

Beyond Lucky

By Sarah Aronson

Aronson, Sarah. *Beyond Lucky*. New York: Dial Books, 2011. 250p. Gr. 4-7

Annotation:

Twelve Year Old Ari Fish is a big believer in luck, when he discovers his soccer idols trading card everything is looking up, but then a girl joins his soccer team and the card goes missing, will luck sustain him when his best friend Mac turns on him and his brother's fire fighting unit goes missing.

Book Talk:

Ari Fish is a big believer in luck, even though he thinks he is the most unlucky person in the world. All Ari wants is to be the goalie for his soccer team that is led by his best friend Mac.

Mac is the most athletic and in Ari's opinion, luckiest guy around. Together, they want to take their soccer team to the championship but when Parker Llweelwyn decides to join the team their plans are threatened. However, when Ari finds his soccer idol, Wayne Timcoe's trading card he feels his luck changing. Ari is playing greater than ever, but Parker is still challenging his position at goalie. When Ari and Parker discover common ground Mac starts to get frustrated.

Soon, the Timcoe trading card disappears and Mac begins to doubt his skill without the luck that it offered. Suspicions also start to surface as to who has taken the card, Mac or Parker. With Ari stuck in the middle between his oldest friend and Parker things at home get tense when his older brothers wilderness fire fighting unit cannot be located. This provides Mac with a chance to see the importance of character when dealing with friends. Can luck and superstition sustains Ari when his brother is missing, his best friend deserts him and a girl is threatening to take his prized spot at goalie? Read *Beyond Lucky* by Sarah Aronson to find out.

Reviews:

Booklist 09/01/2011

School Library Journal 08/01/2011

Kirkus 05/01/2011

Author Website:

<http://www.saraharonson.com/> Includes book trailer and teachers guide

Other Books by Sarah Aronson:

Head Case - September 2007

Related Books:

Shoot-Out: A Comeback Kids Novel by Mike Lupica

The Underdogs by Mike Lupica

Dancing Home

By Alma Flor Ada and Gabriel Zubizarreta

Ada, Alma Flor and Gabriel M. Zubizarreta. *Dancing Home*. New York: Atheneum, 2011. 147 p. Gr. 3-6.

Annotation:

Fifth-grader Margie had looked forward to her cousin Lupe coming from Mexico to live with her family; but as her cousin struggles to learn English and adapt to California life, Margie, proud to be 100% American, is embarrassed by Lupe at school and jealous of her at home.

Booktalk:

Margarita, who goes by Margie, is so proud to be an American. She loves all things American and she speaks English perfectly, in fact so perfectly that she barely understands the native Spanish of her parents, both of whom immigrated to the United States from Mexico before she was born. Margie soon learns that her cousin Lupe, who she has never met, will be coming to live with Margie and her family in California and she is excited when she learns that they will be in the same fifth grade class. And Lupe, whose father disappeared into the North several years earlier and whose mother has remarried and started a new family, is also excited about starting a new life in California and hopes to reunite with her father. But the reality is very different for both girls. Margie is embarrassed by Lupe's lack of English skills at school and is mortified when their teacher assigns her to help Lupe. Now her classmates will think she is maybe not so American after all. At home, Margie finds herself jealous of the attention her mother gives Lupe when she braids her hair and when the two speak a fluent Spanish with each other that Margie can't understand. And Lupe struggles to learn a seemingly impossible new language and to adapt to new traditions and the strange ways things are done in the United States. But then Lupe joins a *folklorico* dance class and Margie makes a new friend, Camille, who is not what Margie had assumed she was, and the girls' beliefs—about what it means to be American and what it means to be a family—is forever changed.

Reviews:

Booklist 07/01/11

Horn Book 04/01/12

Kirkus Reviews 06/01/11

Library Media Connection 11/01/11

New York Times 07/17/11

School Library Journal 07/01/11

Author Website:

<http://almaflorada.com/> -includes bio, blog, contact information and information on school visits, English and Spanish reading group guides, and a video of both authors discussing their inspiration for *Dancing Home*.

Book Trailer:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3jMQfGjZE8&feature=youtu.be>

Related Books:

Ada, Alma Flor y Gabriel M. Zubizarreta. *Nacer bailando*. New York: Atheneum, 2011. 145 p. Spanish-language version of *Dancing Home*.

Alvarez, Julia. *How Tia Lola Came to Visit Stay*. New York: Knopf, 2001. 147 p. After his parents' divorce, Miguel's colorful, magical aunt comes to visit, making his life even more unpredictable.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *Esperanza Rising*. New York: Scholastic, 2000. 262 p. Privileged and pampered Esperanza and her mother must leave Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California during the Great Depression.

Soto, Gary. *The Skirt*. Illustrated by Eric Velasquez. New York: Bantam Doubleday. 1992. 74 p. A girl loses the skirt she is to wear in a Mexican *folklorico* dance and works to get it back before her parents' find out that she has lost it.

Related Websites:

http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/folktalewshop_index.htm -folklore writer's workshop with Alma Flor Ada and Rafe Martin.

http://allpoetry.com/poem/8541699-A_Margarita_Debayle_To_Margarita_Debayle_-by-Ruben_Dario -link to the poem "A Margarita Debayle/To Margarita Debayle" by Ruben Dario.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCIEGACT9uc> –an interpretation of Dario's famous poem, in Spanish.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOla1jMzPgg> –another interpretation of "A Margarita Debayle".

<http://www.delsolbooks.com/almaflorada.htm> -Spanish and bilingual resources by Alma Flor Ada.

Other Books by Alma Flor Ada:

My Name is Maria Isabel. Atheneum, 1993.

Gathering the Sun: An Alphabet in Spanish and English. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1997.

Under the Royal Palms. Atheneum, 1998.

A Magical Encounter: Latino Children's Literature in the Classroom. Allyn & Bacon, 2002.

The Quetzal's Journey. Alfaguara, 2003.

Love, Amalia. Atheneum, 2012.

Awards and Honors for *Dancing Home*:

Georgia Children's Book Award Nominee, 2013-2014

EllRay Jakes Is Not a Chicken!

Warner, Sally. *EllRay Jakes Is Not a Chicken!* New York: Viking, 2011. 108 p. Grades 3-6.

Eight-year-old EllRay Jakes tries to control himself, but when Jared Matthews bullies him it's always EllRay who gets in trouble! When his father offers a Disneyland trip as a reward for good behavior, he doubles his self-control efforts but worries people will think he's afraid of Jared.

Booktalk

There's a war in Ms. Sanchez's third grade class between three of the boys. Ever since the end of Christmas vacation, Jared Matthews and Stanley Washington have had it out for EllRay Jakes. Jared and Stanley don't pull things in the classroom, at first, but they are at EllRay during lunch, recess, break and other times when they are out of sight from teachers and other adults. They know how to hide their rib-aching digs and other things they're doing from other kids as well. EllRay swears Jared's biggest aim is to make him cry in front of everyone at school.

EllRay's determined not to let anyone know what Jared and Stanley are doing to him. He doesn't want other boys taking sides and making this war bigger because that wouldn't end things for EllRay. He doesn't want the girls chattering about the war and staring. He definitely doesn't want his parents involved. Not when they are already on his care for his progress report, the one that says "Behavior: Needs Improvement." His teacher is calling home each day with a report on him now, and his dad grills EllRay about his day. Then a prize is dangled in front of EllRay - a day at Disneyland if he can hold it together for a whole week.

Each day, EllRay struggles not to react to Jared and Stanley, not to blow up. He tries not to make the other kids laugh or make faces. The week gets worse and worse, and still he keeps trying to hold it together. Can he make it, and if he does will Disneyland be worth it all?

Websites

Sally Warner's Home Page: <http://www.sallywarner.com/younger.html>

Book trailer: <http://animoto.com/play/zWoic0EMJ1ZxYNW1knHSdQ>

Book activities developed by the Texas Bluebonnet Award Committee:

<http://texasbluebonnetaward2013.wordpress.com/ellray-jakes-related-activities/>

Reviews

Booklist, June 1, 2011

Publishers Weekly, March 14, 2011

Kirkus Reviews, April 15, 2011

School Library Journal, August 1, 2011

Awards and Honors

- 2012-2013 Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice for K-3
- A CYBILS nominee (Children's and Young Adult Bloggers' Literary Awards)
- Texas Bluebonnet Award Nominee (2013)
- Minnesota Book Award
- A Junior Library Guild selection

Other Books by Sally Warner

For younger Readers:

- *Accidental Lily*
- *Best Friend Emma*
- *Excellent Emma*
- *Happily ever Emma*
- *Leftover Lily*
- *Not-So-Weird Emma*
- *Only Emma*
- *Private Lily*
- *Smart About the First Ladies*
- *Super Emma*
- *Sweet and Sour Lily*

For Older children and young adults:

- *Bad Girl Blues*
- *Dog Years*
- *Ellie and the Bunheads*
- *Finding Hattie*
- *How to Be a Real Person (in just one day)*
- *It's Only Temporary*
- *Lala Land*
- *A Long Time Ago Today*
- *Sister Split*
- *Some Friend*
- *Sort of Forever*
- *This Isn't About The Money*
- *Totally Confidential*
- *Twilight Child*

Related Books

- Jonell, Lynne. *Hamster Magic*. New York: Random House, 2010.
- Sternberg, Julie. *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie*. New York: Amulet, 2011.
 - Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Shredderman*. New York: Knopf, 2004.

Nelson, Kadir. *Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans*. New York: Balzer + Bray (an imprint of HarperCollins), 2011. 108 p. Gr. 3-8.

An unnamed female elder tells the story of her family and the African American experience from her grandfather's capture in Africa in 1850 through the Civil Rights movement to today.

Booktalk:

Kadir Nelson's *Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African American*, opens, "Most folks my age and complexion don't speak much about the past. Sometimes it's just too hard to talk about." But in the words of the unnamed female narrator, "You have to know where you come from so you can move forward." So the storyteller begins to share the story of a race that is largely ignored in the annals of American history, the good and the bad. Nelson's bold paintings and narrative text that begs to be read aloud tell the tale of American blacks through the generations of one family from the kidnapping in Africa of the narrator's grandfather through every major era up to today. Learn of the injustice of slavery, Reconstruction, Jim Crow laws and segregation. Recognize the irony as freemen work to build the United States Capitol building alongside slaves who could only dream of liberty. Marvel at the resolve, courage, and ingenuity of black leaders, scientists, soldiers and everyday Americans who determined to fill their rightful place in the American Dream. Understand the truth in the storyteller's words, "We knew the key to giving our children a chance in life was a good education." Read *Heart and Soul* and learn more about the struggle for true equality in this nation.

Websites:

The Art of Kadir Nelson. www.kadirnelson.com. The author/illustrator's website contains a biography, bibliography of his books, photographs, and more.

"A Video Interview with Kadir Nelson." WETA Washington, D.C. *Reading Rockets*. www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/nelson/. Contains information on Nelson, a video interview, a transcript of the interview, and a selected bibliography.

Nelson, Kadir. "Heart and Soul." *YouTube*. Book trailer. www.youtube.com/watch?v-p0VzAL3WnGY. The author/illustrator discusses the process of creating his Coretta Scott King Award-winning book in this book trailer.

Other Books Written or Illustrated by Kadir Nelson:

Allen, Debby. *Dancing in the Wings*. Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. New York: Dial, 2000.

Green, Michelle Y. *A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson*. Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. New York: Dial, 2002.

Jordan, Deloris and Roslyn M. Jordan. *Salt in His Shoes*. Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003.

King, Martin Luther, Jr. *I Have a Dream: Martin Luther King, Jr.* Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. New York: Schwartz and Wade, 2012.

Levine, Ellen. *Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad.* Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. New York: Scholastic, 2007.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya.* Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2010.

Nelson, Kadir. *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands.* Based on the traditional song. New York: Dial, 2005.

_____. *A Nation's Hope: The Story of Boxing Legend Joe Louis.* New York: Dial, 2011.

_____. *Nelson Mandela.* New York: *We Are the Ship.* New York: Hyperion, 2008.

Nolan, Jerdine. *Thunder Rose.* Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. New York: Harcourt, 2003.

Rappaport, Doreen. *Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln.* Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. New York: Scholastic, 2008.

Robinson, Sharon. *Testing the Ice: A True Story about Jackie Robinson.* Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. New York: Scholastic, 2009.

Shange, Ntozake. *Ellington Was Not a Street.* Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004.

Smith, Will. *Just the Two of Us.* Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. New York: Scholastic, 2005.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom.* Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. New York: Hyperion, 2006.

Related Books:

Bridges, Ruby. *Through My Eyes.* New York: Scholastic, 1999.

Bridges offers her personal recollections of being the first black student to integrate a white public school and its effect on her life and civil rights work.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down.* Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. New York: Little, Brown, 2010.

On February 1, 1960, four African American college students sat down at the all-white Woolworth's lunch counter and ordered a meal, refusing to leave and creating a defining moment in the fight for civil rights.

Rappaport, Darleen. *Free at Last! Stories and Songs of Emancipation.* Illustrated by Shane W. Evans. New York: Candlewick, 2006.

Traditional songs, tales and images combine to trace the joy of freedom that gradually fades to resignation as Jim Crow laws are enacted to once again suppress African Americans.

_____. *Martin's Big Word: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* Illustrated by Bryan Collier. New York: Hyperion, 2001.

A picture book biography of King focusing on his messages of hope and inspiration.

_____. *No More! Stories and Songs of Slave Resistance.* Illustrated by Shane W. Evans. New York: Candlewick, 2005.

Narrative, stark images, and traditional verse tell the story of slaves who refused to remain oppressed.

_____. *Nobody Gonna Turn Me 'Round: Stories and Songs of the Civil Rights Movement*. Illustrated by Shane W. Evans. New York: Candlewick, 2006.

The final volume in a trilogy tracing the African American experience focuses on 1955-1965, ten of the most turbulent years in the fight for civil rights.

_____. *The School Is Not White! A True Story of the Civil Rights Movement*. Illustrated by Curtis James. New York: Hyperion, 2005.

In 1965 the Carter family dares to send their five children to the all-white school in Drew, Mississippi, instead of the inferior black school, defying segregation, threats, and prejudice.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *When Marion Sang*. Illustrated by Brian Selznick. New York: Scholastic, 2002.

Marion Anderson's talent and courage are portrayed in a picture book biography focusing on her historic concert at the Lincoln Memorial in 1939.

Awards and Honors:

Caldecott Honor, 2007, for *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*. Citation above.

Caldecott Honor, 2008, for *Henry's Freedom Box*. Citation above.

CASEY Award, 2008, (Best Baseball Book award), for *We Are the Ship*. Citation above.

Coretta Scott King Author Award, 2009, for *We Are the Ship*. Citation above.

Coretta Scott King Author Award, 2012, for *Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans*. Citation above.

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award, 2005, for *Ellington Was Not a Street*. Citation above.

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award, 2007, for *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*. Citation above.

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor, 2004, for *Thunder Rose*. Citation above.

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor, 2009, for *We Are the Ship*. Citation above.

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor, 2012, for *Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans*. Citation above.

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor, 2013, for *I Have a Dream: Martin Luther King, Jr.* Citation above.

NAACP Image Award, 2006, for *Just the Two of Us*. Citation above.

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award, 2009, for *We Are the Ship*. Citation above.

Inside Out & Back Again

Lai, Thanhha. *Inside Out & Back Again*. New York: HarperCollins, 2011. 272 p. Grades 3-7.

Ten-year-old Ha and her family must flee their home when the Vietnam War reaches Saigon and start a new life in America. But sometimes life in a war zone seems easier to Ha than adjusting to 1970s Alabama where everything is strange and often hostile.

Booktalk

Thanhha Lai's free verse novel is based upon her own experiences as a child in war-torn Vietnam and a refugee after the fall of Saigon and offers real insight into the heart-wrenching emotions that accompany the immigrant experience.

Ten-year-old Hà misses the father she cannot remember. He was captured and drafted into the navy nine years ago when Hà was only one, and the family has not heard from him since. Hà must adjust to the teasing of her older brothers, sudden air raids, and the scarcity of food and other goods as the Vietnam War draws closer and closer to her home in the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon. She draws comfort from the beauty of her homeland, the joy of learning at school, and the promise of fresh papayas from her very own papaya tree. She watches the new fruit grow with pride and looks forward to sharing it with her family.

When Saigon falls to the Chinese and the Americans withdraw, Ha's family abandons almost everything and flees the country on an overcrowded ship hoping to be rescued by an American Naval vessel. As days pass with no sign of rescue, food and water supplies run short, but Hà's family clings to hope. When an American ship arrives and the family is taken to a new home in Alabama, Hà meets their American sponsor, their cowboy as she calls him, and he helps them settle into a home and enroll at school. The heartbreak of leaving their homeland runs deep in the whole family, and rather than opening a world of new friendships, school becomes a place of torment with teasing boys, well-meaning teachers, and embarrassment for Hà, who is very bright but cannot communicate. Her feelings are clear in excerpts like "Feel Dumb" (p. 156-157):

MiSSS Scott
points to me,
then to the letters
of the English alphabet.

I say
A B C and so on.

She tells the class
to clap.

I frown.

MISS Scott
points to the numbers
along the wall.

I count up to twenty.

The class claps
on its own.

I'm furious,
unable to explain
I already learned
fractions
and how to purify
river water.

So this is
what dumb
feels like.

I hate, hate, hate it.

September 10

Hà wishes for so much. She wishes her brothers wouldn't be so hurt and angry, she wishes her mother's life was easier, she wishes English didn't have so many rules to learn, she wishes Father would find them, but most of all she wishes she still felt smart. She wishes for a better tomorrow, but how can things get better when everything they know and love has been left behind? Everything, that is, but hope and each other.

Websites:

Thanhha Lai's Home Page:

http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/36544/Thanhha_Lai/index.aspx

Book trailer for *Inside Out and Back Again*:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyzISTRoMUs&list=PLC4iEMaA54D86Rku7bm0JstHviquitGOY&index=3>

“2011 National Book Award, Young People's Literature.” National Book Foundation.

http://www.nationalbook.org/nba2011_ypl_lai.html. This page features videos of Ms. Lai's acceptance speech at the National Book Awards program, brief information about the book and the author, and a link to an interview with the author.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer. "The Inside Story: It took Thanhha Lai 15 years to write her first novel, but it was well worth the wait ." *School Library Journal*.

[http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/articles/interviews/893040-](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/articles/interviews/893040-338/the_inside_story_it_took.html.csp)

[338/the_inside_story_it_took.html.csp](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/articles/interviews/893040-338/the_inside_story_it_took.html.csp). This article about Lai's experience as a National Book Award Winner also contains an interview between Wolff and Ms. Lai.

Reviews

Booklist, starred, January 1, 2011

Horn Book, March/April, 2011; starred, Fall, 2011

Kirkus Reviews, starred, January 15, 2011

Publishers Weekly, January 31, 2011

School Library Journal, December 1, 2010

Awards and Honors

- ALA Notable Children's Book, 2012
- 2011 National Book Award Winner for Young People's Literature
- Newbery Honor Award, 2012

Other Books about the Immigrant Experience:

- Dandicat, Edwidge. *Behind the Mountains*. New York: Scholastic, 2003.
- Levine, Ellen. *I Hate English!* Illustrated by Steve Bjorkman. New York: Scholastic, 1989.
- Lombard, Jenny. *Drita My Homegirl*. New York: Putnam, 2006.
- Lord, Michelle. *A Song for Cambodia*. Illustrated by Shino Arihara. New York: Lee & Low, 2008.
- Maestro, Betsy. *Coming to America: The Story of Immigration*. Illustrated by Susannah Ryan. New York: Scholastic, 1996.
- Mikaelson, Ben. *Red Midnight*. New York: HarperCollins, 2002.
- Wilkes, Sybella. *One Day We Had to Run*. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook, 1995.

Marty McGuire

By Kate Messner

Messner, Kate. *Marty McGuire*. Illustrated by Brian Floca. New York: Scholastic Press, 2011.

129p. Gr. 2-3

Annotation:

Third grade tomboy Marty McGuire is horrified when her teacher selects her for the lead role in the class play and must figure out a way to stay true to herself while playing a princess.

Reader's Theater Script: (adapted from pages 34-38)

Characters: Narrator, Marty and Marty's Mom

Narrator: Marty is sitting in her room, telling her favorite stuffed animal all about the injustice of being sent to her room for falling into the school pond while capturing a frog during recess when the phone rings and she overhears a conversation between her mother and her teacher. When they hang up mom enters her room.

Mom: Marty, that was Mrs. Aloï. She says you're going to be the lead in your third-grade play.

Marty: She must have dialed the wrong number.

Mom: Marty...

Marty: Mom, it's a princess part. I'm not a princessy girl.

Mom: Marty, it's such a fun opportunity.

Marty: To wear a stupid, frilly dress?

Mom: Well, maybe you won't have to wear ---

Marty: I know I won't have to because I'm not doing it.

Mom: Marty...

Marty: Nope.

Mom: But Mrs. Aloï will be so disappointed.

Marty: She can get Veronica Grace. Or Kimmy. Or Isabel. Or Annie. Annie's all princessy now too.

Mom: After today, I think a little princess practice would be good for you. I told Mrs. Aloï you are going to do it.

Marty: But mom—

Mom: But nothing. You're going to school tomorrow and report for princess duty. (Mom turns and leaves)

Marty: This is so not fair.

Reviews:

Booklist 06/01/11

Bulletin of The Center For Children's Books 6/01/11

Horn Book 10/01/11

Kirkus Reviews 04/15/11

Library Media Connection 10/01/11

Author Website:

<http://www.katemessner.com> -includes brief bio, a link to her blog, FAQ, tips for writing, booking and appearances information

Note: Author offers free 20 minute Skype sessions to discuss her books

Book Trailer:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLvePcifiNys>

Related Books:

Peschke, Marci. *Kylie Jean, Drama Queen*. Illustrated by Tuesday Mourning. Picture Window Books, 2011.

Kylie Jean competes with Julia for a role in the class play.

Clementine Series by Sara Pennypacker

Marty wants to be like Jane Goodall. Here are a few of the most recently published books about Jane Goodall:

McDonnell, Patrick. *Me...Jane*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2011.

Winter, Jeanette. *The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps*. New York: Schwartz and Wade Books, 2011.

Edison, Erin. *Jane Goodall*. Mankato, Minnesota: Capstone Press Books, 2013.

Related Websites:

<http://www.scholastic.com/browse/search/librarians?query=marty+mcguire&x=0&y=0>

Publisher's website includes a discussion guide

Marty's Mom rehabilitates wildlife. Here is a website for kids who are interested in wildlife rehabilitation:

<http://www.nwrawildlife.org/content/what-wildlife-rehabilitation>

Other Books by Kate Messner:

The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z. Walker, 2009.

Capture the Flag. Scholastic Press, 2012.

Champlain and the Silent One. North Country Books, 2008.

Eye of the Storm. Walker, 2012.

Hide and Seek. Scholastic Press, 2013.

Marty McGuire Digs Worms! Scholastic Press, 2012.

Over and Under the Snow. Chronicle Books, 2011.

Real Revision: Authors strategies to share with student writers. Stenhouse Publishers, 2011.

Sea Monster's First Day. Chronicle Books, 2011.

Spitfire. North Country Books, 2007.

Sugar and Ice. Walker and Company, 2010.

Awards and Honors for Marty McGuire:

KC3 Book Award Nominee 2013-2014

Oklahoma Sequoyah Children's Book Award Nominee 2014

Rhode Island Children's Bok Award Nominee 2013-2014

Saving Audie: A Pit Bull Puppy Gets a Second Chance
By Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. *Saving Audie: A Pit Bull Puppy Gets a Second Chance*. New York: Walker & Company. 2011. 48 p. (Gr. K-5).

Annotation:

My name is Audie and I am a Michael Vick dog. This is the story of my rescue, rehabilitation, and new life as a beloved pet.

Booktalk:

My story starts at the Bad Newz Kennels. I was chained up and isolated living in fear and loneliness. My future was dim until the FBI raid that freed me from one prison however it sent me to another. I lived in a crowded shelter with cages stacked on top of each other. This prison lasted until the end of the trial. Fortunately for me and my fellow rescues the ASPCA, Best Friends Animal Society, and BAD RAP fought to keep us alive. I travelled with 12 of my fellow dogs to California with BAD RAP to start my rehabilitation program in hopes of finding my forever home one day. I did so well in the beginning that I was sent to a foster home to further my rehabilitation. My foster family fell in love with me and adopted me. After a long and scary journey I had finally found my forever home. I am Audie and I am a Michael Vick dog.

Reviews:

Booklist March 2011
School Library Journal May 2011 starred
Horn Book Fall 2011
Publishers' Weekly March 2, 2011
Kirkus April 2011

Author website:

<http://www.dorothyhinshawpatent.com>
<http://www.inkthinktank.com>

Other Books by the Author:

Dogs on duty: soldiers' best friends on the battlefield and beyond. Walker & Company. September 2012
The horse and the Plains Indians: a powerful partnership. Clarion Books. July 2012.
When the wolves returned: restoring nature's balance in Yellowstone. Walker & Company. April 2008
The buffalo and the Indians: a shared destiny. Clarion Books. June 2006.
Big cats. Walker & Company. October 2005.
And many more titles...

Related Books:

Dennis, Brian. *Nubs*. New York: Little, Brown and Company. 2009.
Halls, Kelly Milner. *Saving the Baghdad Zoo*. New York: Greenwillow Books. 2010.

Myron, Vicki and Witter, Brett. *Dewey: There's a Cat in the Library*. New York: Little, Brown and Company. 2009.

Darling, Kathy. *The Elephant Hospital*. Brookfield, CT: The Millbrook Press. 2002.

Goodall, Jane. *The Chimpanzees I Love*. New York: Scholastic Press. 2001

Saving Zasha

By Randi Barrow

Barrow, Randi. *Saving Zasha*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2011. 229 p. Gr. 3-6

Annotation:

World War II has just ended when Mikhail, a Russian boy, finds a dying man and his German Shepherd dog in the woods near his Russian home. Mikhail is a life-long dog lover and knows he must help this man and his dog, but he must keep it all a secret or he and his family could be put in prison – or worse!

Booktalk:

“Someone tried to steal my dog. Zasha come.” The dog trotted forward and came to rest at his side. (p.11) It was the first time I’d seen a dog in years, and never one this exquisite; I was awestruck. “He’s beautiful.” “She,” he said. “Zasha.” (Excerpt from *Saving Zasha* p.12)

Can you imagine going years without seeing a dog? I can’t! I love all kinds of dogs!

In *Saving Zasha* by Randi Barrow, Russian brothers Mikhail and Nikolai take in what is possibly the last German Shepherd Dog in Russia. By keeping this dog that they found, they have put their whole family in danger because anything that had a connection to Germany was strictly forbidden in Russia, especially after World War II when Germany attacked Russia. Mikhail and Nikolai decide they can keep the dog hidden and can keep her safe. The brothers go through many scary situations to protect this beautiful dog. Read the book and find out if Nikolai and Mikhail were able to keep Zasha safe and keep her from hidden from the dognappers.

Reviews:

Booklist 02/01/11

Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books 02/01/11

Kirkus 12/15/10

Publisher’s Weekly 11/08/10

Author’s Website:

<http://randibarrow.com/>

Related Books:

Barrow, Randi. *Finding Zasha*. New York: Scholastic, 2013. 343 p. (Prequel to *Saving Zasha*).
Gipson, Fred. *Old Yeller*. New York: Harper & Row, 1956. 158 p.

Related Websites:

<http://www.gsdca.org/index.php> -German Shepherd Dog Club of America

<http://www.brtca.org/> -Black Russian Terrier Club of America

Other Books by Randi Barrow:

Barrow, Randi. *Finding Zasha*. New York: Scholastic, 2013. 343 p.

Awards and Honors for *Saving Zasha*:

Great Stone Face Book Award Nominee, 2011-2012

Parents' Choice Award Winner for historical fiction, Spring 2011

IRA-CBC Children's Choice List, 2012

Sidekicks

Santat, Dan. *Sidekicks*. New York: Arthur A. Levine, 2011. 224 p. Grade 3-up.

A superhero's life is hard, and now that Captain Amazing is getting older he and his four superpets agree that he needs a little help... a SIDEKICK! Each pet thinks he should get the job, and their rivalry escalates into full-fledged battle as each tries to prove his worth.

Booktalk:

Captain Amazing is getting up there in years, and is starting to need a little help when saving the city from all kinds of villains. So he holds auditions for people to try their hand at being his sidekick. Everyone fails. Two of his pets, Roscoe the dog and Fluffy the hamster, each want the job. Another pet, Shifty the chameleon, joins the family when he arrives at Captain Amazing's home in a huge shipping box. The pets begin to fight crime, each in his own way, often with unexpected and sometimes disastrous results. When Captain Amazing's nemesis is released from jail, claiming to be a reformed man, a DNA transfer device is stolen, and mysterious claw marks begin appearing all over town, it's clear that big trouble is on the way. Who is The Claw, and what is he planning for Metro City? When Captain Amazing is sidelined by an allergic reaction to peanuts, it's up to the sidekicks to save the day. Read Dan Santat's graphic novel, *Sidekicks*.

Websites:

"Dan Santat: Author/Illustrator." Personal website. Typepad. *SayMedia*. Accessed on 14 March 2013. <http://www.dantat.com/index/.html> Santat's website contains a brief biography, photos, contact information, links to book trailers, and much more.

Official *Sidekicks* book trailer. Online video. YouTube. Google. Accessed 15 March 2013. http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=U50e58MxYS8

Santat, Dan. "*Sidekicks* book trailer." Online video. *YouTube*. Google. Accessed 14 March 2013. http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=WJdSl_roBQM#!

Reviews:

Booklist, 04/15/11

Horn Book, 07/01/11

Horn Book, 04/01/12

Kirkus Reviews, 06/01/11

Library Media Connection, 10/01/11, starred *Publishers Weekly*, 05/02/11

School Library Journal, 07/01/11

Teacher Librarian, 12/01/11

Awards and Honors:

- Silver Medal from the Society of Illustrators
- A 2012 ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
- A Boston Globe/Horn Book Award Honor Book

Other books Written or Illustrated by Dan Santat:

Picture Books:

- Elya, Susan Middleton. *Fire! Fuego! Brave Bomberos*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Bloomsbury, 2012.
- Barnett, Mac. *Oh No! (Or How My Science Project Destroyed the World)*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Hyperion, 2010.
- _____. *Oh No! Not Again! (Or How I Built a Time Machine to Save History) (Or at Least My History Grade)*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Hyperion, 2012.
- Buckley, Michael. *Kel Gilligan's Daredevil Stunt Show*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Abrams, 2012.
- Esbaum, Jill. *Tom's Tweet*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Knopf, 2011.
- Going, K. L. *Dog in Charge*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Dial, 2012.
- Halliday, Ayun. *Always Lots of Heinie's at the Zoo*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Hyperion, 2009.
- Hicks, Barbara Jean. *The Secret Life of Walter Kitty*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Knopf, 2007.
- Isaacs, Anne. *The Ghosts of Luckless Gulch*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Atheneum, 2008.
- Pham, Leuyen, et al. *Manners Mash-Up: A Goofy Guide to Good Behavior*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Dial, 2011.
- Santat, Dan. *The Guild of Geniuses*. New York: Levine, 2004.
- Sauer, Tammi. *Bawk and Roll (Chicken Dance)*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Sterling, 2012.
- _____. *Chicken Dance*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Sterling, 2009.
- Schwartz, Corey Rosen. *The Three Ninja Pigs*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Putnam, 2012.

Chapter Books:

- Beaty, Andrea. *Attack of the Fluffy Bunnies*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Amulet, 2010.
- Guys Read: The Sports Pages*. Edited by Jon Scieszka. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Walden Pond, 2012.
- Perlman, Rhea. *Otto Undercover: Born to Drive*. vol. 1. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Katherine Tegen, 2005.
- _____. *Otto Undercover: Canyon Catastrophe*. vol. 2. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Katherine Tegen, 2006.
- _____. *Otto Undercover: Water Balloon Doom*. vol. 3. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Katherine Tegen, 2006.
- _____. *Otto Undercover: Toxic Taffy Takeover*. vol. 4. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Katherine Tegen, 2006.
- _____. *Otto Undercover: The Brink of Ex-stink-tion*. vol. 5. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Katherine Tegen, 2007.
- _____. *Otto Undercover: Brain Freeze*. vol. 6. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Katherine Tegen, 2007.
- Spratt, R. A. *The Adventures of Nanny Piggins*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Little, Brown, 2010.

_____. *Nanny Piggins and the Wicked Plan*. . Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Little, Brown, 2012.

Yee, Lisa. *Bobby vs. Girls (Accidentally)*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Arthur A. Levine, 2009.

_____. *Bobby the Brave (Sometimes)*. Illustrated by Dan Santat. New York: Arthur A. Levine, 2010.

Related Books:

Aguirre, Jorge. *Giants Beware!* Illustrated by Rafael Rosado. New York: First Second, 2011.

Cammuso, Frank. *Knights of the Lunch Table: No. 1*. The Dodgeball Chronicles. New York: GRAPHIX, 2008.

Hatke, Ben. *Zita the Spacegirl*. New York: First Second, 2011.

_____. *Legends of Zita the Spacegirl*. New York: First Second, 2012.

Holm, Jennifer L. *Squish #1: Super Amoeba*. Illustrated by Matt Holm. New York: Random House, 2011.

Kibuishi, Kazu. *The Stonekeeper*. Amulet, Book 1. New York: GRAPHIX, 2008.

McCranie, Stephen. *Mel and Chad: The Biggest, Bestest Time Ever!* New York: Philomel, 2011.

Roman, Dave. *Astronaut Academy: Zero Gravity*. New York: First Second, 2011.

Tennapel, Doug. *Cardboard*. New York: GRAPHIX, 2012.

Small as an Elephant

By Jennifer Richard Jacobson

Jacobson, Jennifer. *Small as an Elephant*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2011. 275 p. Gr. 5-8.

Annotation:

Eleven-year-old Jack finds himself stranded at a campsite in Maine when his unpredictable mother takes off. Jack attempts to figure things out on his own and return home to Boston before the authorities catch on, embarking on the long journey south alone.

Booktalk:

Jack Martel has looked forward all year to his camping trip with his mother to Acadia National Park in Maine. But the first morning, Jack wakes up to find his mother and all their camping gear except the tent and his sleeping bag gone. He tries her cell phone but she doesn't answer. Jack thinks that maybe she left because they'd had an argument on the drive up about his obsession with elephants and whether or not to stop and see Lydia, Maine's only living elephant, at a wild life park. At first, Jack doesn't panic. After all, he's used to his mother's erratic, unpredictable behavior, what he calls her "spinning" times, and has to fend for himself before for short periods. But soon, he's used up his \$14 on food, he ruins his cell phone, and his sleeping bag and extra clothing are stolen. That is when Jack devises a plan to get back home to Boston before the authorities catch on and put him in a foster home or, even worse, send him to live with his grandmother whom his mother as always warned him against, on his own. So, with no money, Jack takes off, sleeping in churches and the backs of pickups, stealing vegetables from gardens, and avoiding curious adults. He also steals a small elephant figurine which becomes his travel companion and a sort of talisman. But when Jack decides to veer off his journey to see Lydia, his plan falls apart as he realizes that his part of a herd after all.

Reviews:

Booklist starred 06/01/11

Horn Book starred 10/01/12

Kirkus Reviews 02/01/11

Library Media Connection 08/01/11

School Library Journal 04/01/11

Author Website:

<http://jenniferjacobson.com/> -includes bio, blog, contact information and information on school and library visits, seminars and in-service programs, and an activity page for *Small as an Elephant*.

Book Trailers:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKgG3b0XDD0>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KhBDO8a7Hs>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuPHjksJE4>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-6_kHM124M

Related Books:

George, Jean Craighead. *My Side of the Mountain*. New York: Puffin, 1959. 177 p.

A young boy relates his adventures during a year spent living alone in the Catskill Mountains of New York.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *A Million Shades of Gray*. New York: Atheneum, 2010. 216 p.

A boy takes flees with his elephant to the safety of the jungle when the Viet Cong attack his village in the aftermath of the Vietnam War.

Paulsen, Gary. *The River*. New York: Delacorte, 1991. 132 p.

In this sequel to *Hatchet*, Brian is asked by researchers to undergo an experience similar to his own to help learn more about the psychology of survival.

Voigt, Cynthia. *Homecoming*. New York: Atheneum. 1981. 388 p.

After being abandoned by their mother, Dicey cares for her three siblings over the course of a New England summer as she tries desperately to find a new home for them all.

Other Books by Jennifer Jacobson:

No More "I'm Done!": Fostering Independent Writers in the Primary Grades. Stenhouse, 2010.

Andy Shane: Hero at Last. Candlewick, 2010. (series)

Stained. Atheneum, 2005.

The Complete History of Why I Hate Her. Atheneum, 2010.

Winnie at Her Best. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. (series)

Awards and Honors for *Small as an Elephant*:

Parents' Choice Gold Fiction Award, 2011

Maine Lupine Young Adult Award, 2012

Maine Literary Award: Second Place Young Adult Book Award, 2013

IRA Young Adults' Choices reading list, 2012

Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award Master List, 2012-2013

Great Stone Face Award Nominee, 2012-2013

New Hampshire Cochecho Reader's Award Nominee, 2012-2013

Missouri Association of School Librarian's Reader's Award, 2013-2014

The Trouble with Chickens

By Doreen Cronin

Cronin, Doreen. *The Trouble with Chickens*. New York: Balzer + Bray, 2011. 119p. Gr. 2-4

Annotation:

J.J. Tully is a retired search and rescue dog living a quiet life in the country when Moosh, a mother hen asks for his help in finding two of her chicks that are missing. The search leads inside where they must face Vince, the alpha dog, after a rescue attempt J.J. finds himself in danger.

Booktalk:

J.J. Tully has left behind his life as a search and rescue dog to retire to his trainers farm in the country. J.J. has a life of ease and no worries until a mother hen, Moosh and her brood of chicks, Dirt and Sugar get in his way. Two of the chicks have gone missing and they need J.J.'s help to find them. J.J. is willing to help, but it will cost the chickens a hamburger. The deal is made and J.J. begins the search. Soon it is discovered that Vince, AKA Vince the Cone, the resident house dog is behind the chick-napping's and J.J. must change the plan from search to rescue. He begins to train Dirt in R-H-B-W-R, run-hide-breathe-watch-run so that Dirt can go in and rescue the chicks, only to discover Moosh, the mother hen has already gone to the rescue. Vince is waiting and his plan all along was for Moosh, Dirt, Sugar and most importantly J.J. to come to the rescue. Vince has an upcoming visit to the veterinarian and only by swapping places with J.J. can he avoid the dreadful visit. Can J.J. and the Chickens outwit Vince the Cone? Will the missing chicks be rescued? You'll have to read *The Trouble With Chickens* by Doreen Cronin to find out.

Reviews:

Booklist 02/01/2011

Kirkus 02/15/2011

School Library Journal 02/01/2011

Book Trailer:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xB0ZrGJdiDM>

Other Books by Doreen Cronin:

Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type

The Diary of a Worm

Related Books:

The Legend of Diamond Lil: A J.J. Tully Mystery by Doreen Cronin

Mr. and Mrs. Bunny Detectives Extraordinaire by Polly Horvath

Tuesdays at the Castle
By Jessica Day George

George, Jessica Day. *Tuesdays at the Castle*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2011. Gr. 3-5. 288 p.

Annotation:

Castle Glower changes and grows, especially on Tuesdays, and young Princess Celie notices and maps every change; so perhaps she is the only one who can save the kingdom when her parents are presumed dead after an attack on their royal caravan and usurpers try to take over the castle.

Booktalk:

Princess Celie is the Castle favorite. That's Castle with a capital C, for not only do all the inhabitants of the royal castle of Sleyne love Celie, the youngest daughter of King Glower the Seventy-ninth and his queen, but Castle Glower loves her, too. The castle is much more than a residence and seat of power. It is a mysterious, living entity that selects the heir to the throne. Therefore, every king of Sleyne assumes the name Glower. The castle makes its intentions and will known by adding and subtracting, moving and rearranging rooms, usually on Tuesdays. Celie loves Tuesdays at the castle and the changes the day often brings. She spends hour after hour mapping the castle and knows it better than almost anyone. She loves life in Castle Glower and the surprises it offers.

Nevertheless, she is disappointed when she, her older sister Lilah and her 14-year-old brother, Crown Prince Rolf, are forced to remain behind while their parents travel to the distant School of Wizardry to attend her oldest brother's graduation. The royal entourage is attacked on the return journey, and the king, queen and Prince Bran are presumed dead though their bodies are not recovered. As neighboring kingdoms send emissaries for the memorial service it quickly becomes evident that someone is plotting to take over the throne. The royal children are unsure who to trust, but Celie knows they can rely on Castle Glower to help save themselves and the kingdom.

Readers' Theater:

Narrator: Jessica Day George's *Tuesdays at the Castle* introduces Castle Glower and its residents in a rousing mystery adventure. In this scene, the part of Princess Celie is read by _____, the Queen is read by _____, King Glower is read by _____, Crown Prince Rolf is read by _____, Princess Lilah is read by _____, and I, _____, am the narrator.

Princess Celie is in the tower room of Castle Glower sulking because her parents will not take her with them to Sleyne City for her brother's graduation. Looking out the window she discovers her parents are leaving and wishes she weren't in the tower. She races out of the room and looks in dismay at the twisting staircase, knowing there isn't time to get to the entrance to hug them before they leave! She leans against the wall and realizes there is a door behind her. Had it always been there? Curious, she opens the narrow door, expecting that the castle has created a new linen closet, but to her delight it is a slide! She sits at the top, tucks her skirts under her, and pushes off. She spirals down and down, around and around until the castle deposits her

right at the edge of the courtyard, only feet from where her parents are about to climb into the royal coach.

Queen: Come here, darling! Give me a hug.

Celie: I'll miss you.

Queen: I'll miss you, too. I'll miss all my darlings. But we won't be gone long. We're just going to see Bran graduate, and then we'll all be home again.

Celie: Bran, too?

Queen: Bran, too. He will be the new Royal Wizard when we return.

King: Come on then, Celia-Delia. My turn for a hug.

Celie: I still want to go.

King: Not this time, sweetheart. When you are older I will take you to Sleyne City to see all the sights.

Celie: I could see the sights now, with you and Mummy and Bran.

King: not this time. Besides, the Castle needs you. I wouldn't want to make it angry by taking you away too long.

Celie: Oh, pooh.

Rolf: Besides, somebody's got to keep me in line.

Lilah: Don't worry, Mother. I'll look after both of them.

Narrator: Their parents enter the royal carriage and wave goodbye as the horses move through the royal gates and down the long road toward Sleyne City. They wave until the luggage cart and the ranks of soldiers on horseback block them from view.

Lilah: All right, both of you, back into the Castle. It's a bit chilly out, and I don't want you to catch cold.

Rolf: Lilah?

Lilah: Yes, dear?

Rolf: Tag! You're it!

Narrator: Rolf whacks Lilah on the arm and takes off at a run. Lilah shrieks in outrage, but Celie doesn't wait to see what happens next. A game of tag could last for days in Castle Glower, and Lilah had been known to cheat.

The children pass their days in the Castle waiting eagerly for their parents return, and Celie begins to worry when they don't arrive when expected. Long days later, a few battered soldiers reach the Castle bringing word that the royal caravan was attacked on the return trip. Many soldiers were killed, and the King, Queen and new Royal Wizard are all missing and

presumed dead. The children refuse to accept that conclusion, but the royal counselors insist on holding a memorial service, inviting representatives from other kingdoms. When the emissaries arrive it quickly becomes apparent that someone is plotting to make a puppet king of Prince Rolf and take over the kingdom. The children don't know who to trust, but Celie knows they can always trust Castle Glower to protect and aid the royal family, and no one knows the Castle better than Celie. Can three children and a living castle overcome a large conspiracy and save the kingdom? Are Sleyne's rightful rulers really dead? Read Jessica Day George's *Tuesdays at the Castle* to find out.

Reviews:

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books
11/01/11

Library Media Connection 01/01/12

Horn Book 04/01/12

School Library Journal 11/01/11

Kirkus Reviews 09/15/11

Wilson's Children 10/01/12

Websites:

Bolas, Debbie. "Princess Tales: Fiction for Grades 3-5." Grab and Go Booklists.

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=njh&tg=UI&an=418557&site=novpk8-live>.

George, Jessica Day. "Jessica Day George." Author Web Page. *Goodreads.com*. Goodreads, 2013. Web. Accessed 13 March 2013.

_____. "Jessica Day George." Web. Accessed 5 March 2013.

<http://www.jessicadaygeorge.com>.

The author's website includes links to her blog, Facebook and Goodreads pages, contact information and more. A special treat is her inclusion of "Why I Wrote It" and "Inside Joke" pages for each of her books.

Tuesdays at the Castle. Book Trailers for Readers. Book trailer. Accessed 3 March 2013.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhhdjrwmlEo&feature=youtube_gdata_player.

Related Books:

Baker, E. D. *The Frog Princess*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2002.

Princess Esmeralda is far from the average princess... she's accident prone; lacks social graces, and intensely dislikes the prince her mother wishes her to marry. Emma meets an enchanted frog who convinces her to break his enchantment with a kiss that misfires, turning Emma into a frog. Together the two must find a way to become human once more.

Coombs, Kate. *The Runaway Princess*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006.

Fifteen-year-old Princess Meg uses magic and her wits to rescue a baby dragon and escape the unwanted attentions of princes hoping to gain her hand in marriage through a contest arranged by her father, the king.

Hale, Shannon. *Princess Academy*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2005.

Miri is fourteen when she leaves her mountain village along with several other girls to attend a school for potential princesses where Miri finds her unexpected talent and discovers new connections to her homeland.

Healy, Christopher. *The Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom*. New York: Walden Pond, 2012.

The princes from four familiar fairy tales feel slighted in their stories... no one even knows their names, they are simply Prince Charming; and "happily ever after" isn't so happy, so when a wicked witch threatens everyone's safety, they set out to make their mark on the story world by saving the kingdom.

Levine, Gail Carson. *Ella Enchanted*. New York: HarperCollins, 1997.

At her christening, Princess Ella is gifted with an enchantment that assures she will always be obedient. The gift becomes a curse that threatens Ella, her friends, and her kingdom.

Lowry, Lois. *The Birthday Ball*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2010.

On her sixteenth birthday Princess Patricia Priscilla must choose a husband from the guests at her birthday ball. Dreading the decision, she disguises herself as a commoner and attends the village school for a week, where she discovers that a prince does not necessarily have royal blood lines.

Others Books by Jessica Day George:

George, Jessica Day. *Dragon Flight*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2008.

_____. *Dragon Slippers*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2007.

_____. *Dragon Spear*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2009.

_____. *Princess of Glass*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2011.

_____. *Princess of the Midnight Ball*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2009.

_____. *Princess of the Silver Woods*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2012.

_____. *Sun and Moon, Ice and Snow*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2008.

Awards and Honors for *Tuesdays at the Castle*:

Beehive Book Award Nominee, 2013-2014.

Georgia Children's Book Award Nominees 2013-2014: Grades 4-6

Kansas William Allen White Children's Book Award Nominees 2013-2014: Grades 3-5

New Hampshire Great Stone Face Children's Book Award Nominees 2012-2013

Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Program Master List, 2012-2013.

Won-Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku
By Lee Wardlaw

Wardlaw, Lee. *Won-Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku*. Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin. New York: Henry Holt, 2011. Unpaged with color illustrations. Gr. 2-5

Annotation:

A homeless cat describes life at the shelter, is adopted by a good family, and settles in with them, all the while letting them know who is boss and learning to trust and love.

Booktalk:

Won-Ton, or so a boy calls him, is a shelter cat at the beginning of this story told entirely in haiku. As cats will sometimes do, he feigns indifference during visiting time at the shelter, but of course, he secretly wants someone to take him home... someone who will scratch his chin just right. Finally, the right boy arrives, and the cat thinks:

“No rush. I’ve got plans,
gnaw this paw, nip that flea, and
wish, please boy, pick me.”

When the boy chooses him, the cat does not like the car ride but survives and arrives safely at his new home. He hides for a while, silently checking the place out. The boy meanwhile tries to decide on a name for his new pet and finally settles on Won-Ton. Won-Ton eventually makes himself comfortable doing what cats do, jumping and running, knocking over lamps and such, and occasionally depositing unpleasant messes in undesired places like shoes.

The illustrations are perfect for the text, descriptive and bold, enhancing the story. Read Lee Wardlaw’s *Won-Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku* to discover how a boy and a stubborn cat learn to love each other.

Reviews:

Booklist, February 1, 2011
Horn Book Guide, Fall, 2011
Horn Book Magazine, 2011
School Library Journal, February, 2011
Kirkus Reviews, January 1, 2011
Publishers Weekly, December 6, 2010
Wall Street Journal, February 11, 2011

Chicago Tribune, February 28, 2011

Websites:

karey 2012. "Won-Ton Book Trailer." Online video clip. *YouTube*. YouTube, 4 July 2012. Web. Accessed 11 March 2012. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLSQivecOuM>.

LaTulippe, Renee. "Selections from Won-Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku by Lee Wardlaw." Online video clip. *YouTube*. YouTube, 26 April 2012. Web. Accessed 11 March 2012. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJ1pvHkVoV0>.

Wardlaw, Lee. "Lee Wardlaw Home Page." Web. np, nd. Accessed 12 March 2013. <http://www.leewardlaw.com/>.

_____. "Won-Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku." Web page. *Lee Wardlaw: My Books*. Np, nd. Web. Accessed 12 March 2013. <http://leewardlaw.com/Won-Ton-A-Cat-Tale-Told-in-Haiku.htm>. Includes links to a teacher's guide, kitty litter cake recipe and more.

Yelchin, Eugene. "About." Web page. *Eugene Yelchin*. np, 2013. Accessed 12 March 2013. <http://www.eugeneyelchinbooks.com/about.php>.

Awards and Honors for *Won-Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku*:

2012-2014 Recommended Reading List, Nevada Library Association
2013-2014 Young Hoosier (Indiana) Book Award Nominee
2013-14 Grand Canyon (Arizona) Young Reader Award Nominee
2013-14 North Carolina Children's Choice Nominee
2013-14 Kentucky Bluegrass Award Nominee
2013-14 Beehive (Utah) Poetry Book Award Nominee
2013-14 Chickadee (Maine) Reader's Choice Award Nominee
2013-14 Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award Nominee
2013-14 Rhode Island Children's Book Award Nominee
2012-2013 Armadillo (Texas) Children's Choice Nominee
2012-2013 Abilene (Texas) Mockingbird Award Nominee
2012-2013 Keller (Texas) Chuckwagon Picture Book Reading List
2012 California Readers/California Collections Book
2012-2013 Red Dot Children's Choice Award Nominee (Singapore)
2012 SCBWI Crystal Kite Members' Choice Award
2012 Myra Cohn Livingston Children's Poetry Award
2012 Lee Bennett Hopkins Children's Poetry Award
2012 CCBC Best Children's Books of the Year
2012 ALSC Notable Children's Books
2012 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children - Finalist
2012 Sakura Award (Japanese Children's Choice Award) - Finalist
2012 San Francisco Book Festival Award – Best Children's Book
2012 Los Angeles Book Festival Award – Best Children's Book
2011-12 AISLE (Indiana) Read-Alouds Too Good to Miss List

2011 *School Library Journal* Best Books of the Year
2011 *Washington Post* Best Books of the Year
2011 Cat Writers' Association Muse Medallion (Best Children's Book)
2011 Fancy Feast Best Friends Award (Best Children's Book)
2011 Forward National Literature Award (Best Picture Book)
2011 NYPL 100 Books for Reading and Sharing
2011 Best Books of the Year – Poetry
2011 Society of Illustrators Original Art Exhibition

Related books:

Clement, Andrew. *Dogku*. Illustrated by Tim Bower. New York: Atheneum, 2007.

Haiku tells the tale / of a lonely little dog / looking for a home.

Prelutsky, Jack. *If Not for the Cat*. Illustrated by Ted Rand. New York: Greenwillow, 2004.

Each creature asks you / to read and guess, "Who am I?" / Art shows the answers.

Reibstein, Mark. *Wabi Sabi*. Illustrated by Ed Young. New York: Little, Brown, 2008.

Little cat seeking / for his identity finds / peace and harmony.

Other Books by Lee Wardlaw:

_____. *101 Ways to Bug Your Friends and Enemies*. New York: Viking, 2011.

_____. *101 Ways to Bug Your Parents*. New York: Viking, 1996.

_____. *101 Ways to Bug Your Teacher*. New York: Viking, 2004.

_____. *Operation Rhinoceros*. Illustrated by Deborah Stouffer. Pasadena, CA: Red Hen Press, 1992.

_____. *Red, White and Boom!* Illustrated by Huy Voun Lee. New York: Henry Holt, 2012.

Other books by Eugene Yelchin:

Gerber, Carol. *Seeds, Bees, Butterflies and More! Poems for Two Voices*. Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin. New York: Henry Holt, 2013.

Joose, Barbara. *Dog Parade*. Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin. New York: Harcourt, 2011.

Kuryla, Mary. *The Next Door Bear*. Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin. New York: HarperCollins, 2011.

_____. *Ghost Files: The Haunting Truth*. Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin. New York: HarperCollins, 2008

_____. *Heart of a Snowman*. Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin. New York: HarperCollins, 2009.

Stamper, Ann Redisch. *The Rooster Prince of Breslov*. Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin. New York: Clarion, 2010.

- Faroodi, Musharraf Ali. *The Cobbler's Holiday: Or Why Ants Don't Wear Shoes*. Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin. New York: Roaring Brook, 2008.
- Fleming, Candace. *Seven Hungry Babies*. Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin. New York: Atheneum, 2010.
- Beaumont, Karen. *Who Ate All the Cookie Dough?* Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin. New York: Henry Holt, 2008.
- Hodgman, Ann. *The House of a Million Pets*. Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin. New York: Henry Holt, 2007.
- Yelchin, Eugene. *Breaking Stalin's Nose*. New York: Henry Holt, 2011. 2012 Newbery Honor Book.

You'll Like It Here (Everybody Does)

By Ruth White

White, Ruth. *You'll Like It Here (Everybody Does)*. New York: Delacorte, 2011.

Annotation:

Twelve-year-old Meggie Blue and her family must flee their sleepy North Carolina town when a mob breaks into their home looking for aliens; but there is not enough time to program the "Chariot" properly, and they find themselves on a strange, dangerous alternative Earth.

Booktalk:

Meggie Blue and her family are not quite like their neighbors in their small North Carolina town. No one else has to carry a small container of hair dye in their pocket to cover the fluorescent blue streaks that appear in Meggie's mother's and brother's hair from time to time. No one else speaks in strange, unearthly syllables when they are excited or upset. Meggie's family knows it's time to move on when the townsfolk begin to murmur about aliens in their community, for they **are** the aliens. They came to earth from the dying planet Chroma and wish only to live in peace and safety. Mom and Grandfather hustle everyone into a strange vehicle in the spare bedroom and prepare the Chariot," as they call it, for take-off. But before they can complete the programming, townspeople break into the room and Mom is forced to hit the ignition. The family is catapulted through time and space to find themselves in a forest very like those on Earth. Quick calculations lead the Blues to realize they are in another dimension on an alternate Earth. They make their way out of the woods to a large town where they are assured, "You'll like it here... everyone does." The family upstairs befriends them and helps them settle in, but the Blues quickly discover there is something very wrong in their new home. Fashion City is a place where children are visited and threatened by legal authorities if they don't do all their school assignments, where adults are assigned boring jobs that they must work seven days a week, where citizens take daily pills that keep them calm and happy, and where the elderly are sent on "vacations" from which they never return. The Blues plan to escape the city, but before they can leave Grandfather is taken and forced to go on "vacation." Their only hope is to convince their new friends to help them find Grandfather and leave Fashion City forever. Can they possibly succeed? Or is it too late? Read *You'll Like It Here (Everybody Does)* by Ruth White. You'll like it... Everyone does!

Readers' Theater Monologue:

Ruth White's science fiction novel *You'll Like It Here (Everybody Does)* opens with twelve-year-old Meggie Blue telling her own backstory:

When I was in the third grade on the California coast, a crazy man came into my classroom one day and started waving a knife around. He said he was an alien hunter. He had a purple blotch on his face that was shaped exactly like Mexico, and his eyes were wild. Help came before he could hurt anybody, but he left scars all the same.

I was so petrified I don't remember a thing after that, until I saw Gramps holding out his arms to me. He lifted me from the couch in the principal's office, where I lay curled up, and held me close. He smelled like freshly baked bread.

And that was the day my nightmares started.

At the end of that school term, Mom quit her job at the university, where she taught astronomy, and found a new one at another university, in North Carolina. A moving van carried our belongings across the country, but Mom, Gramps, my brother, David, and I spent five amazing days and nights traveling in our car, taking in the sights of America.

In North Carolina we were thrilled to pieces with our own seven-acre plot of land surrounding the farmhouse Mom had bought for us. There were apple trees and lots of blackberry bushes, a grape arbor, a weeping cherry tree, and I don't know what all.

The nightmares that started for me in the third grade eased up over the years, but at certain times I still feel like that little girl who was so scared and helpless, she wet her pants. I see things in the shadows, and when I round a corner, I halfway expect something hideous to jump out at me. I also hear noises under my bed and in my closet.

Some shrink told Mom that it's common for a person to carry a thing like this forever. That doesn't exactly make me feel any better.

Now at school a new buzz has started. You know the way things go around. One year you'll have stories about witchcraft, and who might be a witch and who might be a vampire or a werewolf. One year there's a ghost in somebody's house, or at one of the umpteen cemeteries in our little town. Everybody has a hair-raising story to tell you at lunch break. And this year, wouldn't you know? It's UFOs.

"There are aliens among us," the kids whisper, because teachers don't want to hear junk like that.

"They are here to take over the earth."

"If we don't get them first, they'll get us."

My very best friend is Kitty--short for Kathryn--Singer, a tiny, sparkly African American girl who always wears purple. I love her to pieces, but I gotta tell you she has an imagination that won't quit. Maybe it's because both her parents are librarians, and the whole family reads tons of stories, sci-fi and otherwise. They also watch every movie that comes along, no matter how far-out.

On a golden Saturday in May, Kitty and I are picking strawberries from our patch when she says to me, "Did you know the aliens come in the middle of the night when you're sleeping, and suck your soul out through your big toe? Then you

become one of them, and you don't even know it. You go on living regular until one day they make you do evil things."

"Suck out your soul through your big toe? Kitty, you've been watching way too much sci-fi."

The Blues know they must leave their home as the alien talk continues and grows, for they **are** the aliens everyone fears. They had fled their dying planet, Chroma, many years before in hopes of finding peace and safety on Earth. They prepare to leave, but an angry mob breaks into their house, forcing them to start the "Chariot" before Mother and Grandfather can finish programming it. They hurtle through time and space to another dimension, another Earth, where they find a haven in Fashion City. It seems ideal... the Blues are provided with a home, neighbors, school, jobs, everything they need, all courtesy of the Fathers. But it soon becomes apparent that there are secrets in Fashion City, secrets the Fathers will do anything to protect. When Grandfather and several other elderly citizens are forced on "vacation," a vacation from which no one ever returns, Meggie, David and their mother must work with their new friends to find and save him, and themselves, before it's too late.

Read *You'll Like It Here (Everybody Does)* by Ruth White. You'll like it... everybody does!

Reviews:

Booklist, June 1, 2011

Kirkus, May 15, 2011

School Library Journal, July 1, 2011

Horn Book, Fall, 2011

Publisher's Weekly, June 2011

Websites:

"Ruth C. White (1942–) Biography - Personal, Addresses, Career, Honors Awards, Writings, Adaptations, Sidelights." Net Industries. Website. 2013. Accessed on 11 March 2013. <http://biography.jrank.org/pages/1968/White-Ruth-C-1942.html>

"Ruth White." Macmillan. Website. Accessed 11 March 2013. <http://us.macmillan.com/author/ruthwhite>.

Staggs, Matt. "Take Five with Ruth White, Author, *You'll Like It Here (Everybody Does)*." Random House. Website. 19 June 2012. Accessed 11 March 2013. <http://suvudu.com/2012/06/take-five-with-ruth-white-author-youll-like-it-here-everybody-does.html>.

Street, Terri. *You'll Like It Here (Everybody Does)*. YouTube. Book trailer. Accessed 9 March 2013. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8finH--xhGw>.

Related Books:

Beaty, Andrea. *Attack of the Fluffy Bunnies*. New York: Abrams, 2010.

When the Rockman twins are dropped off at summer camp, they expect the usual: campfires, swimming, canoeing... they never dreamed they would spend their summer defending the planet from huge, alien rabbits.

duPrau, Jeanne. *The City of Ember*. New York: Random House, 2003.

Lina Mayfield and her friend Doon suspect that there is more to the world than Ember, a city beneath the surface where both power and supplies are running out, and the two set out to discover the truth about their world and possibly save their dying city and its people.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Among the Hidden*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1998.

Luke, a third child in a future land where only two children are permitted, has spent his young life in hiding and is thrilled to find the new neighbors also have a “shadow child,” a girl named Jen who is not content to spend her life hiding from the Population Police.

Key, Alexander. *Escape to Witch Mountain*. New York: Sourcebooks (reprint), 2009.

Tony and Tia, twins with paranormal abilities, are compelled to reach Witch Mountain to be reunited with their past, their family, and to save their future.

L’Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time: 50th Anniversary Edition*. New York: Macmillan, 2012.

Meggie and Charles Wallace Murray, along with their friend Calvin, must travel across time and space on a quest to find and release their father from the evil forces that hold him captive and threaten the unit verse in this 1963 Newbery Award winning novel.

Sleator, William. *Into the Dream*. New York: Penguin (reprint), 2000.

Paul is both fascinated and terrified to discover that his friend Francine shares his recurring nightmare of a small boy in eminent danger. He suspects that it is more than just a dream and that the two friends must find and save the boy before it’s too late for them all.

Smith, Clete Barrett. *Aliens on Vacation*. New York: Hyperion, 2011.

Others Books by Ruth White:

Belle Prater's Boy. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1996.

Buttermilk Hill. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004.

Little Audrey. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008.

Memories of Summer. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000.

A Month of Sundays. . New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011.

The Search for Belle Prater. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.

Sweet Creek Holler. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1988.

Tadpole. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003.

Way Down Deep. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007.

Weeping Willow. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1992.

Awards and Honors for *You’ll Like It Here (Everybody Does)*:

Hawaii Nene Award List Nominee, 2013

Virginia Readers’ Choice Book Award Nominee, 2013-2014: Middle School