

Garden State Teen Book Awards 2005

FICTION, Grades 6-8

Alvarez, Julia.

Before We Were Free.

Twelve-year-old Anita de le Torres' increasing physical maturation is matched by an increasing social awareness, not only of the boys around her but also of the mounting danger to her family, active opponents of the Dominican dictator, Trujillo.

Avi.

Crispin: The Cross of Lead.

In fourteenth-century England a boy known only as "Asta's son" goes on the run after his mother dies and he is accused of a crime that he didn't commit. (Newbery 2003)

Barker, Clive.

Abarat.

Candy Quackenbush leaves her home in Chickentown, Minnesota and enters the magical world of Abarat, where she is pursued by the wicked Lord Carrion.

Clements, Andrew.

Things Not Seen.

Bobby Phillips (15) wakes one morning to find that he is invisible.

Crowe, Chris.

Mississippi Trial, 1955.

A gripping novel based on the true story of Emmett Till (14), whose brutal lynching for whistling at a white woman helped to launch the Civil Rights movement.

Ellis, Deborah.

Parvana's Journey.

After her father died of the sickness that had dogged him since they had left Kabul, Parvana (13), disguised as a boy, wanders alone through war-torn Afghanistan looking for her mother and siblings who had disappeared in the tumult of the Taliban takeover of Mazer-e-Sharif, and forming a new family of abandoned children she has met along the way.

Farmer, Nancy.

House of the Scorpion.

Korman, Gordon. Son of the Mob.

The ultimate Romeo and Juliet tale. The son of the mob falls in love with the daughter of the FBI. Even communications are a problem when your girlfriend's dad is the agent in charge of bugging your home.

Meyer, L.A. Bloody Jack.

Reduced to begging and thievery on the streets of London, Mary transforms herself into Jacky Faber, ship's boy on the British warship Dolphin.

Park, Linda Sue. When My Name Was Keoko: A Novel of Korea in WWII.

In 1940, when the Japanese rulers of Korea decreed that all Koreans must take Japanese names, Kim Sun-hee's official name changed, but she did not lose her Korean identity or her patriotism which grew as the war came far too close to home, food and clothing became difficult to get, her uncle who had been working for the underground fled, and her brother joined the Japanese army to become a kamikaze pilot.

Pearsall, Shelley. Trouble Don't Last.

Samuel, an eleven-year-old Kentucky slave, and Harrison, the elderly slave who helped raise him, attempt to escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

Tolan, Stephanie. Surviving the Applewhites.

Jake Semple, a smartass troublemaker, is sent to live with his grandfather after being kicked out of several schools. Once there, it is no problem getting put out of Traybridge Middle School, but the Applewhite's Creative Academy is another story.

Woodson, Jacqueline. Hush.

Toswiah Green struggles toward a new identity as Evie-Thomas when her family joins the Witness Protection Program and everything she has known before is lost to her.

FICTION, Grades 9-12

Anderson, Laurie Halse. Catalyst.

Kate Malone, the preacher's daughter, learns there is more to life than her obsession about getting into MIT when she becomes involved with her tragedy-stricken neighbors. (BBYA 2003 Top Ten)

Anderson, M.T. Feed.

Titus and Violet are teenagers living in a future society where corporations define the lives and lifestyles of Americans and where it has become common for prosperous parents to endow their newborn children with Feed: mini-computers with wireless Internet connections that are implanted in their heads. (BBYA 2003 Top Ten)

Bardi, Abby. The Book of Fred.

How do the lives of Heather (15), her mother and uncle change when Mary Fred Anderson (15), raised in a fundamentalist commune, is placed in their home as a foster child?

Black, Holly. Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale.

Kaye never imagined that saving the life of the impossibly gorgeous Roiben would bring her to the attention of the Unseelie Court, as the intended sacrifice for the tithe. Or does it?

Cabot, Meg. All-American Girl.

After tenth grader Samantha saves the life of the President of the United States, some aspects of her life become a lot clearer.

Chambers, Aidan. Postcards From No Man's Land.

Jacob's visit to the seductive city of Amsterdam reveals family secrets and new ideas about sexuality and death, as he learns of a passionate love story from his family's past and perhaps begins to create one of his own.

Desai Hidier, Tanuja. Born Confused.

In the summer before her senior year, Dimple (17) is confused about her relationships with her family, her heritage, and her beautiful best friend.

Dessen, Sarah. This Lullaby.

Made cynical by her romance novelist mother's five failed marriages, Remy Star is stunned to discover that her heart may not be made of stone, when she reluctantly falls for quirky-cute Dexter the summer before she leaves for college.

Etchemendy, Nancy. Cat in Glass and Other Tales of the Unnatural.

These eight tales range from the supernatural to the unknown to the horrific.

Fforde, Jasper. The Eyre Affair: A Novel.

Using a prose portal device, literary detective Thursday Next enters the Bronte novel, Jane Eyre, in an attempt to rescue its kidnapped heroine in this inventive comic fantasy.

Flinn, Alex. Breaking Point.

Since the divorce, Paul (15) and his mother now live in a low-rent apartment, but Paul attends the prestigious Gate-Brickell Christian School because his mom works there. With no trust fund, he is shunned by his classmates and suffers from many cruel practical jokes.

Frank, E.R. America.

A young man named America gets "lost" in the social welfare system and after a series of foster homes, hospitals, and suicide attempts, he meets a caring psychiatrist who refuses to give up on him.

Freyman-Weyr, Garret. My Heartbeat.

Ellen's question about her brother's relationship with his best friend James changes everything in this tight three-way friendship.

Giles, Gail. Shattering Glass.

Rob is very popular, and Rob is used to getting his own way. When he decides to make Simon Glass, class geek, popular, it surprises everyone. Especially Simon. What Rob doesn't count on is the iron will beneath Simon's push-over exterior.

Grimes, Nikki. Bronx Masquerade.

Eighteen inner-city teens in Mr. Ward's English class tell about their lives through text and poetry as they participate in weekly "Open Mike Fridays." This exercise brings them together, opens them up to one another, and forces them to learn about themselves and the people around them.

Halam, Ann. Dr. Franklin's Island.

While on their way to a special science camp in Ecuador, Arnie, Semi and Miranda find themselves the sole survivors of a plane wreck, and become castaways on a deserted island. Or so they think. Little do they know that the island is home to a mad genetic scientist who is just waiting for fresh teenage flesh to inject with animal genes.

Koertge, Ron. Stoner + Spaz: A Love Story.

What happens when a sixteen-year-old guy with C.P. and a caustic wit falls in love with a drugged-out girl with tattoos? Well...it isn't Romeo and Juliet!

Oates, Joyce Carol. Big Mouth and Ugly Girl.

What are the consequences when high school junior Matt Donaghy jokingly threatens to blow up the school during lunch one day?

Otsuka, Julie. When the Emperor Was Divine.

Members of a Japanese-American family, forced to move from a happy California home to cramped, humiliating detention camps set up by the American government, return home after World War II to find suspicious neighbors, a vandalized house, and a broken family.

Plum-Ucci, Carol. What Happened to Lani Garver?

Claire McKenzie is haunted by her brief relationship with Lani Garver, a newcomer to her close island community who changed her life.

NONFICTION, Grades 6-12

Conniff, Richard. Rats! The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.

Double page spreads with striking photographs and conversational text offer interesting factoids and brief discussions of all things rat-like, including teeth, abodes, basic biology, use in laboratories, and much more. (Gr. 4-8)

Fleischman, John. Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story...

In 1848 a tamping iron accidentally blasted through the head of Phineas Gage, foreman on a railroad construction gang, leaving him physically recovered but mentally and emotionally changed and providing new insights into the workings of the human brain. (Gr. 7-10)

Fontaine, Smokey D. E.A.R.L.: The Autobiography of DMX.

The rhyme gave him a dream. (Adult)

Fornay, Alfred. Born Beautiful: The African American Teenager's Complete Guide to Beauty

Finally a beauty guide specifically for black teens! (Adult)

Frazier, Walt. Basketball's Best Shots.

Rare air. (Adult)

Freedman, Russell. Confucius: The Golden Rule.

Born in China in 551 B.C., Confucius rose from poverty to the heights of his country's ruling class. But then he quit his high post for the life of an itinerant philosopher. And five centuries before Christ, Confucius set forth his own Golden Rule: "Do not impose on others what you do not wish for yourself." (Gr. 4-8)

Gantos, Jack. A Hole in My Life.

Compelling story by the prizewinning author, Jack Gantos, of how as a youth he helped smuggle hash on a yacht, was arrested by the FBI, convicted, sent to prison, how he did his prison time and went to college to study writing. (Gr. 8+)

Giblin, James Cross. The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler.

What sort of man was the most dangerous dictator of the twentieth century and how did he get support for his ambitious schemes to make most of Europe German and to exterminate “inferior” people? (Gr. 7+)

Jemas, Bill. Origin: The True Story of Wolverine.

The past revealed. (Young Adult)

Jukes, Mavis. The Guy Book: An Owner’s Manual for Teens.

Provides information for boys on changes that occur in their bodies during puberty and offering advice on sexual topics, nutrition, drugs, girls and more. (Gr. 7+)

Manoy, Lauren. Where to Park Your Broomstick: A Teen’s Guide to Witchcraft.

Need a spell? (Gr. 7+)

McPherson, James M. Fields of Fury: The American Civil War.

Event by event, a noted Civil War historian chronicles for younger readers the deadliest conflict the United States ever fought, providing battle descriptions, personal anecdotes from participants, biographies of the most important players, illustrations from paintings, photographs, other historical documents and clear maps. (Gr. 6-8)

Nelson, Peter. Left for Dead: A Young Man’s Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis.

The USS Indianapolis was sunk by a Japanese submarine in the last days of World War II. Over fifty years later, a teen works with the survivors of the disaster to clear the name of the Indianapolis’s captain, who was wrongly court-martialed for the tragedy.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. 19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East.

Nye’s father is Palestinian and her mother is German-American, so she grew up in St. Louis, San Antonio, and Jerusalem. Her poetry includes stories of

the Middle East through the eyes of an American child, as well as of America through the eyes of Middle Easterners. (Gr. 6+)

Odes, Rebecca et al. The Looks Book: A Whole New Approach to Beauty...

Create a style. (Gr. 7-10)

Partridge, Elizabeth. This Land Was Made for You and Me.

The tragic life story of the rambling folk singer Woody Guthrie, author of "This Land Is Your Land." (Gr. 6+)

Philbrick, Nathaniel. Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex.

A detailed account of the 1820 voyage of the whaleship Essex which was attacked and sunk by a sperm whale.

Rall, Ted. To Afghanistan and Back: A Graphic Travelogue.

Syncidated cartoonist and columnist Ted Rall shares the details of his fascinating and dangerous fall 2001 trip to Afghanistan along with his liberal political views in this graphic travelogue. (Adult/High School)

Seckel, Al. The Great Book of Optical Illusions.

Presents illustrations of over 280 optical illusions in color and black-and-white and includes brief but clear explanations about why these phenomena appear. (Adult/ High School)

Walker, Sally M. Fossil Fish Found Alive.

Known from its fossil remains, the coelacanth was thought to be extinct until a scientist discovered one in a South African fisherman's catch in 1938. The hunt was on, and since that time other coelacanths have been found in a few other parts of the world and observed in their habitats deep below the surface of the ocean. (Gr. 5-8.)