What is the Children’s Choices project?

Each year 10,000 school children from different regions of the United States read and vote on the newly published children’s and young adults’ trade books that they like best. The Children’s Choices for 1998 list is the 24th in a series that first appeared as “Classroom Choices” in the November 1975 issue of The Reading Teacher (RT), a peer-reviewed journal for preschool, primary, and elementary levels published eight times a year by the International Reading Association (IRA). This list is designed for use not only by teachers, librarians, administrators, and booksellers, but also by parents, grandparents, caregivers, and everyone who wishes to encourage young people to read for pleasure.

Children’s Choices is a project of a joint committee supported by IRA and The Children’s Book Council (CBC). IRA is a nonprofit educational organization whose members include classroom and reading teachers, school administrators and supervisors, parents, college/university faculty, and others who are dedicated to improving reading instruction and promoting literacy worldwide. CBC is a nonprofit organization encouraging the use and enjoyment of books and related literacy materials for young people. Its members are U.S. publishers and packagers of trade books for children and young adults, and producers of book-related materials for children.

In 1969, IRA and CBC formed a liaison committee to explore areas of mutual interest to reading teachers and publishers. Among the committee’s initial charges was the development of “a core selection of trade books for the classroom” (1973–74). This list of Children’s Choices has remained an important activity of the committee, which each year produces this child-selected bibliography identifying titles that can be used successfully in reading programs, can be related to the classroom curriculum, and are known to engage children.

How are books selected and annotated?

More than 700 books were evaluated by children for Children’s Choices for 1998. The books to be tested were selected by publishers from the books they published in 1997 and were sent to five review teams located in different regions of the United States. Each team consisted of a children’s literature specialist plus one or more classroom teachers who in turn worked with other classroom teachers, school librarians, and 2,000 children. Throughout the school year the books were in classrooms, being read to or by children.

Children’s votes were tabulated in March, and the top 101 titles for 1998 were announced at the annual International Reading Association Convention in May. The review teams provided an annotation for each title on the list.

What bibliographic information is provided?

Books selected for the Children’s Choices list have been grouped by reading levels:

- Beginning readers (ages 5–6)
- Young readers (ages 6–8)
- Intermediate readers (ages 8–10)
- Advanced readers (ages 10–13)
Users should note that many books read easily by beginning readers are also enjoyed by more advanced readers, and many titles for advanced readers are accessible to intermediate and younger readers or can be read aloud in the classroom.

The title, author, illustrator, publisher, ISBN (International Standard Book Number), and price are provided for each book as well as a brief annotation prepared by a review team. All books listed are hardcover unless otherwise noted. Prices are accurate as of late spring 1998; they are subject to change without notice. These abbreviations are provided for easy reference:

- **Ill. by** illustrator of the book
- **Pb.** a paperback book
- **ISBN** The International Standard Book Number that identifies books and facilitates purchasing titles from bookstores, wholesalers, or publishers
- **(library)** the ISBN, followed by the price, for the library edition of a book
- **(trade)** the ISBN, followed by the price, for the edition of the book available from booksellers
- **pp.** page count
- **F.** paperback is forthcoming but not yet available

All books on this list should be available through your local library or a local bookseller.

### Beginning readers

#### Big Red Fire Truck
Ken Wilson-Max. Ill. by the author. *See what happens when the big red fire truck gets called into action. Children will delight in manipulating and interacting with this pop-up book.* (Team 2)


#### Clifford’s First Autumn
Norman Bridwell. Ill. by the author. *Puppy-sized Clifford and Emily Elizabeth romp through Clifford’s first autumn and enjoy all the traditional autumn experiences from falling leaves to football.* (Team 3)


#### Copy Cat
John Mole. Ill. by Bee Willey. *One morning Oliver finds a strange cat sitting at the bottom of his bed. After the cat begins mimicking his every move, Oliver turns the tables. Bold, full-page illustrations and simple, predictable text are just right for young readers.* (Team 4)


#### Counting Crocodiles
Judy Sierra. Ill. by Will Hillenbrand. *Poor Monkey is tired of eating sour lemons and longs for the bananas on a distant island. Unfortunately a sea full of crocodiles is in her way until she tricks them into making a bridge for her to cross.* (Team 3)


#### Daisy Is a Mommy
Lisa Kopper. Ill. by the author. *Adorable illustrations paint the picture of two mothers who devote their time to the care and comfort of their children. Daisy’s day as a mother to three puppies parallels Mommy’s day as a mother to one human baby girl.* (Team 4)


#### From Head to Toe
Eric Carle. Ill. by the author. *Children can actually “move” through this book, learning about body parts and action words from colorful animals and their young human imitators.* (Team 3)


#### Hands
Lois Ehlert. Ill. with photographs. *A three-dimensional book with colorful illustrations tells how a mother’s,
father’s, and child’s hands help them
do and make things. Children will
especially enjoy how the book is
shaped like a hand. (Team 2)


Little Green Tow Truck
Ken Wilson-Max. Ill. by the author.
The little green tow truck saves the
day for a stranded convertible. This
pop-up book will fascinate children
and adults with lively interaction.
(Team 3)


Martha Counts Her Kittens
Mike Walsh. Ill. by the author.
In this interactive counting book, chil-
dren lift flaps to help Martha, a moth-
er cat, search for her five kittens. The
story’s conclusion showing the five
kittens popping off the page will de-
light beginning readers. (Team 4)


Max’s Wacky Taxi Day
Max Grover. Ill. by the author.
This book of visual and verbal puns
is the story of Max’s day as a taxicab
driver delivering passengers around
the city. The author has created col-
lorful illustrations that depict cultur-
al diversity. (Team 2)

(trade). US$15.00.

Young readers

Alice and Greta
Steven J. Simmons. Ill. by Cyd Moore.
Alice and Greta are two little witch-
es with very different outlooks.
Happy colorful Alice enjoys helping
others. Dark gloomy Greta enjoys
bringing misery. Students immedi-
ately related to Alice and decided
life is happier for her. (Team 2)

Charlesbridge. 32 pp. ISBN 0-88106-974-4
(trade). US$15.95.

Alligator Baby
Robert Munsch. Ill. by Michael
Marchenko.

Kristen’s baby brother is accidental-
ly born in a zoo. Mom and Dad bring
home a variety of critters, until
Kristen takes control of the situation
and brings home her baby brother.
(Team 1)

US$10.95.

Beardream
Will Hobbs. Ill. by Jill Kastner.
In this mystical story, a Native
American boy dreams of the Great
Bear who teaches him how bears cel-
brate the end of winter. Full-page
oil paintings capture the beauty of
the mountain landscape. (Team 4)

Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 32 pp.

Bearobics
Vic Parker. Ill. by Emily Bolam.
Colorful illustrations and action
rhymes make counting more than
just an exercise. Animals from the
jungle join together for bearobics.
Children will enjoy snapping their
fingers and tapping their toes in this
hip-hop counting story. (Team 2)

Viking Children’s Books. 32 pp. ISBN 0-670-

Birdsong
Audrey Wood. Ill. by Robert Florczak.
Children listen to the native sounds
of “birdsong” across the country as
they participate in their own daily ac-
tivities. Realistic pictures show birds
in their native habitat. (Team 1)

(trade). US$15.00.

The Bootmaker and the Elves
Susan Lowell. Ill. by Tom Curry.
This is a rollicking, rootin’-tootin’
retelling of the traditional folk tale,
“The Shoemaker and the Elves.”
Lowell’s colorful characters and
language captivate and tickle chil-
dren (and adults) who marvel at the
A Box Can Be Many Things by Dana Meachen Rau. Ill. by Paige Billin-Frye.

A brother and sister use their imaginations to play with a large box their mother has thrown away. Young readers will be inspired to follow suit and create their own special fantasies. (Team 4)

Burnt Toast on Davenport Street by Tim Egan. Ill. by the author.

Arthur and Stella Crandall never imagined that a magic fly could turn toastiers into squirrels, crocodiles into toasters, and transport them to an exotic tropical island. Detailed watercolor illustrations humorously depict the dogs’ adventure. (Team 4)

Butterflies (First Discovery Series) by Claude Delafosse and Gallimard Jeunesse. Ill. by Scholastic, Inc.

Butterflies represents Scholastic’s newest addition to their First Discovery Series. Children delight in using this book’s combination of sturdy, glossy pages and transparent overlays to learn about the life cycle of their favorite insect. (Team 2)


A clay boy comes to life and begins to eat everything and everyone in sight, destroying the village around him. However, his greed soon comes to an end, as he meets his match in a little goat. (Team 4)

Clay Boy—Cock-a-doodle-doo by Steve Lavis. Ill. by the author.

Simple vocabulary and friendly, animated pictures make this an appealing counting book for younger children. And do those farm animals ever make some noise! Group readings will most likely bring the barn down. (Team 5)

Dinosaur Roar! by Paul and Henrietta Stickland. Ill. by the authors.

Colorful dinosaurs help illustrate adjectives and opposites as they romp through the pages toward their lunch. A great read-aloud book that lends itself to active participation as the children act out the descriptions of the dinosaurs. (Team 2)

Dinosaurs Are Back, and It’s All Your Fault, Edward! by Wendy Harman. Ill. by Niki Daly.

Edward’s brother tries to frighten him with a wildly imaginative “what if” story about the rock under his bed really being a dinosaur egg, but clever Edward turns the table on him in the end. (Team 3)

Don’t Laugh, Joe! by Keiko Kasza. Ill. by the author.

Playing dead is an important lesson Joe Possum can learn from his mother. This lesson is all fun and games until Joe meets up with a grumpy old bear. Joe plays dead perfectly and proves he learned his lesson. (Team 2)

The Dumb Bunnies Go to the Zoo by Sue Denim. Ill. by Dav Pilkey.

The Dumb Bunnies take a trip to the zoo to see paintings and sculptures and great works of art. They release the animals in the zoo after mistaking a butterfly for a lion. Children will laugh at the “dumb” mistakes. (Team 1)

Engelbert Joins the Circus by Tom Paxton. Ill. by Roberta Wilson.

A beautifully illustrated rhyming story tells of Engelbert’s journey across the ocean to join his cousin Edgar in the circus. Engelbert’s performance is the hit of the circus. (Team 1)

Frogs (First Discovery Series) by Claude Delafosse. Ill. by Scholastic, Inc.

Turn the transparent overlays of this nonfiction book and you will discover wonderful surprises and a world of information presented in unique format. (Team 3)

The Gingerbread Boy by Richard Egielski. Ill. by the author.

Instead of running through the countryside, this Gingerbread Boy is chased through a busy city by a rat and a variety of people until he meets a fox who offers to carry him across a lake. (Team 3)

Gus and Grandpa by Claudia Mills. Ill. by Catherine Stock.

Three stories illustrate the closeness of a boy to his grandfather. Simple, straightforward, and touching, they
strike a chord in the hearts of young and old alike. (Team 5)

The Halloween House
Erica Silverman. Ill. by Jon Agee.  
Rhyme based on the familiar “Over in the Meadow” describes the inside of a house chosen by two escaped convicts to hide in. Inhabitants of the house include werewolves, vampires, worms, bats, ghosts, monsters, and more Halloween characters. (Team 1)

I Wish My Brother Was a Dog
Carol Diggory Shields. Ill. by Paul Meisel.  
A baby brother can be such a pain; wouldn’t it be nice if he were a dog instead? Wouldn’t it? Deals with feelings all older siblings experience at times, even the realization that the baby is really OK. (Team 5)

Is That You, Winter?
Stephen Gammell. Ill. by the author.  
Old Man Winter’s mood changes from bad to good when after a hard day’s work he’s reminded of who he does it for. The illustrations are frosty and inviting, a great book to drink hot chocolate with, anytime! (Team 5)

Is There Room on the Feather Bed?
Libba Moore Gray. Ill. by Nadine Bernard Westcott.  
Yes, until the skunk comes in. The book is colorfully illustrated and invitingly repetitive. Children agree that it’s only fair for all of the animals to be included. (Team 5).

Just Another Ordinary Day
Rod Clement. Ill. by the author.  
Carpooling with a tyrannosaurus, doing science experiments with a bug, visiting with an alien, and playing with her pet lion is “just another ordinary day” for Amanda. Outrageous illustrations enhance the “ordinary” text. (Team 4)

Ketchup on Your Cornflakes? A Wacky Mix and Match Book
Nick Sharrat. Ill. by the author.  
Flip the split pages of this book to discover delicious treats or delightfully silly food combinations guaranteed to tickle the funny bone. (Team 3)

Look to the North: A Wolf Pup Diary
Jean Craighead George. Ill. by Lucia Washburn.  
A beautifully illustrated nonfiction account of the first 10 months of a wolf pup’s life. Craighead George associates nature’s events with the growth and development of the wolf pup as the seasons pass. (Team 1)  

Miss Spider’s New Car
David Kirk. Ill. by the author.  
Luscious, captivating illustrations accentuate the rich, vivid verse that describes Miss Spider’s search for the perfect means of transportation. Children will want to reread for nuances. (Team 5)

Moosetache
Margie Palatini. Ill. by Henry Cole.
Moose has a prickly problem—his long unruly moosetache. He tries various strategies to manage all this hair, including clipping, braiding, and wrapping. However, nothing
works until he meets a female moose with the perfect solution, a jar of glue. (Team 4)

My Dog Never Says Please
Suzanne Williams. Ill. by Tedd Arnold.
A humorous account of a girl’s longing for the carefree, mannerless life of her dog. Sometimes things aren’t what they’re cracked up to be, and kids will crack up over the lively banter. (Team 5)

My Life With the Wave
Catherine Cowan, based on a story by Octavio Paz. Ill. by Mark Buehner.
While playing at the seashore, a boy befriends a wave and brings her home with him, hidden in the water cooler. His family finds having a wave in their home an interesting experience. (Team 1)

The Old Woman Who Loved to Read
John Winch. Ill. by the author.
An old woman moves to the country so that she can have more time to read, only to find out that there are many chores to be done, and little time for reading. (Team 1)

Open Me...I’m a Dog!
Art Spiegelman. Ill. by the author.
Fantastical, engaging transformation story with a witch, a magic maiden, a wizard, and a special plea at the end. The humor is offbeat and appealing, just the kind of mutt that’s hardest to resist. (Team 5)

A Pinky Is a Baby Mouse and Other Baby Animal Names
Pam Munoz Ryan. Ill. by Diane de Groat.
Rhyming text is used in this realistically illustrated book that introduces children to the names of baby animals. Children will enjoy answering the riddle for the new baby on each page. (Team 1)

Puppy Love
Dick King-Smith. Ill. by Anita Jeram.
If there’s one thing that goes with kids it’s puppies. This book explains puppies and their care in simple terms, emphasizing their lovable qualities, and sharing personal stories of puppy love. (Team 5)

Rockin’ Reptiles
Stephanie Calmenson and Joanna Cole. Ill. by Lynn Munsinger.
As part of the Gator Girls stories, this book captures the delights and difficulties of friendship. Younger children will enjoy reading this chapter book with large type and brief chapters. (Team 2)

Tangle Town
Kurt Cyrus. Ill. by the author.
Mayhem and misunderstandings abound on a typical day in Tangle Town. Fortunately, Roxy’s come to town to find her cow and restore a little order in the meantime. Kids love the zany story and captivating pictures. (Team 5)

Three Stories You Can Read to Your Cat
Sara Swan Miller. Ill. by True Kelley.
Stories not just for cats, but also for cat lovers. They capture the elusive attitude that is a cat. Children, perhaps, will find they have more in common with the cat than with the doting owner. (Team 5)
**Twinnies**
Eve Bunting. Ill. by Nancy Carpenter.
*Having a new baby in the family can be a hassle, but having two can be truly overwhelming. Older siblings will recognize the combination of jealousy, frustration, and protective love inspired in this older sister.* (Team 5)

**Verdi**
Janell Cannon. Ill. by the author.
*An entrancing tale of a young yellow snake who never, ever wants to grow up and turn green. Ultimately, time and experience weave their magic, but children may recognize the youthful glint in Verdi’s eye as he struts his stuff.* (Team 5)

**What’s Faster Than a Speeding Cheetah?**
Robert E. Wells. Ill. by the author.
*Gives perspective to relative speeds, and takes us all the way to outer space only to lead us home. Provides comparisons in terms of units of time and charts it all at the end. Inviting format and cartoonish illustrations.* (Team 5)

**Intermediate readers**

**The Adventures of Captain Underpants: An Epic Novel**
Dav Pilkey. Ill. by the author.
*This epic adventure spells out what every kid knows: (a) good should always triumph over evil and (b) good takes the form of youngsters with mixed quality impulses and proper gadgetry! Delightfully suspenseful, crude, and funny.* (Team 5)

**Billy the Ghost and Me**
Gery Greer & Bob Ruddick. Ill. by Roger Roth.
*Sarah and her friend Billy the Ghost are hilarious in their adventure to help solve a bank robbery. Children enjoyed the humor of this book.* (Team 3)

**Buddy**
William Joyce. Ill. by the author.
*This true story, set in the 1930s, is the tale of Buddy, a gorilla who becomes part of a family. Buddy thrills readers with his adventures in New York City and as a popular attraction at the Chicago World’s Fair.* (Team 3)

**The Case of the Crooked Candles**
Jonathan V. Cann. Ill. by Jean Pidgeon.
*Children who enjoy the challenge of solving a crime can investigate a robbery along with the Detective Dog Team, the finest band of crime solvers the town of Westwood has ever seen.* (Team 4)

**Cinderella Bigfoot**
Mike Thaler. Ill. by Jared Lee.
*One of the Happily Ever Laughter series, this book is a “modification” of the traditional Cinderella story. Cinderella’s Dairy Godmother makes it possible for her to attend the ball.* (Team 1)

---

*From Tangle Town by Kurt Cyrus, illustration ©1997 by Kurt Cyrus. Used by permission of the publisher, Farrar, Straus and Giroux.*
Dribble, Shoot, Score! Introduction to NBA Basketball
Joe Layden. Ill. with photographs.
Actual photographs of real National Basketball Association players in action highlight this book as it explains and defines basketball terms. Readers will recognize the familiar NBA stars. (Team 1)

Elizabeth, Who Is Not a Saint
Kathleen C. Szaj. Ill. by Mark A. Hicks.
Elizabeth, who may not be a saint, is a great many other things. It is easy to relate to her spirited, rambunctious, yet impressionable personality. Readers will appreciate the thoughtful guidance given by Elizabeth’s grandmother. (Team 4)

Hanzel and Pretzel
Mike Thaler. Ill. by Jared Lee.
Another in the Happily Ever Laughter series about a brother and sister who get lost in the deep, dark woods and find a witch’s cottage. While being fattened up, the two children succeed in outsmarting the wicked witch. (Team 1)

Hoops
This free verse poem captures the game of basketball, from the feel of the ball to the shot that sinks perfectly through the hoop. The illustrations freeze the multiethnic teenagers in moves and jumps that depict poetry in motion. (Team 4)

I Met a Dinosaur
Jan Wahl. Ill. by Chris Sheban.
Is there a dinosaur at the gas station, between the electric towers, in the lake, or at the end of the kite line? After visiting the Museum of Natural History, a child sees dinosaurs in everyday places and describes them in lighthearted verse. (Team 2)

Jacob’s Collection (Publish-a-Book series)
Brian Mundt. Ill. by Karen Dugan.
Written by a fourth-grade student, the book draws a touching parallel between a young boy’s collection of today and that of his great-grandfather 100 years ago. An adventure that other children love to share. (Team 5)

The King’s Beard
Tish Rabe, adapted from a script by Will Ryan. Ill. by Joe Mathieu.
This rhyming book from the Wubbulous World of Dr. Seuss describes the search for the ruler of the kingdom (the king with the longest beard). Readers will enjoy the surprise the kings share and the suspicious plan of Yertle the Turtle. (Team 1)

A Knock at the Door (Publish-a-Book series)
Eric Sonderling. Ill. by Wendy Wassink Akinson.
A true story by a 12-year-old about his grandmother’s escape from a Nazi concentration camp during World War II. Haunting and compas-
sionate, the story demonstrates the human potential for cruelty as well as for kindness and hope. (Team 5)


**Lightning**

Seymour Simon. Ill. with photographs.

Beautiful photographs and informative text explore the natural phenomenon of lightning. Simon includes information on new discoveries, such as elves, jets, and sprites. (Team 1)


**Mouse’s Halloween**

Alan Baker. Ill. by the author.

This is the tale of a mouse and his mother and their adventure through a forest at dusk on Halloween night. Children loved the page cutouts. (Team 3)


**The Mystery of the Treasure Map**

(Publish-a-Book series)

Andrew Richardson. Ill. by Patrick Girouard.

Team up with Joshua and investigate a household mystery. After finding a treasure map, Joshua spends the day searching for the prize. This 11-year-old author has based his story on his own treasure hunts he’s created at home and school. (Team 4)


**NBA Action From A to Z**

James Preller. Ill. with photographs.

By traveling through the alphabet, this book will steal the reader’s attention and assist their knowledge of NBA basketball. Score two points for the action photographs and the excitement of the NBA. (Team 4)


**The Princess and the Pea-ano**

Mike Thaler. Ill. by Jared Lee.

Children are delighted by the antics of the ingenious prince as he tries to find the princess his parents will approve. Just when we think the story is over, another twist begins. Part of the Happily Ever Laughter series. (Team 2)


---


**Rattlesnake Dance: True Tales, Mysteries, and Rattlesnake Ceremonies**

Jennifer Owings Dewey. Ill. by the author.

This is the story of a 9-year-old girl who is bitten by a rattlesnake. Throughout the tale, many facts and illustrations about rattlesnakes are intermingled. (Team 3)


**Schmoe White and the Seven Dorfs**

Mike Thaler. Ill. by Jared Lee.

One of the Happily Ever Laughter series. Schmoe White finds a cottage in the woods filled with “seven little dudes” playing rock and roll. She becomes the lead singer until the wicked queen, disguised as the “Rave-on Lady,” discovers her. (Team 1)


**The Secret of the Eagle Feathers**

Maura Elizabeth Keleher McKinley. Ill. by Craig Brown.

Owanee has witnessed her grandfather’s ceremonial headdress being stolen. She sets out to find the secret that made him chief. The children enjoyed both the story and illustration. (Team 3)

Tips for parents, primary caregivers, and educators

Initial book activities

One of the easiest ways to begin telling the story of a book is through the use of illustrations. Many books for young children are illustrated in great detail, and noting important details related to the characters, plot, and setting will provide a wholesome first literacy activity.

- Set aside a regular time and place for books so that reading books becomes as natural as eating and sleeping.
- Browse through books to help the child become familiar with books and how they are handled.
- Read the story while the child points to the pictures. Adult and child can repeat interesting sounds, repetitive word patterns, and distinctive word features to the delight of both.
- Have the child tell the story using the illustrations, while the adult reinforces the telling. The two can predict outcomes, discuss how the characters feel, and relate the events to their own experiences.
- Read the book to the child and enjoy it together. Retell the story together and talk about the characters, setting, plot, and life experiences.
- Compare the similarities and differences of children’s books available as video productions.
- Have children make responses to the books read through art reproductions such as drawings, or by using clay, papier-mâché, dioramas, or fingerpaints.
- Make regular trips to the library and attend storytelling sessions. Visit bookstores together to begin a personal library for a child.

Beginning reading level activities

Children at this level should be encouraged to browse through books and pretend to read the story, an initial step toward becoming an independent reader. Children may tell the story to themselves or attempt to read frequently highlighted words.

- Read the story as the child points to the pictures on each page.
- Let the child pretend to read the story as the adult points to the pictures.
- Read alternate pages, ask each other questions, and discuss the story. The adult models what he/she thinks of when reading the page so the child gets a variety of perspectives on the ways words have different meanings.
- Use computer programs to expand a child’s interest in specific topics and to provide valuable information for later curriculum study.
- Compare and contrast video adaptations of children’s books for this and more advanced literacy levels.

A Song for Cecilia Fantini
Cynthia Astor. Ill. by Anthony Turpin. Mrs. Fantini has taught music for three generations. Em, her most talented student, loves music lessons until Mrs. Fantini’s death. She works through the grief process to get back to her love of music. (Team 3)

Trucks
Darlene Stille. Ill. with photographs. This book tells everything a child ever wanted to know about different types of trucks. Children found it very informative and exciting. (Team 3)

What’s Wrong With This Book?
Richard McGuire.
Young readers search for more than one correct answer or possibility when reading this interactive text. The unique illustrations and collages stir the imagination to view lines, shapes, and shadows from new perspectives. (Team 2)

Wild, Wet and Windy

Advanced readers

The Andalite’s Gift: Megamorphs #1
K.A. Applegate.
The Animorphs are battling the most terrifying threat to the human race ever—the Yeerks! They can use their powers to change into different animals, with risk. Children identify with the five friends in their struggle against powerful forces (Team 5)

Angela and Diabola
Lynne Reid Banks.
This darkly comic tale of friendship and sisterhood chronicles how only beautiful, perfect, loving Angela can have an effect on hateful, frightening, dreadful Diabola. Students enjoy the humor and powerful characters. (Team 2)
Chasing Redbird
Sharon Creech.

The intricacies of growing up will involve students in this book as they relate to the common emotions of puberty. Realizing others share similar quests will bond the reader and main character, Zinny. (Team 3)


The Chicago Bulls Basketball Team
Thomas S. Owens. Ill. with photographs.

Author Owens looks at the history of the Chicago Bulls basketball team. Since the Bulls are the National Basketball Association stars of the 1990s this book was especially popular with sports fans. Full of statistics and photographs, which students eagerly shared with others. (Team 2)


The Dallas Cowboys Football Team
William W. Lace. Ill. with photographs.

This historical overview of the Dallas Cowboys football team includes information on key players and important games, as well as the impact of each of the three coaches. Numerous photographs and short chapters will attract sports enthusiasts. (Team 4)


Dawn (California Diaries series #1)
Ann M. Martin. Ill. by Scholastic, Inc.

In this first of the California Diaries series, Dawn, an eighth grader, records her personal feelings and concerns in this journal. Readers will identify with Dawn as she experiences typical feelings and friendships while she explores her adolescence. (Team 1)


Discovering the Iceman
by Shelley Tanaka. Ill. by Laurie McGaw.

Text, photographs, and illustrations introduce the intriguing discovery of the iceman in the Alps of Italy. This engrossing account explores the probable events leading to his death and explains the scientific discoveries made about this fascinating human being. (Team 4)


Emily In Love
Susan Goldman Rubin.

Young teens will identify with the main character in this book as she struggles with her own handicap and, at the same time, tries to deal with the external pressures of high school. (Team 3)


How I Survived Being a Girl
Wendelin Van Draanen.

Through a chatty and humorous first-person account, 12-year-old Carolyn tells about her family, neighborhood, and school. In one crazy episode after another, she relates why she’d rather be a boy and finally why she changes her mind. (Team 4)

More About Children's Choices

Who is on the IRA–CBC Joint Committee and members of the review teams?

Cochairing the 1997–98 IRA–CBC Joint Committee were Verla Kroecker Klasson, Hiawatha Elementary School, Shoreview, Minnesota, and Andrea Davis Pinkney, Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing Division, New York, New York. Representing IRA on the committee were Minghui Cai, Anna L. Heatherly, Ellen V. Libretto, Arden Ruth Post, Marilyn Scott, and Michelle Theberge; those representing CBC were Audrey Cusson, Alida Hansen, Stephanie Lurie, Jennifer Pasanen, and Megan Tingley. CBC administrative staff coordinated the teams’ work.

The review teams described below coordinated the project at each of the following five test sites:

Team 1: Sweet Home, Oregon, consisted of seven rural elementary schools and one rural middle school. Team leader: Shari Furtwangler, Hawthorne Elementary School, Sweet Home, Oregon. Support team leaders: Allan Kopf, LaVern Hay, and Cara Furtwangler.


Team 3: West Palm Beach, Florida, consisted of three urban elementary schools and one urban middle school. Team leaders: Eileen Shapiro and Maryse P. Glaze, Palm Beach County School District, West Palm Beach, Florida. Support team leaders: Karen Abbot, Lori Neubarth, Janet Janki, and Linda Mackin.

Team 4: Fargo and Hunter, North Dakota, consisted of eight urban elementary schools, one rural elementary school, and one urban junior high school. Team leader: Carol Hanson Sibley, Moorhead State University, Moorhead, Minnesota. Support team leaders: Pat Hochgraber, Hazel Yliniemi, Jessica Olson, and Kristen Rutten.


How can I become a team leader?

Team leaders are selected by the IRA–CBC Joint Committee based upon numerous factors such as location within the U.S.; cooperation between team leaders, school administrators, and library media specialists; and ability to attend orientation sessions at the International Reading Association’s annual convention. Information about how to become a team leader is available from the Children’s Book Council, Attn: Team Leader Information, 568 Broadway, Suite 404, New York, NY 10012, USA. For additional information about this project, visit CBC’s Web site at http://www.CBCBooks.org.

How can I order copies of this list?

Offprints of this annotated 1998 (CC, TC, or YAC) list (publication #9106) are available from the International Reading Association. Single copies are US$1.00 when you send a self-addressed 9“ × 12” envelope to the attention of Department EG. To order bulk copies by phone with a credit card, call (in the U.S. and Canada only) 1-800-336-READ, ext. 266, or send order to Order Department, 800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139, Newark, DE 19714-8139, USA.

Are other booklists available?

The International Reading Association prepares two additional annual booklists. Teachers’ Choices describes approximately 30 new trade books published for children and adolescents that teachers themselves have found to be exceptional in curriculum use. The list appears each year in the November issue of the International Reading Association publication Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy and is available as a separate reprint.

Copies of either Teachers’ or Young Adults’ Choices lists are available from the International Reading Association, Attn: Dept. EG, 800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139, Newark, DE 19714-8139, USA. Prices for each annotated list are the same as those given for the Children’s Choices offprint. Prepaid orders for bulk copies should be sent Attn: Order Department at the same address. To order bulk copies by phone with a credit card, call (in the United States and Canada only) 1-800-336-READ, ext. 266.

Annual lists distributed by the Children’s Book Council (CBC) are Notable Children’s Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies, a project of the National Council for the Social Studies–CBC Joint Committee, and Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children, a project of the National Science Teachers Association–CBC Joint Committee. For a single copy of the Social Studies list or Science list, send US$2.00 and a self-addressed 6“ × 9” envelope stamped with 78¢ U.S. postage to CBC, 568 Broadway, Suite 404, New York, NY 10012, USA; Attn: Social Studies List, or Attn: Science List. Multiple copies are available for a nominal charge. Telephone: 1-212-966-1990.

Are compilations of Children’s Choices available?

The International Reading Association has also compiled several books that provide a handy reference to the most recent years of Children’s Choices and Teachers’ Choices annotations.

More Teachers’ Favorite Books for Kids: Teachers’ Choices 1994–1996 (1997) is a compilation of 3 years of Teachers’ Choices lists, with books grouped by suggested reading level. Annotations and bibliographic information are provided for each title, and indexes list books by title, author, and illustrator.

(continued)

How do publishers obtain information about submitting titles for future lists?
The Children’s Choices project is open to all U.S. publishers of children’s books. Publishers who are not members of the CBC pay a per-title administrative fee to submit books for consideration. To receive notification of the next Children’s Choices cycle, send a self-addressed 6” x 9” envelope with 78¢ U.S. postage to CBC, 568 Broadway, Suite 404, New York, NY 10012, USA, Attn: Children’s Choices Submission Procedures.

CBC welcomes publishers, large and small, to join its diverse membership. For membership information, write to CBC, 568 Broadway, Suite 404, New York, NY 10012, USA.

How can I find out more about the Children’s Book Council?
For a complete listing of CBC’s activities and publications, visit our Web site at http://www.CBCBooks.org.

Jackie Robinson: Baseball’s Civil Rights Legend
Karen Mueller Coombs. Ill. with photographs.
“A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.”—Jackie Robinson. This concise and accessible biography details with great humanity the events and personal strengths that made Jackie Robinson’s life so inspiring. (Team 5)

Jaguar
Roland Smith.
Danger, suspense, and rainforest adventure provide the backdrop for expanding a boy’s partnership with his father. The story shares a coming of age in a unique way and understates violent solutions while holding to values that include all species, and all ages. (Team 5)

Love Stories
Girls, especially, will relate to this collection of stories by ancient and modern authors from around the world. They will appreciate the peaks and valleys of falling in love. (Team 3)

Oops! The Manners Guide for Girls
Nancy Holyoke. Ill. by Debbie Tilley.
An appealing look at manners and the right thing to do in almost any situation imaginable. The format is colorful and inviting. Humor is used to draw the reader’s attention. (Team 1)

Pop-O-Mania: How to Create Your Own Pop-Ups
Barbara Valenta. Ill. by the author.
Each page of this craft book includes simple directions and examples for creating awesome pop-ups. With its bold colors and amazing paper engineering, the book will be in constant demand. (Team 4)

Roughnecks
Thomas Cochran.
A rich panorama of a dying oil town, its passion for football, and one boy who embodies all the hopes, dreams,
and history of a hardworking and rough-playing people. Captures the quixotic nature of moving through events, and on. (Team 5)


**Seedfolks**

Paul Fleischman. Woodcuts by Judy Pedersen.

*Thirteen characters from a multiethnic working class neighborhood in Cleveland tell personal stories about an ugly vacant lot that becomes a beautiful community garden. The work of planting, watering, and cultivating heals the people as well as the land. (Team 4)*


**Seuss-isms (Wise and Witty Prescriptions for Living From the Good Doctor)**

Dr. Seuss. Ill. by Dr. Seuss.

Seuss-isms is a fun collection of excerpts from some of Dr. Seuss’s most popular works. These short quotes stimulate thought and reflection in older students while entertaining all ages. Children were attracted to the compactness and many familiar illustrations. (Team 2)


**Snowboarding**

Larry Dane Brimner. Ill. with photographs.

*This book traces the history of snowboarding, describes equipment and basic techniques, and discusses the safety issues and competitive aspects of the sport. Students eagerly read this short book because snowboarding has become more popular. (Team 2)*


**Snowboarding: A Complete Guide for Beginners**

George Sullivan. Ill. with photographs.

*A complete instruction book to guide beginners in the basic equipment and skills needed to be successful in the sport of snowboarding. Colorful action photographs complete this book. (Team 1)*


**Sports Great Muggsy Bogues**

George Rekela. Ill. with photographs.

*Children will immediately relate to the background of the character and will identify with both the societal and natural obstacles. Basketball fans will truly appreciate the detailed descriptions of individual games. (Team 3)*


**Super Slumber Parties**

Brooks Whitney. Ill. by Nadine Bernard Westcott.

*From eye-catching invitations to mouth-watering snacks, fantastic theme nights to sleepover souvenirs, this book has everything to create one super slumber party. Readers are sure to learn all the secrets to hosting the perfect sleepover. (Team 4)*


**Top 10 Baseball Home Run Hitters**

Bill Deane. Ill. with photographs.

*Profiles of 10 players whose home run percentages are the highest in baseball history. Players such as Hank Aaron, Jimmie Foxx, Harmon Killebrew, Fred McGriff, Mike Schmidt, Frank Thomas, Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris, Babe Ruth, and Willie McCovey are included. (Team 1)*