



Literacy Links

January, 2007
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Monthly E-Newsletter of Maine Reading First

Spotlight on...

Selecting Quality Children's Books (part 1)

Attempting to select children's books of high quality amidst the sea of books which constantly flood book stores is a monumental task. The spotlight sections of the next two editions of *Literacy Links* will showcase considerations for selecting children's books with a critical eye. One of the initial sources to consider when contemplating which children's books to purchase or use are the numerous book awards. This month's spotlight of *Literacy Links* will focus entirely on some of the awards given to children's books. The spotlight section in February's edition of *Literacy Links* will offer additional guidelines and considerations for selecting quality children's books.

See how familiar you are with the latest award-winning children's books by matching the book titles from the right column with the corresponding awards from the left column (answers provided at the end of this newsletter):



Upcoming Events

January 16, 2007 ~ Maine Reading Association will host Jennifer Allen, author of [Becoming a Literacy Leader: Supporting Learning and Change](#) (Stenhouse, 2006), at their January meeting at the Ground Round in Augusta beginning at 5 p.m. Participants can order dinner off the restaurant's menu at their own expense. Please

Awards	Book Titles
A. 2006 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Picture Book	1. <u>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</u> by Kate DiCamillo
B. 2006 Caldecott Medal Winner	2. <u>Criss Cross</u> by Lynne Rae Perkins
C. 2006 Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Winner	3. <u>The Hello, Goodbye Window</u> written by Norton Juster and illustrated by Chris Raschka
D. 2006 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Fiction and Poetry	4. <u>My Best Friend</u> by Mary Ann Rodman
E. 2006 Orbis Pictus Award Winner	5. <u>Secrets of a Civil War Submarine</u> by Sally Walker
F. 2006 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal Winner	6. <u>Henry and Mudge and the Great Grandpas</u> by Cynthia Rylant
G. 2006 Charlotte Zolotow Award Winner	7. <u>Children of the Great Depression</u> by Russell Freedman
H. 2006 Newbery Medal Winner	8. <u>Leaf Man</u> by Lois Ehlert

The awards listed on the above table are some of the most common and are awarded on an annual basis. The books selected for these awards are ones published during the preceding year. Listings of award-winning books for the duration of the award are available on the Internet under the association which administers the award (see table below for website addresses). There are many other awards for fiction, poetry, and nonfiction not included in this list; some of which are awarded every two or three years.

Details and websites about each of the awards included in the matching task above are listed below:

RSVP to
anne.thompson@schoolunion44.org

April 25, 2007 ~
1st Annual Nonfiction Institute, "Using Nonfiction in the Classroom", with award-winning nonfiction author Penny Colman. Held at Jeff's Catering in Brewer. Sponsored by the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development— Literacy Unit; Contact Amy Cates at 581-2438 for registration information

August 6-8, 2007 ~
Annual Seamless Transitions Conference; University of Maine, Orono
Organizers of this conference are excited to announce that Dr. Susan Bennett-Armistead, University of Maine Literacy Faculty Member, will offer a full-day institute on preK Literacy on August 9
Contact Amy Cates at 581-2438 for

Caldecott Medal

(<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/caldecottmedal/aboutcaldecott/aboutcaldecott/htm>)

- The Caldecott Medal is the highest award a picture book can receive and is awarded to the artist who has created the most distinguished American picture book.
- This award began in 1937 and is named in honor of a nineteenth-century English illustrator, Randolph J. Caldecott.
- The Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, administers this award.

Newbery Medal

(<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/newberymedal/aboutnewbery/aboutnewbery/htm>)

- The Newbery Award was the first children's book award in the world, beginning in 1922. Its long history makes it one of the most well-known book awards.
- This award is named in honor of John Newbery, an eighteenth-century English bookseller, and is awarded to the most distinguished American children's book.
- The Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, administers this award.

Boston Globe-Horn Book Award

(<http://www.hbook.com/awards/bghb.default.asp>)

- This award was first presented in 1967 and is considered the most prestigious honor in the field of children's and young adult literature.
- Winning books are selected for 3 categories: picture book, fiction and poetry, and nonfiction.
- A panel of judges is appointed annually by the Horn Book who oversee this award.

Charlotte Zolotow Award

(<http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/books/zolotow.asp>)

- In honor of the work of Charlotte Zolotow (author of more than 70 picture books including Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present and William's Doll), this award began in 1998.
- This award is given to the best picture book published in the United States.
- The Cooperative Children's Book Center, a children's literature library of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, administers the Charlotte Zolotow Award.

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award

(<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/geiselaward/GeiselAward.htm>)

- First established in 2004 to honor Theodor Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss, this award did not begin selecting books until 2006.
- Recognizes the author(s) and illustrator(s) of a beginning reader book whose creativity and imagination in writing and illustration engage children in reading.
- The Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, administers this award.

Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children

(<http://www.ncte.org/elem/awards/orbispictus/106877.htm>)

- This award first began in 1990 and the name, Orbis Pictus, honors the 1657 book by Johannes Amos Comenius, Orbis Pictus: The World in Pictures. This book is considered to be the original book actually planned for children.
- Recognizes excellent nonfiction writing for children. Nominated books are judged on the following criteria: accuracy, organization,

more information

Save the Date for Fall 2007 ~

The New England Reading Association (NERA) Annual Conference will be coming back to Maine next year! The 2007 Annual Conference, "Literacy Learning: What Matters" will be held at the Augusta Civic Center on September 27-28. Janet Allen, Penny Kittle, Don Leu, and Doug Hartman will be the keynote presenters for the two-day conference.



"We shouldn't teach great books; we should teach a love of reading."

B.F. Skinner

design, and style.

- The Committee on the Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children within the National Council of Teachers of English administers this award.

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal

(http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/sibertmedal/Sibert_Medal.htm)

- First established in 2001 to honor Robert F. Sibert, the long-time president of Bound to Stay Bound Books, Inc.
- Recognizes the author(s) of the most distinguished informational book.
- The Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, administers this award.

Description of Instructional Idea...

Text Sets

Text sets are teacher-created collections of books that meet a specific instructional purpose including expanding the study of a particular theme, topic, or author, or showcasing an individual element or feature. Text sets can represent a single genre or include a combination of various genres (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, traditional literature, etc.). Possible organizational structures for text sets are included below although the instructional goal will guide how text sets are compiled:

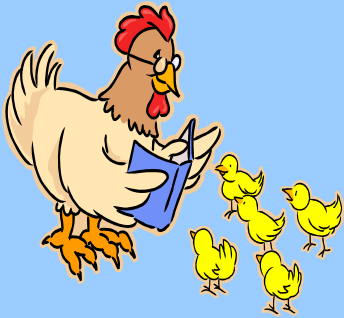
- topic (penguins, communities, frogs)
- author or illustrator
- genre
- variations of a single title (adaptations of The Gingerbread Man, Little Red Riding Hood)
- mentor text sets (Books used as models or mentors of specific qualities or features. Mentor texts can be collected to illustrate the craft of writing including word choice, descriptive language, or story development. Mentor texts can also be organized to represent certain features of nonfiction such as using visuals and access features or writing with clarity and coherence.)

Summary of Professional Literacy Text...

Literacy Work Stations: Making Centers Work

Debbie Diller answers the common question, "What are the other students doing while the teacher meets with guided reading groups?", in this resourceful text packed with details about designing and organizing literacy work stations (literacy centers). The first two chapters define literacy work stations and how to implement them in the classroom. The remaining chapters offer details about specific work stations such as the classroom library, big books, writing, word study, and poetry.

Literacy Work Stations: Making Centers Work by Debbie Diller was published in 2003 by Stenhouse Publishers. The ISBN is 1571103538.



“If we want children to learn to read well, we must find a way to induce them to read lots. If we want to induce children to read lots, we must teach them to read well.”

Marilyn Jager Adams



Children's Literature Title...

Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Written by Doreen Rappaport and illustrated by Bryan Collier

In this multiple award-winning book (Caldecott Honor Book, Coretta Scott King Award, New York Times Book Review Best Illustrated Children's Book), the author and illustrator create a powerful and unforgettable portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The “White Only” signs Martin sees when he is younger inspire him “to get big words” when he grows up. This book illustrates how his words do become big enough to influence others. The author intertwines her words with those of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (“Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that.”) throughout the text as the events of Martin's life unfold.

Martin's Big Words was published in 2001 by Hyperion Books for Children and the ISBN is 0786807148.

News from Maine Reading First...

- Maine Reading First is planning the following professional development events for the spring:
 - Day-long conference with Karen Burke, consultant from Scholastic, Inc., on teaching comprehension using informational text
 - DIBELS training session with Marcia Davidson, faculty member from the University of Maine
 - Day-long conference with Jo Robinson on differentiating instruction and implementing literacy centers will be held in the Portland area on May 30 and repeated in the Bangor area on June 1.

Stay tuned to the February edition of *Literacy Links* for more details about these upcoming events.

Check it out...

Some popular authors of children's fiction and nonfiction have developed remarkable websites which provide teachers and students with biographical details, activities, games, and lots of information about their books. Some of the websites also include interactive segments. A sampling of websites for some well-known authors is included below:

Author	Book Titles	Website
Jan Brett	-Hedgie Blasts Off! -The Umbrella -Daisy Comes Home	http://www.janbrett.com
Eric Carle	-10 Little Rubber Ducks -Mister Seahorse -Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See?	http://www.eric-carle.com
Tomie dePaola	-Strega Nona -26 Fairmount Avenue -Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs	http://www.tomie.com
Mem Fox	-Koala Lou	http://www.memfox.com

"Reading is to the mind
what exercise is to the
body."

Richard Steele



	- <i>Hunwick's Egg</i> - <i>Time for Bed</i>	m
Bruce McMillan	- <i>Nights of the Pufflings</i> - <i>The Problem with Chickens</i> - <i>Days of the Ducklings</i>	http://www.brucemcmillan.com
Patricia Polacco	- <i>An Orange for Frankie</i> - <i>Emma Kate</i> - <i>When Lightning Comes in a Jar</i>	http://www.patriciapolacco.com

Answers to book-award matching task at beginning of newsletter:

- A-8** ~ 2006 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Picture Book was Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert
- B-3** ~ 2006 Caldecott Medal Winner was The Hello, Goodbye Window written by Norton Juster and illustrated by Chris Raschka
- C-6** ~ 2006 Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Winner was Henry and Mudge and the Great Grandpas by Cynthia Rylant
- D-1** ~ Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Fiction and Poetry was The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo
- E-7** ~ 2006 Orbis Pictus Award Winner was Children of the Great Depression by Russell Freedman
- F-5** ~ 2006 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal Winner was Secrets of a Civil War Submarine by Sally Walker
- G-4** ~ 2006 Charlotte Zolotow Award Winner was My Best Friend by Mary Ann Rodman
- H-2** ~ 2006 Newbery Medal Winner was Criss Cross by Lynne Rae Perkins

Newsletter Archives

There are several earlier editions of *Literacy Links* available at
<http://www.maine.gov/education/rf/homepage.htm>

Edition	Spotlight Topic
March, 2005	Maine Reading First
April, 2005	Maine Reading First Course
May, 2005	Reading Fluency
June, 2005	Vocabulary
September, 2005	Phonemic Awareness
October, 2005	Phonics
November, 2005	Comprehension
December, 2005/January, 2006	DIBELS
February, 2006	Literacy Centers
March, 2006	Interactive Read Aloud
April, 2006	Nonfiction
May, 2006	Word Walls
June, 2006	Classroom Design
September, 2006	Shared Reading
October, 2006	Automaticity
November, 2006	Using Assessment to Guide Instruction
December, 2006	Deepening Comprehension



For additional information about any of the items in this newsletter or to sign up to receive this e-newsletter, please email janet.trembly@maine.gov

Click here to view the Maine Reading First website
<http://www.maine.gov/education/rf/homepage.htm>

The professional development opportunities and materials are listed in *Literacy Links* for informational purposes only and are not necessarily endorsed by the Maine Department of Education's Maine Reading First Initiative.