

Triple Crown Awards

2011-2012

Children's Crown Gallery Nominees

1. *Alfred Nobel: The Man Behind the Peace Prize*, by Kathy-Yo Wargin and illustrated by Zachary Pullen, RL 4. Alfred Nobel invented dynamite, but was saddened by its destructive use. He became very wealthy from his invention, but used his fortune to create yearly prizes for those who created the greatest services to mankind.
2. *Anna Maria's Gift*, by Janice Shefelman and illustrated by Robert Papp, RL 3. Anna Maria lives in an orphanage in Venice. It is also a famous music school that allows her to continue to play the violin until a rival throws it in the canals.
3. *The Boxcar Children, Special Edition*, by Gertrude Chandler Warner, RL 3. Four orphaned children run away and live in a boxcar until they are found by their grandfather.
4. *The Comeback Dog*, by Jane Resh Thomas and illustrated by Troy Howell, RL 3. Daniel, a Midwestern farm boy, finds a battered dog in a ditch. He nursed the dog back to health, but is disappointed that the dog doesn't immediately respond to his affection.
5. *Cora Cooks Pancit*, by Dorina K. Lazo Gilmore and illustrated by Kristi Valiant, RL 3. Cora's mother finally lets her help make pancit, a Filipino noodle dish, while all her older siblings are away.
6. *Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg and Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson and Susan L. Roth and collages by Susan L. Roth, RL 3. This is the story of Greg Mortenson and his first building project in Pakistan. The highlights of this incredible experience are chronicled.
7. *Tofu Quilt*, by Ching Yeung Russell, RL 4. A young girl growing up in 1960's Hong Kong dreams of becoming a writer even though conventional limits are placed on her by society and her family.
8. *The True Gift*, by Patrica MacLachlan and illustrated by Brian Floca, RL 3. Lily spends Christmas at her grandparents' farm. While there, she is convinced along with her brother that White Cow is lonely and need a companion.
9. *You Are the First Kid on Mars*, by Patrick O'Brien, RL 3. This is a firsthand experience of what it would be like to visit Mars. The experience of a rocket ship and walking the surface of Mars are explored.
10. *You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?*, by Jonah Winter and illustrated by Andre Carrilho, RL 3. This is the true story of Sandy Koufax who was a gifted young athlete who went from unpredictable to otherworldly. Along the way he faces many obstacles.

4-5 Children's Crown Nominees

1. *Adventure According to Humphrey*, by Betty G. Birney, RL 4. Humphrey, the classroom hamster, has many adventures in the library, learning about the ocean, and even sailing across a pond on a sailboat.
2. *Also Known As Harper*, by Ann Haywood Leal, RL 5. Fifth grader Harper Lee Morgan writes poetry and aspires to enter a contest, but her family's financial troubles are getting in the way.
3. *Cars on Mars*, by Alexandra Siy, RL 5. Twin robotic Rovers searched for clues on Mars to help scientists determine if life ever existed there. This book chronicles some of the trials and discoveries experienced.
4. *The Cats of Roxville Station*, by Jean Craighead George and illustrated by Tom Pohrt, RL 5. Mike, a fourteen-year-old foster boy, is not allowed to have a pet. He aides a young tiger striped cat fighting to survive after being thrown into a river.
5. *Christian the Lion*, by Anthony Bourke and John Rendall, RL 5. This is the true story of two friends who purchase a lion cub for sale in Harrods. They have a year of fun and mischief, but soon realize Christian needs to be free and live among other lions.
6. *The Day-Glo Brothers*, by Chris Barton and illustrated by Tony Persiani, RL 4. Bob and Joe Switzer are the two brothers that invented a whole new kind of color. Through years of experimenting, the two brothers developed fluorescent colors after many trials and errors.
7. *Dewey the Library Cat*, by Vicki Myron with Bret Witter, RL 5. In the dead of winter, a small kitten was abandoned in a library book drop. The kitten miraculously survived and became known as Dewey Readmore living in the library and charming young and old.
8. *The Dog Days of Charlotte Hayes*, by Marlane Kennedy, RL 4. Charlotte who is 11 years old is the only one who remembers to take care of the St. Bernard her father brought home. Not being a dog person she spends time trying to find the dog a home, but during the year becomes a dog lover and discovers new friends.
9. *Down Down Down*, by Steve Jenkins, RL 4. This book is a journey from the surface of the ocean to the bottom, discovering all that lives and exists at each level.
10. *Everything for a Dog*, by Ann M. Martin, RL 4. Charlie is a boy who suffered a terrible loss and he is healing with the help of his dog. Bone is a stray dog that has been separated from his sister and is alone. Henry has wanted a dog of his own and he still can't get one even when his best friend moves away. Each has his own troubles, but their stories connect in a surprising way.

11. *Extra Credit*, by Andrew Clements, RL 5. Sixth grader Abby, tenth grader Amira, and eleven-year-old Sadeed speak and listen to one another as they exchange letters between Illinois and Afghanistan across cultural and religious divides.
12. *Faith, Hope, and Ivy June*, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, RL 4. Seventh graders Ivy June and Catherine participate in an exchange program showing that although their lifestyles are total opposites they have a lot in common.
13. *The Georges and the Jewels*, by Jane Smiley and illustrated by Elaine Clayton, RL 5. Abby Lovitt grows up on her family's California horse ranch in the 1960's. The horses that have been her refuge from the stress at school and home no longer are her escape.
14. *The Last Newspaper Boy In America*, by Sue Corbett, RL 5. Wil's twelfth birthday is approaching and he finally is able to take over the delivering of the newspapers. However, home delivery service is to be cancelled and Wil fights the odds of keeping this service available to his rural community.
15. *Marsupials*, by Nic Bishop, RL 4. This book explores marsupials of all sizes. It further tells about their habits, physical appearance, and environment.
16. *Noah Webster: Weaver of Words*, by Pegi Deitz Shea and illustrated by Monica Vachula, RL 4. Noah Webster is a true story about a man that felt he could help unite the thirteen colonies by creating a national language. This would also help break the bond with England.
17. *Storm Chaser*, by Chris Platt, RL 5. A fire forces Jessica's family to turn their home into a guest ranch. Jessica is able to work with her favorite horse, but all her training is for the future owner, Ariel, a spoiled girl.
18. *Umbrella Summer*, by Lisa Graf, RL 4. Ten year old Annie worries about the dangers over everything after her brother dies. She befriends a new neighbor who helps her work through the sadness.
19. *Wanda Gag: The Girl Who Lived to Draw*, by Deborah Kogan Ray, RL 4. Wanda loves to draw, but after her father's death she puts her family first. Once she realizes her family can support themselves she is able to attain her dream.
20. *A Wild Life*, by Jeff Corwin, RL 4. Jeff Corwin shares his story of how his love for all animals such as snakes and turtles developed his interest in the conservation of endangered species and ecosystems around the world.

Lamplighter Nominees

1. *After the Train*, by Gloria Whelan. Ten years after the end of World War II in the town of Rolfen, West Germany, a young boy named Peter discovers a secret about his past. This leads him to question everything in his peaceful town.
2. *Dancing Through the Snow*, by Jean Little. Min is a foster child that has been in four different homes and has put a wall around herself as protection. Jess Hart, a former Children's Aid doctor, befriends Min and opens up her world.
3. *Curse of the Spider King*, by Wayne Thomas Batson and Christopher Hopper. Seven young Elf Lords must decide whether to remain on Earth or return to Allyra as they learn secrets of the past and dark strangers are watching their every move.
4. *The Farwalker's Quest*, by Joni Sensel. Ariel and Zeke, two twelve-year-olds, find a mysterious artifact which leads them on a long journey to find their true identities.
5. *The Frog Scientist*, by Pamela S. Turner and photographs by Andy Comins. Tyrone and his students study the effects of pesticides on frogs. Readers will be taken step by step through the scientific process.
6. *The Girl Who Threw Butterflies*, by Mick Cochrane. Molly's father recently passed away, but she feels a connection with him once she makes the baseball team. The team also helps in other aspects as well.
7. *Hunter Brown and the Consuming Fire*, by Christopher Miller and Allen Miller. Hunter returns to Solandria with new friends to race to save Hope and further bolster the Resistance before the brutal Xaul can reach her.
8. *Million-Dollar Throw*, by Mike Lupica. Quarterback, Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the economy. His best friend is going blind, so when he gets the chance to win a million dollars for completing a pass during halftime at a New England Patriots game, he is overwhelmed by the pressure.
9. *The Vermeer Interviews*, by Bob Raczka. The author interviews the people in famous paintings to gather different perspectives on the paintings and the often unnoticed details.
10. *Words to My Life's Song*, by Ashley Bryan with photographs by Bill McGuinness. This is the story of Ashley Bryan and how he began his love for art as a young boy during World War II.