

## Award Winning Books for Fun Reading Adventures

As a former K-4 Librarian, a new year meant many things, but one of the most exciting was the announcement of the new Caldecott, Newberry, Coretta Scott King, and other award winners. The following book list includes Caldecott, Newberry, Theodore Geisel, Coretta Scott King, and Golden Kite Award Winners, as well as the top 10 editor picks for books published in 2009, and the 10 best sellers for 2009 at amazon.com. At the beginning of each award list, I have included a description of the award. Most of these are for young children, ages 4-8. The Newberry Award and the Coretta Scott King Awards are for middle school or young adult readers. I have listed an age range for each title. So, visit your local library or bookstore, find an award winner, and share it with a child. Bet you'll enjoy it as much as your child does. –**Judy McDonald, Alpha Rho, Xi State Literacy Committee**

### *Caldecott Medal Winners*

The Randolph Caldecott Medal is awarded annually by the American Library Association (ALA) to the artist of the year's most distinguished American picture book for children.

***The Lion and the Mouse, Jerry Pinkney* author and **illustrator**.** Ages 4-8. In award-winning artist Jerry Pinkney's wordless adaptation of one of Aesop's most beloved fables, an unlikely pair learn that no act of kindness is ever wasted. After a ferocious lion spares a cowering mouse that he'd planned to eat, the mouse later comes to his rescue, freeing him from a poacher's trap. With vivid depictions of the landscape of the African Serengeti and expressively-drawn characters, Pinkney makes this a truly special retelling, and his stunning pictures speak volumes. (Product description) **2010 Caldecott Winner**

***All the World, Marla Frazee, Illustrator*; Liz Garton Scanlon, Author.** Ages 4-8. "Liz Garton Scanlon and Marla Frazee capture the give-and-take between comfort and wonder in their exquisite new book *All the World*. ...Scanlon and Frazee pull it off with brilliant simplicity...Scanlon's verse and Frazee's illustrations play off one another like the music and lyrics of a great song. ... Don't miss this one." -- *The Washington News Tribune* **2010 Caldecott Honor**

***Red Sings from Treetops: a year in color*; Pamela Zagarenski, Illustrator**; Joyce Sidman, Author. Ages 4-8. With original and spot-on perceptions, Joyce Sidman brings the colors of the seasons to life in a fresh light, combining the senses of sight, sound, smell and taste. Illustrator Pam Zagarenski's interpretations go beyond the concrete, allowing us to not just see color, but feel it. **2010 Caldecott Honor**

### *Theodore Geisel Award*

The Theodor Seuss Geisel Award is given annually to the authors and illustrators of the most distinguished American book for beginning readers published in English in the United States. The winners are recognized for their literary and artistic achievements that

demonstrate creativity and imagination in engaging children in reading. The award is named for the world-renowned children's author, Theodor Geisel. "A person's a person no matter how small," Theodor Geisel, a.k.a. [Dr. Seuss](#), would say. "Children want the same things we want: to laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained and delighted."

***Benny and Penny in the Big No No* by Geoffrey Hayes.** Ages 4-8. What will Benny and Penny find when they cross the line in The Big No-No? Benny's favorite pail is missing, and there are mysterious muddy footprints. In this charming whodunit, Benny and his little sister Penny team-up to investigate, braving the dangers of the new neighbor's yard, and finding something unexpected on the other side of the fence. **2010 Theodore Geisel Award Winner**

***I Spy Fly Guy!* by Tedd Arnold.** Ages 4-8. When Fly Guy and Buzz play hide-and-peek, Fly Guy hides in his favorite place--the garbage can. But as Buzz finishes counting, the garbageman drives away with the garbage and Fly Guy, too! A very worried Buzz follows the truck to the dump, where he sees zillions of flies. Where is Fly Guy?! Time after time, Buzz thinks he spies Fly Guy, only to be snubbed, boinked, or bitten. Then he realizes they've been playing a game. He yells, "I give up. You win!" And Fly Guy leaves his new hiding place--he was on top of Buzz's hat all along! **2010 Theodore Geisel Honor Book**

***Little Mouse Gets Ready* by Jeff Smith.** Ages 4-8. There is a lot to do before Little Mouse is ready to go visit the barn. Will he master all the intricacies of getting dressed, from snaps and buttons to Velcro and tail holes? Eisner Award-winning cartoonist Jeff Smith (BONE) and his determined Little Mouse reveal all the smallest pleasures of this daily task. **2010 Theodore Geisel Honor Book**

***Mouse and Mole: Fine Feathered Friends* by Yong Herbert Yee.** Ages 4-8. Join Mouse and Mole on another high-flying adventure in which teamwork, brainstorming, and good ideas always make for a fun day out! **2010 Theodore Geisel Honor Book**

***Pearl and Wagner: One Funny Day* by Kate McMullan.** Ages 4-8. Wagner and Pearl return in three episodes taking place on April Fools' Day. In the first, Wagner is duped by one joke after another. In the second, he tries to learn to dance in gym class but ends up dejected, sitting on the sidelines while Pearl struts her stuff. In the third, he creates a prank to get the last laugh on his classmates. Alley's expressive ink-and-watercolor illustrations portray Wagner's shifting emotions with clarity and finesse. McMullan shows clearly why many children have mixed feelings about April Fools' Day. A brightly illustrated book in the Pearl and Wagner beginning-reader series. Grades K-2. --Carolyn Phelan, *Booklist*. **2010 Theodore Geisel Honor Book**

### ***Newberry Award Winners***

The John Newbery Medal is awarded annually by the American Library Association (ALA) to the author of the year's most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

***When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead.** Young Adult. Shortly after sixth-grader Miranda and her best friend Sal part ways, for some inexplicable reason her once familiar world turns upside down. Maybe it's because she's caught up in reading [\*A Wrinkle in Time\*](#) and trying to understand time travel, or perhaps it's because she's been receiving mysterious notes which accurately predict the future. Rebecca Stead's poignant novel, *When You Reach Me*, captures the interior monologue and observations of kids who are starting to recognize and negotiate the complexities of friendship and family, class and identity. (amazon.com review) **2010 Newberry Award Winner**

***Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Phillip M. Hoose.** Young Adult. “History might have forgotten Claudette Colvin, or relegated her to footnote status, had writer Phillip Hoose not stumbled upon her name in the course of other research and tracked her down. . . .The photos of the era are riveting and Claudette's eloquent bravery is unforgettable.” —*The Wall Street Journal* **2010 Newberry Honor Award**

***The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelley.** Ages 9-12. Calpurnia Virginia Tate is eleven years old in 1899 when she wonders why the yellow grasshoppers in her Texas backyard are so much bigger than the green ones. With a little help from her notoriously cantankerous grandfather, an avid naturalist, she figures out that the green grasshoppers are easier to see against the yellow grass, so they are eaten before they can get any larger. As Callie explores the natural world around her, she develops a close relationship with her grandfather, navigates the dangers of living with six brothers, and comes up against just what it means to be a girl at the turn of the century. (Product description) **2010 Newberry Honor Award**

***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin.** Ages 9-12. In the valley of Fruitless mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer. (Product description) **2010 Newberry Honor Award**

***The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg* by Rodman Philbrick.** Ages 9-12. Master storyteller Rodman Philbrick takes readers on a colorful journey as young Homer Figg sets off to follow his brother into the thick of the Civil War. Through a series of fascinating events, Homer's older brother has been illegally sold to the Union Army. It is up to Homer to find him and save him. Along the way, he encounters strange but real people of that era: two tricksters who steal his money, a snake-oil salesman, a hot-air balloonist, and finally, the Maine regiment who saved Little Round Top at the Battle of Gettysburg and won the war for the Union. Funny, poignant, entertaining, and tragic, *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer Figg* will be embraced and heralded by readers and

reviewers alike. A magnificent novel by one of the best fiction writers of our century.  
(Product description) **2010 Newberry Honor Award**

### ***The Coretta Scott King Awards***

The awards are given to an African American author and an African American illustrator for an outstandingly inspirational and educational contribution. The books promote understanding and appreciation of the culture of all peoples and their contribution to the realization of the American dream. The Award is further designed to commemorate the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and to honor Mrs. Coretta Scott King for her courage and determination to continue the work for peace and world brotherhood.

***Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U. S. Marshal* by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson.** Ages 9-12. Tales of the Wild West don't get any better than the life and times of Bass Reeves, the first African-American deputy U.S. marshal and the most successful in American history. Vaunda Micheaux Nelson and illustrator R. Gregory Christie--both Coretta Scott King Award honorees--bring this fascinating historical figure to life in *Bad News for Outlaws*, their superb book for middle grade readers. Kids will love the colorful language of the Old West, and the bold and dynamically rendered scenes of the heroic Reeves capturing the bad guys. And, they'll learn how the lawman--who was both greatly respected and feared--used his wits and intelligence, courage and character—and yes, incredible marksmanship--to bring more than 3,000 criminals to justice with fewer than 14 deaths in the line of duty. Put this knockout nonfiction book into the hands of readers ages 9-12. Bass Reeves is a name they won't soon forget. --Lauren Nemroff *Amazon.com*. **Coretta Scott King 2010 Author Award Winner**

***Mare's War* by Tanita S. Davis.** Ages Young Adult. *Meet Mare, a grandmother with flair and a fascinating past.* Octavia and Tali are dreading the road trip their parents are forcing them to take with their grandmother over the summer. After all, Mare isn't your typical grandmother. She drives a red sports car, wears stiletto shoes, flippy wigs, and push-up bras, and insists that she's too young to be called Grandma. But somewhere on the road, Octavia and Tali discover there's more to Mare than what you see. She was once a willful teenager who escaped her less-than-perfect life in the deep South and lied about her age to join the African American battalion of the Women's Army Corps during World War II. **Coretta Scott King 2010 Author Award Honor**

***The Negro Speaks of Rivers* by Langston Hughes. E.B . Rivers, Illustrator.** Ages 4-8. Langston Hughes has long been acknowledged as the voice, and his poem, *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*, the song, of the Harlem Renaissance. Although he was only seventeen when he composed it, Hughes already had the insight to capture in words the strength and courage of black people in America. Artist E.B. Lewis acts as interpreter and visionary, using watercolor to pay tribute to Hughes's timeless poem, a poem that every child deserves to know. **2010 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Winner**

***The Rock and the River* by Kekla Magoon.** Ages 9-12. "This explosive coming-of-age story, taut with tension and protest, propelled me along like the river of its title. Magoon is most certainly a new and serious talent to watch. An intensely significant story of emotional and historical depth that resonates with relevancy for our age." -- Sundee T. Frazier, winner of the ALA 2008 Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award for *Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It*. **2010 John Steptoe Award for New Talent**

### ***2009 Golden Kite Award***

The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators awarded its annual Golden Kite Awards to recognize excellence in children's literature in the following four categories: Fiction, Nonfiction, Picture Book Text, and Picture Book Illustration. This is the only award presented to children's book authors and artists by their peers. Founded in 1971, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators is one of the largest existing writers' and illustrators' organizations, with over 22,000 members worldwide. (I have only listed information for the picture book text and picture book illustration awards.)

***A Visitor for Bear* by Bonny Becker.** Ages 4-8. Bear is quite sure he doesn't like visitors. He even has a sign. So when a mouse taps on his door one day, Bear tells him to leave. But when Bear goes to the cupboard to get a bowl, there is the mouse — small and gray and bright-eyed. In this slapstick tale that begs to be read aloud, all Bear wants is to eat his breakfast in peace, but the mouse — who keeps popping up in the most unexpected places — just won't go away! (Product description) **2009 Golden Kite Picture Book Text Award Winner**

***Before John was a Jazz Giant: A Song of John Coltrane* by Carole Boston Weatherford.** Ages 4-8. Young John Coltrane was all ears. And there was a lot to hear growing up in the South in the 1930s: preachers praying, music on the radio, the bustling of the household. These vivid noises shaped John's own sound as a musician. Carole Boston Weatherford and Sean Qualls have composed an amazingly rich hymn to the childhood of jazz legend John Coltrane. (Product description) **2009 Golden Kite Picture Book Text Award Honor**

***Last Night* by Hyewon Yom.** Ages 4-8. A little girl doesn't like her dinner and is sent to her room. She seeks comfort from her friend Bear and falls asleep. So begins a fantastic dream voyage deep into the forest, where the girl and her friend dance and play all night. And in the morning, mother and child make up. With brilliant linocut illustrations and not a single word to break the spell, this picture book marks an impressive American debut for Hyewon Yum. (Product description) **2009 Golden Kite Award Picture Book Illustration Winner**

***I Love My New Toy* by Mo Willems.** Ages 4-8. Mo Willems continues his best-selling Elephant and Piggie first reader series. The books feature two lovable and funny characters: an optimistic (and sometimes reckless) pig and a cautious, pessimistic elephant. Children who sat on their parents' laps to have Pigeon read to them will eagerly take the plunge with these books to start reading on their own. Each book has been

vetted by an early learning specialist. These sweet and surprising stories are a much-needed breath of fresh air in the early reader arena. (Product description) **2009 Golden Kite Award Picture Book Illustration Honor**

### ***Top 10 Editors' Picks for books published in 2009***

**1. *Never Smile at a Monkey and 17 Other Important Things to Remember* by Steve Jenkins.** When it comes to wild animals, everyone knows that there are certain things you just don't do. It's clearly a bad idea to tease a tiger, pull a python's tail, or bother a black widow spider. But do you know how dangerous it can be to pet a platypus, collect a cone shell, or touch a tang fish? Some creatures have developed unusual ways of protecting themselves or catching prey, and this can make them unexpectedly hazardous to your health. In this dynamic and fascinating picture book by Steve Jenkins, you'll find out what you should *never* do if you encounter one of these surprisingly dangerous animals. (Product description)

**2. *Little Oink* by Anna Krouse Rosenthal.** Ages 4-8. From the creators of *Little Pea* and *Little Hoot* comes this tidy tale of a decidedly different pig. Little Oink is a neat little fellow. Clean clean clean that's all he wants to do. But Mama and Papa won't have it! They say in order to be a proper pig he has to learn to make a proper mess. "Don't come out until your room is a pigsty" says Papa Pig. "I won't have any child of mine going out looking so neat and clean. It's just not acceptable" says Mama Pig. Readers who hate to clean up will love this humorous twist on a universal dilemma. (Product description)

**3. *Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy* by Jacky Davis.** Ages 4-8. At the playground, Lulu asks her friend Sam if he wants to play with her. Sam likes Diggers, while Lulu thinks Monkeys is the best game. Sam suggests playing under the castle, but Lulu knows that the top is the most fun. They just can't agree! And then Lulu asks, "Have you ever played Ladybug Girl?" As Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy, Lulu and Sam save the playground from hairy monsters and big mean robots, and have their very own parade on the bouncy dinosaurs. They figure out that when they work together, they can create fun games that they both like to play. (Product description)

**4. *Mission Control, This is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon* by Andrew Chaikin.** Ages 9-12. Based on interviews with 28 astronauts, this history of the Apollo program masterfully describes the missions and personalizes them with astronauts' own words. –*Kirkus*

**5. *Let's Do Nothing!* By Tony Fucile.** Ages 4-8. Frankie and Sal have already played every sport and board game invented, baked and eaten batches of cookies, and painted a zillion pictures. What's left to do? Nothing! Ten seconds of nothing! Can they do it? Can they act like stone statues in the park? Can they simply hold their breath and not blink an eye? With a wink to the reader and a command of visual humor, feature film animator

Tony Fucile demonstrates the Zen-like art of doing nothing...oops! Couldn't do it!  
(Product description)

**6. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Pop-up Book* by Eric Carle.** Ages 4-8. Celebrating the 40th anniversary of one of the most popular children's books ever created, this pop-up edition of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* is the perfect new platform for the classic caterpillar, who literally pops off the pages of the book—crawling along branches, munching through food, and in one of the most memorable climaxes ever, emerging vibrantly as a three-dimensional beautiful butterfly. (Product description)

**7. *The Curious Garden* by Peter Brown.** Ages 4-8. While out exploring one day, a little boy named Liam discovers a struggling garden and decides to take care of it. As time passes, the garden spreads throughout the dark, gray city, transforming it into a lush, green world. This is an enchanting tale with environmental themes and breathtaking illustrations that become more vibrant as the garden blooms. Red-headed Liam can also be spotted on every page, adding a clever seek-and-find element to this captivating picture book. (Product description)

**8. *The Lion and the Mouse* by Jerry Pinkney.** Ages 4-8. (Book description is listed in the Caldecott Medal list above.)

**9. *What's Wrong with My Hair?* by Satoshi Kitamura.** Ages 4-8. Lionel is going to a party today, so he must do something about his bad hair. He finds a barber who has lots of crazy suggestions for hairstyles, from dandelion hair to octopus hair! Will Lionel find a style that suits him, and what will be the surprise ending? A head-sized hole in each page allows children to try out Lionel's hairstyles for themselves, and the back cover has instructions for how to create your own hairstyle. (Product description)

**10. *Redwoods* by Jason Chin.** Ages 4-8. "Chin's watercolor illustrations capture both the majesty of the redwoods and the young boy's inquisitive personality, and while the idea of a storybook so vivid that it comes to life is not new, what sets this one apart is that Chin has paired his fantastical visual narrative with a straightforward nonfiction text." — **Starred, *Horn Book***

### ***Amazon.com's Top 10 Best Sellers in Picture Books***

**1. *Listen to the Wind* by Susan L. Roth.** Ages 4-8. Greg Mortenson stumbled, lost and delirious, into a remote Himalayan village after a failed climb up K2. The villagers saved his life, and he vowed to return and build them a school. The remarkable story of his promise kept is now perfect for reading aloud. Told in the voice of Korphe's children, this story illuminates the humanity and culture of a relevant and distant part of the world in gorgeous collage, while sharing a riveting example of how one person can change thousands of lives. (Product description)

**2. *Llama, Llama Misses Mama* by Anna Dewdney.** Ages 4-8. It's Llama Llama's first day of preschool! And Llama Llama's mama makes sure he's ready. They meet the teachers. See the other children. Look at all the books and games. But then it's time for Mama to leave. And suddenly Llama Llama isn't so excited anymore. Will Mama Llama come back? Of course she will. But before she does, the other children show Llama Llama how much fun school can be! (Product description) My granddaughters loved receiving *Llama, Llama Red Pajama* from the Governor's Books from Birth/Dolly Partin Imagination Library. This is another sure favorite in the series by Anna Dewdney.

**3. *Goldilicious (Pinkalicious)* by Victoria Kann.** Ages 4-8. Being Pinkalicious is pinkatastic, especially when she's accompanied by her pet unicorn, Goldilicious. Goldie is a roller-skating, kite-flying, high-jumping unicorn who will protect Pinkalicious from the evil wizardry of her little brother, Peter. Together, Pinkalicious and Goldilicious can conquer anything! This enchanting follow-up to the *New York Times* bestselling *Pinkalicious* and *Purplicious* brings to life a new and magical character that is every bit as captivating as her pinkeriffic owner. With heaps of creativity and a touch of sparkle, *Goldilicious* glows—from horn to toe. (Product description)

**4. *Fancy Nancy, Explorer Extraordinaire!* By Jane O'connor.** Ages 4-8. For the fanciest girl around, the outdoors are out of this world! Fancy Nancy and her best friend, Bree, set out to explore the fascinating world of wildflowers, trees, leaves, birds, and, of course, butterflies in their exclusively glamorous Explorers' Club. With recipes for pinecone bird feeders and extra-fancy lemonade, an official club bird, and an exclusive map of the territory, Fancy Nancy is one Explorer Extraordinaire! (Product description) Fancy Nancy is another series that my granddaughters love. In fact, two more Fancy Nancy titles are in the top ten customer picks for 2009—*Fancy Nancy, Halloween... or Bust!* (No. 6) and *Fancy Nancy's Fashion Parade Reusable Sticker Book* (No. 9).

**5. *LEGO Star Wars/ The Visual Dictionary* by Simon Beecroft.** Ages 4-8. In true DK style, LEGO® Star Wars™: The Visual Dictionary elucidates, illuminates, and excites even the most discerning LEGO Group, Star Wars™, and minifigure fans around the world.. Darth Vader, Boba Fett, Yoda, Luke Skywalker, and more are brought to life with dozens of little-known facts and hundreds of photos, as are accessories, vehicles, weapons, and even the Death Star! Learn about the history, manufacture, and construction of the minifigures of the Star Wars galaxy, and come away a LEGO® Jedi Master. (Product description)

**7. *How Full is Your Bucket? for Kids* by Tom Rath.** Ages 4-8. Through the story of a little boy named Felix, this charming book explains to children how being kind not only helps others, it helps them, too. As he goes about his day, Felix interacts with different people -- his sister Anna, his grandfather, other family and friends. Some people are happy, but others are grumpy or sad. Using the metaphor of a bucket and dipper, Felix' grandfather explains why the happy people make Felix feel good, while the others leave him feeling bad -- and how Felix himself is affecting others, whether he means to or not. This beautifully illustrated adaptation takes the original book's powerful message -- that

the way we relate to others has a profound effect on every aspect of our lives -- and tailors it to a child's unique needs and level of understanding. (Product description)

**8. *The Curious Garden* by Peter Brown.** Ages 4-8. While out exploring one day, a little boy named Liam discovers a struggling garden and decides to take care of it. As time passes, the garden spreads throughout the dark, gray city, transforming it into a lush, green world. This is an enchanting tale with environmental themes and breathtaking illustrations that become more vibrant as the garden blooms. Red-headed Liam can also be spotted on every page, adding a clever seek-and-find element to this captivating picture book. (Product description)

**10. *Blueberry Girl* by Neil Gaiman.** Ages 4-8. Nationally bestselling author Neil Gaiman wrote *Blueberry Girl* for a friend who was about to become the mother of a little girl. Here, he and beloved illustrator Charles Vess turn this deeply personal wish for a new daughter into a book that celebrates the glory of growing up: a perfect gift for girls embarking on all the journeys of life, for their parents, and for everyone who loves them. (Product description)