

Beginning Fiction

Winner

We are in a Book!

Written and Illustrated by Mo Willems,
Hyperion Book CH, 2010

We Are in a Book! is a delightful tale in which the two classic characters Elephant and Piggie realize that they are trapped inside a book. Willems' creative illustrations and use of different, bolded font sizes helps set the tone. Readers are active participants in this humorous adventure. It is a book that children will read over and over.

Honors

Silly Milly

Written by Wendy Cheyette Lewison,
Illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott,
Cartwheel Books, 2010

Why does Miss Milly like green but not red, butter but not bread, seeds but not flowers, and umbrellas but not showers? Simple, but clever, rhyming text combined with vibrant cartoon illustrations makes this a delightful mystery for beginning readers to solve.

Mac and Cheese

Written by Sarah Weeks, Illustrated by Jane Manning, HarperCollins, 2010

Mac and Cheese is the delightful tale of two alley cats who are best friends but different as can be. Mac likes to pounce, bounce and jump but Cheese like to sit and do nothing like a lump. One day Mac loses his favorite hat and his friend Cheese jumps to the rescue long enough to save the day!

Who Wears Glasses?

Written by Ana Galen, Illustrated by Seb Burnett, Cartwheel Books, 2010

Who doesn't wear glasses you mean? With vibrant color and clever rhyming, we see all manner of folk enjoying a clearer and distinct view of the world. Various shapes, sizes and styles make it a beautiful sight to behold.

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Maryland Blue Crab
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2011



Maryland Library Association
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1401 Hollins Street
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Beginning Nonfiction

Winner

Just One Bite

Written by Lola Schaefer,
Illustrated by Geoff Waring,
Chronicle Books, 2010

"I wonder how much animals eat in each bite?" is the question which inspired author/educator Lola Schaefer to write Just One Bite. After painstaking scientific research, she and illustrator Geoff Waring created this volume of informative, easy to read text and vibrant, life sized illustrations that will enchant readers of any age.

Honors

For the Love of Soccer

Written by Pelé,
Illustrated by Frank Morrison,
Hyperion Book CH, 2010

Pelé, one of the world's greatest soccer players, shares his soccer experiences and palpable love of the game in this basic biography. Colorful illustrations show Pelé playing his favorite parts of soccer, mirrored by contemporary children enjoying those same aspects- practicing, being part of a team and finally, scoring a GOAL!

National Geographic Readers: Safari

Written by Gail Tuchman,
National Geographic Children's Books, 2010

This beginning book takes us on a safari in Tanzania where the animals seem to be doing things just for you and me. Our guide starts out the day greeting us with the Swahili word "Jambo" which means hello.

Climb aboard this African safari and be treated to beautiful pictures and easy rhyming text!

Transitional Fiction

Winner

Lulu and the Brontosaurus

Written by Judith Viorst, Illustrated by Lane Smith, Atheneum, 2010

It is Lulu's birthday and all she wants is a pet brontosaurus. When Lulu's parents tell her "No," Lulu gets VERY upset. She storms off into the forest to find herself the perfect pet. When she finally finds a beautiful brontosaurus, Lulu thinks she's gotten her birthday wish at last-- until she realizes Mr. Brontosaurus thinks that she would make an ideal pet for him!

Honors

Zapato Power: Freddie Ramos takes off

Written by Jacqueline Jules & Miguel Benitez,
Albert Whitman & Co., 2010

Zapato Power is a story about a boy named Freddie who mysteriously receives a pair of shoes with special powers. One day, he races a train and beats it! The book contains the right amount of text and spacing suitable for a new chapter reader with the right amount of engaging illustrations. After all who does not wish for super powers?

Andy Shane, Hero at Last

Written by Jennifer Richard Jacobson,
Illustrated by Abby Carter, Candlewick, 2010

Andy Shane wants to be a hero. He dreams about it. When he enters a contest for best decorated bike, in a local parade, he notices something on the ground. When he picks it up, he races to the front of the parade and become the home-town hero at last!

Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same!

Written and Illustrated by Grace Lin, Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010

Infused with humor and Chinese-American culture, author-illustrator, Grace Lin, perfectly pairs vivid paintings with simple, repetitive text to create a delightful beginning-reader that is sure to become a classic. Children will relate to the familiar circumstances and the struggle for individuality twin sisters, Ling and Ting, experience in this charming set of stories.

Transitional Nonfiction

Winner

Pika: Life on the Rocks

Written by Tannis Bill, Photographs by Jim Jacobson, Boyds Mill Press, 2010

Pika : Life in the Rocks is an enjoyable story of the life cycle of the Pika, a small animal that lives in the Rocky Mountains. The engaging narrative is told with short detailed sentences and crisp vibrant photographs of Pika gathering food, avoiding prey, finding a mate and having a family.

Honors

Bones: Skeletons and how they work

Written by Steve Jenkins, Scholastic Reference, 2010

Learn interesting facts about human and animal skeletons and their individual traits from another fascinating title by Jenkins. Detailed illustrations allow the reader to analyze a human foot bone or a reptile's pelvis. Some examples are shown in actual size, while others are indicated by ratios of actual size, such as 1/3. Sure to appeal to the young scientist!

Orangutans Are Ticklish:

Fun Facts from an Animal Photographer
By Steve Grubman with Jill Davis, Schwartz & Wade Books, 2010

"A hippo's yawn doesn't mean she's tired. It means she wants to fight." This, and many other fascinating facts, can be found in this delightful book by animal photographer, Steve Grubman. Beautiful photographs introduce information about hippos, kangaroos, grizzly bears and giraffes as well as many other animals.

Pop!: the Invention of Bubble Gum

Written and Illustrated by Meghan McCarthy,
Simon and Schuster, 2010

Pop! tells the unlikely tale of the Fleeer Company's unassuming accountant, Walter Diemer, formulating the revolutionary pink concoction that changes the history of gum. This fascinating true story jumps off the page, with eye-popping illustrations and fun facts that will captivate bubble-blowers everywhere!