifying other animals and murdering the neighbor's rabbit.

Extreme Animals—The Toughest Creatures on Earth, written by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Neal Layton, 61 pages, Candlewick Press, 2006, ISBN 978-0-7636-3067-6, \$12.99.

There is life everywhere on Earth! From polar wastes to bubbling volcanoes, from desiccated deserts to the deepest seabeds, animals have adapted to survive in conditions that would kill a human quicker than you can say "coffin." Discover how they do it in this amazing natural history book.

Getting to Know Ruben Plotnick, written by Roz Rosenbluth, illustrated by Maurie J. Manning, unpagged, Flash Light Press, 2006, ISBN 0-972-92255-5, \$15.95.

What do you get when you put together the coolest kid in class, an unpredictable live-in grandmother, and a caring but anxious grandson? Disaster? N. You get to know Ruben Plotnick.

My Feet are Laughing, written by Lissette Norman, illustrated by Frank Morrison, unpagged, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006, ISBN 978-0-374-35096-3, \$16.00.

Sadie, an imaginative young Dominican American, relates her experiences growing up in her grandmother's brownstone house in Harlem.

Once Upon a Tomb—Gravely Humorous Verses, written by J. Patrick Lewis, illustrated by Simon Bartram, unpagged, Candlewick Press, 2006, ISBN 978-0-7636-1837-7, \$16.99.

These twenty-two poems each tell the story of an untimely demise—from a school principal to a bully, a food critic to a cafeteria lady, an underwear salesman to a soccer player—in witty and mischievous verse.

Satchel Paige Don't Look Back, written by David A. Adler, illustrated by Terry Widener, unpagged, Harcourt, Inc., 2006, ISBN 978-0-15-205585-1, \$16.00.

Satchel Paige was one of the greatest pitchers of all time. He wanted more than anything to make it into the "big show"—but when he began his career in the 1920s, African Americans were excluded from the major leagues.

Sophie Hartley, On Strike, written by Stephanie Greene, 144 pages, Clarion Books, 2006, ISBN 978-0-618-71960-0, \$15.00.

Mutinous is the perfect word to describe nine-year-old Sophie's mood after she awakens on Saturday to a list of chores. Procrastination results in her missing a day with friends, and when she sees her teenage brother, Thad, make light of his responsibilities, with only a halfhearted response from Mom, she's really miffed.

Steal Back the Mona Lisa!, written and illustrated by Meghan McCarthy, unpagged, Harcourt, Inc., 2006, ISBN 978-0-15-205368-0, \$16.00.

When crooked crooks steal the *Mona Lisa* from the Louvre, Special Agent Jack is sent on a dangerous mission to steal it back. Includes facts about the painting.

Grades 4-6

Archer's Quest, written by Linda Sue Park, 165 pages, Clarion Books, 2006, ISBN 978-0-618-59631-7, \$16.00.
Twelve-year-old Kevin Kim helps Chu-mong, a legendary king of ancient Korea, return to his own time.

Castles—Old Stone Poems, written by J. Patrick Lewis & Rebecca Kai Dotlich, illustrations by Dan Burr, 48 pages, Wordsong—Boyd's Mills Press, Inc., 2006, ISBN 978-1-59078-380-1, \$18.95.

Castles are monumental, in real life and in our imaginations. They represent the power—and folly—of kings and queens. The legends that surround them are the stuff of dreams.

Journey to the Blue Moon—In Which Time is Lost and Then Found Again, written by Rebecca Rupp, 263 pages, Candlewick Press, 2006, ISBN 978-0-7636-2544-3, \$15.99.

After a gang of talking rats transports a young boy to the moon, he embarks on a series of adventures and gains a new perspective on the concept of time.

Julia's Kitchen, written by Brenda A. Ferber, 151 pages, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006, ISBN 978-0-374-39932-0, \$16.00.

When her mother and younger sister are killed in a house fire, eleven-year-old Cara struggles to find a way to deal with her emotions and to reach out to her grieving father.

Mama's Window, written by Lynn Rubright, illustrated by Duane Smith, 96 pages, Lee & Low Books, 2006, ISBN 978-1-58430-160-8, \$16.95.

James Earle Sugar Martin's mother has been dead for six months when this story begins. By her request, he is now living with her brother, a disabled loner. The two of them reside in a one-room shack in the Mississippi Delta and Uncle Free makes his living by fishing the waters of the swamp.

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, written by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline, 197 pages, Candlewick Press, 2006, ISBN 0-7636-2589-2, \$18.99.

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

One-Handed Catch, written by M J Auch, 246 pages, Henry Holt and Company, 2006, ISBN 978-0-8050-7900-5, \$16.95.

After losing his hand in an accident in his father's butcher shop in 1946, sixth-grader Norman uses hard work and humor to learn to live with his disability and to succeed at baseball, art, and other activities.

Singing Hands, written by Delia Ray, 247 pages, Clarion Books, 2006, ISBN 978-0-618-65762-9, \$16.00.

In the late 1940s, twelve-year-old Gussie, a minister's daughter, learns the definition of integrity while helping with a celebration at the Alabama School for the Deaf—her punishment for misdeeds against her deaf parents and their boarders.

that girl Lucy Moon, written by Amy Timberlake, 294 pages, Hyperion Books for Children, 2006, ISBN 0-7868-5298-4, \$15.99.

Lucy Moon is the kind of girl who loudly supports animal rights—during hunting season. She wears a woven hat made of hemp in support of third-world workers. Lucy Moon is the kind of girl who spots injustice and isn't afraid to fight it.

Trading Places, written by Claudia Mills, 138 pages, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006, ISBN 978-0-374-31798-0, \$16.00.

When fifth-grade twins, Amy and Todd, tackle a school project, they also have to cope with issues of friendship at school and problems at home, including their father's unemployment.

Grades 7-8

An Unlikely Friendship—A Novel of Mary Todd Lincoln and Elizabeth Keckley, written by Ann Rinaldi, 241 pages, Harcourt Inc., 2007, ISBN 978-0-15-205597-4, \$17.00.

Relates the lives of Mary Todd Lincoln, raised in a wealthy Virginia family, and Lizzy Keckley, a dressmaker born a slave, as they grow up separately then become best friends when Mary's childhood dream of living in the White House comes true.

Alabama Moon, written by Watt Key, 294 pages, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006, ISBN 978-0-374-30184-2, \$16.00.

After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon leaves their forest shelter home and is sent to an Alabama institution, becoming entangled in the outside world he has never known and making good friends, a relentless enemy, and finally a new life.

The Book of Story Beginnings, written by Kristin Kladstrup, 360 pages, Candlewick Press, 2006, ISBN 978-0-7636-2609-9, \$15.99.

After moving with her parents to Iowa, twelve-year-old Lucy discovers a mysterious notebook that can bring stories to life and which has a link to the 1914 disappearance of her great uncle.

Bread and Roses, Too, written by Katherine Paterson, 266 pages, Clarion Books, 2006, ISBN 978-0-618-65479-6, \$16.00.

Jake and Rosa, two children, form an unlikely friendship as they try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Code Orange, written by Caroline B. Cooney, 195 pages, Delacorte Press, 2005, ISBN 0-385-73259-7, \$15.95.

While conducting research for a high school biology report, a teenage boy unwittingly puts himself and others in danger.

Gemini Summer, written by Iain Lawrence, 261 pages, Delacorte Press, 2006, ISBN 978-0-385-73089-1, \$15.95.

In 1965, Danny's grief over the death of his older brother Beau is eased when a stray puppy adopts him, but he soon realizes that Beau is somehow in the dog, and sets out to make his brother's dream of seeing a rocket launch at Cape Kennedy come true.

Good Fortune—My Journey to Gold Mountain, written by Li Keng Wong, 136 pages, Peachtree Publishers, 2006, ISBN 1-56145-367-6, \$14.95.

The year is 1933, and seven-year-old Li Keng Gee's life is about to change forever. Her father has decided to bring his family from their small village in southern China to join him in "Gold Mountain," the United States.

Grace's Turn, written by Christy Carlson Romano, 264 pages, Hyperion Books for Children, 2006, ISBN 0-7868-4884-7, \$15.99.

Grace di Giovanni is a small-town girl with a dream: she wants to be a Broadway star. But Grace has a long way to go. After all, she's never even played a lead in one of her high school's musicals! This year, though, Grace and her best friend, Emily, have decided they're not going to just fade into the background. This year will be different.

The Islanders, written by John Rowe Townsend, 264 pages, Front Street Publishers, 2006, ISBN 978-1-932425-69-7, \$9.95.

The isolated residents of Halcyon Island, resistant of all newcomers, have always governed by the Teaching in the Book which has been orally passed down for generations, but one day they find out, from one who reads, the real and astonishing story in the book.

Tanglewreck, written by Jeanette Winterson, 415 pages, Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2006, ISBN 978-1-58234-919-0, \$16.95.

Eleven-year-old Silver sets out to find the Timekeeper—a clock that controls time—and to protect it from falling into the hands of two people who want to use the device for their own nefarious ends.