

Trials and Courage

The 2014-2015 Texas Bluebonnet Award Master ListSM

- Athlete vs. Mathlete** by W. C. Mack (Basketball, Sibling Rivalry, Realistic Fiction, Grades 3-7) 38 pages & a game
Owen has always been the athlete, and Russell has always been the brain. Sparks fly when Russell makes the 7th grade basketball team where Owen sees himself as star! The story is told in the first-person voices of twins Owen and Russell in alternating chapters.
- Counting by 7's** by Holly Goldberg Sloan (Realistic Fiction, Grief, Friendship, Grades 4-7) 47 pages & a game
Is it possible that a youngster could lose two sets of parents in the first twelve years of her life? It happened to Willow Chance. When her parents die in an accident, the multi-gifted girl is left alone and must depend on a bumbling counselor, a taxi driver, and a family of Viet Nam immigrants to save her. In the end, she becomes the Pollyanna who saves all those whose lives she touches!
- The Day the Crayons Quit** by Drew Daywalt (Crayons, Art, Fantasy, Grades 2-3) 12 pages
Duncan's Crayons are feeling abused. They are overworked and unappreciated. So, they quit. What's a young artist to do? Can they be convinced to come back?
- Dead City** by James Ponti - No literature guide included for this book
- The Expeditioners** and the **Treasure of Drowned Man's Canyon** by S. S. Taylor (Dystopian, Grades 4-7) 42 pages & a game
When famed explorer Alexander West and his wife die under mysterious circumstances, their three children follow clues in their father's map to try to locate hidden treasure. New inventions highlight the story, but its setting and history are confusing. Cursing fouls the text.
- Face Bug** by J. Patrick Lewis (Poetry Picture Book, Bugs, Photos, Cartoons, Fact and Fantasy, All Grades) 11 pages
The **Face Bug** Museum features a museum story filled with first-person punny poems penned by the fourteen featured creatures on display. Add creepy face-photos and comic cartoons of buggy museum visitors, and you're sure have some entertaining laughs.
- Flora & Ulysses** **The Illuminated Adventures** by Kate DiCamillo (Fantasy, Mixed Graphic Formats, Newbery Medal) 74 pages & a game
Flora witnesses the accident (or miracle) that turns a normal squirrel into a superhero. She mentors the nutty creature in his new role. It is filled with a multiplicity of unusual formats and merged writing techniques that sprinkle the story with changes and surprises. This one has it all!
- Lester's Dreadful Sweaters** by K. G. Campbell (Picture Book, Knitting, Sweaters, Grades 3-5) 13 pages
When a crocodile crunches Cousin Clara's cottage, Lester's family welcomes her into their home even though they are unsure where she came from. Fortunately, Cousin Clara is a quiet knitter! Unfortunately, the creations she knits for Lester are worse than dreadful. How will Lester cope?
- Liar and Spy** by Rebecca Stead (Family Problems, Adjusting to New Home, Bullying, Spying, Grades 4-7) 33 pages & a game
When Georges's father loses his job, the other dominoes in Georges's life began to follow. Georges struggles to adjust but a strange boy named Safer leads him into a dangerous adventure.
- The Lost Treasure of Tuckernuck** by Emily Fairlie (Treasure Hunt, Clues, Grades 3-7) 49 pages & a game
Laurie Madison and Bud Wallace are on gerbil duty in their ancient school when they accidentally stumble onto the first clue to a lost treasure hidden 80 years earlier by the first principal. Will they be able to decipher the clues before their nosy classmate does? An exciting treasure hunt!
- Monsieur Marceau: Actor Without Words** by Leda Schubert (Biography of Marcel Marceau, Mime, All Grades) 7 pages
The world's most famous mime, Marcel Marceau, comes to life in this picture book biography by Leda Schubert. As you read about his physical humor without words, you will see his connection to history as his family faced the Nazi invasion of France and he joined the French Resistance.
- Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: One Dead Spy** by Nathan Hale - Literature guide not included for this book
- The Neptune Project** by Polly Holyoke (Science Fiction, Futuristic Dystopian Adventure, Grades 4+) 54 pages & a game
In the midst of suffocating heat, food shortages, and government oppression, Nere is concerned with her worsening shortness of breath and weak eyes. She is only comfortable when she is swimming with the dolphins. News that the government plans to move inland is devastating. She will soon discover that she is one of several kids who were genetically altered before birth to be able to survive under the ocean. Even with the help of the dolphins, her future is daunting.
- Odette's Secrets** by Maryann Macdonald (Holocaust, Nazi Invasion of France, Grades 3+) 39 pages & a game
Based closely on the real Odette's notes, this story of a young Jewish girl's life during the horrific Nazi invasion France, puts a new face on World War II. As Nazis troops begin to sweep Paris, destroying Jewish businesses and shipping Jewish families to concentration camps, the plans of the French Underground to hide Odette and hurry her to the countryside kick into gear. Riveting!

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- Pickle** (Formerly) Anonymous Prank Club of Fountain Point Middle School by Kim Baker 31 pages & a game
(Realistic School Fiction, Practical Jokes, School Club, Grades 4-8)
The multiethnic secret agents in **Pickle** will lead you through the halls of school, making you laugh and want to jump in with them as they use their creativity to design new and different ways to make people jump, roll, and even bubble. In the end, they will learn the most about friendship and which lines can't be crossed, but other growth will happen as well.
- Platypus Police Squad** by Jarrett Krosoczka (A Dragnet Satire, Police Mystery, Grades 4+) 42 pages & a game
This funny police parody revives the popular 1950s television show, DRAGNET while leading readers on a hysterical romp with anthropomorphic characters. Illustrated pages help readers to get the picture and try to catch the perp. A cleverly done mystery, just for fun! Then, when you're done, read it to your grandparents for their rolling on the floor laughing response!
- Rebel McKenzie** by Candice Ransom (Trailer Park Life, Paleontology Camp, Beauty Pageant, Grades 3-7) 35 pages & a game
More than anything, Rebel McKenzie wants to go to the "Ice Age Kids' Dig and Safari," but her hopes melt down when the refrigerator goes on the fritz. What's a girl with dreams of becoming a paleontologist to do but to run away? Later, when she's chosen by her adult sister to babysit for her 7-year-old son, life gets more complicated. One of the funniest books ever!
- Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin** by Liesl Shurtliff (Fairy Tale, Grades 3+) 47 pages & a game
Rumpelstiltskin has probably never been your favorite fairy tale character, but then, you've never read his TRUE story! Like most life stories, it all begins when he was born. Unfortunately, his mother dies just before she could give him his whole name. She only says, "Your name is Rump ...". Then she died (bummer), and wouldn't you know it? The baby got stuck with the name. True to the story, the elaboration is pure gold! It will be your kids' favorite!
- Spy Camp** by Stuart Gibbs (CIA Kids Camp, Espionage, Terrorists, Grades 4+) 60 pages & a game
After the death of a Spy School trainee, Ben Ripley was appointed to fill his spot in the CIA Academy of Espionage. It wasn't long before the evil terrorist organization, SPYDER put a target on the new recruit. Ben's plan for a carefree summer was cut short in a meeting with the principal who was a few neurons short of a brain. He informed Ben that all Spy School students were required to attend summer school ... in a wilderness environment ... called "The Happy Trails Sleepaway Camp for Boys and Girls," a name they hoped SPYDER wouldn't recognize. The story is tense, fast-moving, and funny! It's one of our favorite books for grades 4+.
- The Year of the Book** by Andrea Cheng (Friendship, Favorite Books, Crafts, Multicultural, Grades 2-4) 34 pages & a game
Anna Wang loves to read. Her favorite books are probably some of yours, too. She has found that books are more dependable than friends. How will Anna discover friendship has just as many possibilities?



The 2014-2015 Kids' Wings Awards



- Double Dribble, Athlete vs. Mathlete, Book 2** by W. C. Mack (Basketball, Identical and Fraternal Twins) 31 pages & a game
Owen and Russell are back for the next exciting game. This time it's complicated by a new set of twins (this time identical) joining their team.
- Splendors & Glooms** by Laura Amy Schlitz (Medieval tale, Newbery Honor Book for 2013, Grades 5+) 60 pages & a game
Two stories are woven into a unique dark Gothic tale complete with pure Good and pure Bad fairytale-like characters, magic, Christian faith vs. witchcraft, a journey, and universal truths like forgiveness, generosity, and transformation. Don't let the first chapter turn you off! It's great!
- SPY!** by Anna Myers (Historical Fiction, Biography of Nathan Hale, Revolutionary War, Grades 5+) 26 pages & a game
America was only thirteen colonies when schoolmaster Nathan Hale joined the colonial militia. The powerful story of his life and death is told through the eyes of one of his students.
- Three Times Lucky** by Sheila Turnage (Murder Mystery, Humor, A 2013 Newbery Honor Book, Grades 4+) 60 pages & a game
An orphan, kidnapping, murder, and mayhem are glued together with engagingly fishy characters, hysterical dialog, a captivating plot, profoundly important subplots, and the most fascinating, unique figures of speech ever painted into one great book. One of the best ever!