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 1999 list is the 25th 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 curricula, and are known to engage children.

What are books selected and annotated?

More than 700 books were evaluated by children for Children’s Choices for 1999. The books to be tested were selected by publishers from the books they published in 1998 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 100 titles for 1999 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 1999; 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

**A Bear Ate My Pear**
Kent Salisbury. Ill. by the author.
A phonics pop-up book using vivid illustrations and word families. Examples of short vowels, silent e, two vowels together, and some consonants and blends are used. (Team 1)

**Bill and Pete to the Rescue**
Tomie dePaola. Ill. by the author.
Bill and his friend, Pete, stow away to the United States to rescue Little Jane Allison Crocodile and the other captured wild animals. Bill’s adventure leads him to a very special reunion. (Team 4)

**Come Along, Daisy!**
Jane Simmons. Ill. by the author.
A perfect picture book for every child who gets distracted and wanders into trouble. Daisy is a darling duckling who has a problem staying close to Mama Duck. Fortunately, when Daisy gets lost and danger is coming closer and closer, Mama comes to the rescue. Every reader can relate to this mother’s love. (Team 5)

**Ghost Town Trick-or-Treat**
Alison Inches. Ill. Anna DiVito.
A group of kindergartners enjoyed hearing this book read aloud. The rhyme caught their attention as they repeated “Postmaster Ghostmaster” after the teacher. Many smiled when the trick-or-treaters were uncovered from behind the flaps. (Team 3)

**Just Like Floss**
Kim Lewis. Ill. by the author.
Sam, the runt of the border collie litter, follows his mother, Floss, instead of playing with his sisters and brothers. One day, while out looking for his mother, Sam meets the sheep and learns what it means to be brave. (Team 4)

**Kitten’s Adventure**
Michele Coxon. Ill. by the author.
Young children will enjoy the beautiful drawings in this book. It is a repetitive, predictable story about...
farm animals and the world of a kitten. It ends with the kitten returning to the safety and love of its family. (Team 2)


Little Louie the Baby Bloomer
Leo the Late Bloomer has a baby brother, Louie. Leo finds it difficult waiting for Little Louie to “bloom,” but finds that, in time, he does. (Team 1)


Miss Mary Mack
A classic children’s rhyming chant about Miss Mary Mack and an adventure with an elephant. Directions for a hand-clapping game using the words of the rhyme are on the inside cover. (Team 1)


Miss Spider’s ABC
David Kirk. Ill. by the author.
Miss Spider’s active alphabetical friends plan a surprise birthday party for her. (Team 1)


Monster Munchies
Laura Numeroff. Ill. Nate Evans.
Young children will want to enjoy this story again and again. They will be captivated by the rhythm and rhyme that Numeroff has created in the text while incorporating opportunities for children to develop counting skills. (Team 3)


Shipwreck Saturday
Bill Cosby. Ill. Varnette P. Honeywood.
Vibrant illustrations paint this multicultural story of Little Bill as he tests his handcrafted boat on the lake in the park. When tragedy strikes, Bill manages to sail through the day with the help of a friend’s origami art. (Team 2)


Warthogs in the Kitchen:
A Sloppy Counting Book
Eight wild warthogs mix up 10 delicious cupcakes, along with lots of fun and a great big mess. Children will delight in finishing the rhymes and in counting the objects in each illustration. (Team 4)


Ziggy Piggy and the Three Little Pigs
Frank Asch. Ill. by the author.
Ted, Fred, and Ned warn their brother Ziggy about the Big Bad Wolf. They tell him he should build a house to keep himself safe and sound. Ziggy builds a raft instead, saving the day for his brothers. Children will delight in this take-off on a familiar tale. (Team 4)

Young Readers

Arthur’s Really Helpful Bedtime Stories
Marc Tolon Brown. Ill. by the author.
This is a good selection for students who need a variety of stories to read, not just in the evenings at home, but also during silent reading time in the classroom. (Team 5)

A Bad Case of Stripes
David Shannon. Ill. by the author.
Camilla Cream wants to fit in. She decides to conform and soon finds that deferring to others is not all it is cracked up to be. She is plagued with a series of strange maladies, beginning with a case of the stripes. (Team 1)

The Best Book of Dinosaurs
Maynard has captured the wonder and excitement of a fascinating lost world. Color illustrations and vivid, fact-filled text bring the prehistoric world to life. (Team 2)

The Boxer and the Princess
Helme Heine. Ill. by the author.
A gentle, sensitive rhinoceros puts on boxing gloves and armor to toughen up. It takes the love of a princess to help him understand true strength. (Team 4)

Boys We Love
Jeanette Lane.
Hunks from movies, soap operas, sports, and bands are the focus of this book. Children can read the available background on their favorites, including their past, present, and predictions for their future. (Team 5)

Built for Speed: The Extraordinary, Enigmatic Cheetah
Sharon Elaine Thompson. Ill. with photographs.
The cheetah’s unique way of life is accurately portrayed in this book. Details about physical adaptations that make it fast, dangers it faces, and measures people are taking to keep the speed champion of the plains from extinction are included. (Team 2)

The Cafeteria Lady From the Black Lagoon
Mike Thaler. Ill. Jared Lee.
The newest book in Thaler’s Black Lagoon series stars the new cafeteria lady, Wanda Belch, who arrives at school to serve up unforgettable lunches. (Team 1)

Chameleons Are Cool
Martin Jenkins. Ill. Sue Shields.
Introduce your students to the world of nonfiction with this wonderful book. Children are delighted by the colorful illustrations that leap from the pages. (Team 4)

Clifford and the Big Parade
Norman Bridwell. Ill. by the author.
Once again, Clifford saves the day in his own unique way. Children will enjoy predicting what will happen as Clifford and Emily participate in their town’s birthday celebration. This is an excellent book to use in predicting outcomes. (Team 2)

Colliding With Chris
Dan Harder. Ill. Kevin O’Malley.
Young Christopher is anticipating his first ride on his new bike, but the ride turns into a humorous adventure when he realizes that braking should not be taken lightly. (Team 2)

Cows Can’t Fly
David Milgrim. Ill. by the author.
Inspired by a young boy’s drawing of cows in the air, a herd of cows takes flight. All of the adults are too busy looking down, so only the boy and his dog enjoy the sight. Realizing that cows can fly, the boy wonders what might be next! (Team 4)

Dracula Steps Out
Dracula steps out to find a tasty bite, but a little boy sees that he just might be lonely and perhaps a softy underneath. Children will enjoy the cumulative rhyme and the pop-up riddles. (Team 4)
Ebbie and Flo
Irene Kelly. Ill. by the author.
This is the enjoyable adventure of two salmon that are taken out to sea. Not only are children given a delightful story about the bravery of a fish, but they learn fish facts. (Team 3)

Elmer Takes Off
David McKee. Ill. by the author.
Elmer and Wilbur are up to more tricks. Children will enjoy hearing about the antics of flying elephants while learning a lesson about making assumptions. (Team 3)

Five Little Piggies
David Martin. Ill. Susan Meddaugh.
A chapter book based on the rhyme “This Little Pig Went to Market.” Each short chapter details the events of a day for each of the five little piggies in the rhyme. (Team 1)

Froggy’s First Kiss
Froggy can’t keep his mind on anything but Frogilina, the new girl in class. He is tickled when she shares an apple and a cookie. But his feelings change the day she gives him a big juicy kiss! (Team 4)

How Leo Learned to Be King
Marcus Pfister. Translated by J. Allison James. Ill. by the author.
From the author of The Rainbow Fish, this fable gives the reader insight into what it means to be a real leader. After Leo the lion is de-throned, he learns that true power and leadership emanate from cooperation, consideration, and serving others. (Team 5)

If You Give a Pig a Pancake
Laura Numeroff. Ill. Felicia Bond.
The reader is taken through one day in the life of a girl and her pig that happens to love pancakes. If you give children this book, they’re going to want to read it. (Team 2)

Informania: Vampires
Martin Jenkins. Ill. Various and with photographs.
Children will be immediately drawn to the gory picture of a vampire on the front cover, with his red eyes, sharp teeth, and blood-soaked lips. Lots of information about vampires, both historical and Hollywood. (Team 3)

The Ink Drinker
Eric Sanvoisin. Ill. Martin Matje.
Vampires that drink ink but not blood! Follow a young boy’s adventures from a bookstore to a cemetery and discover Draculink. Bring a straw! (Team 5)

insectlopedia
Douglas Florian. Ill. by the author.
For the budding entomologist in every home and classroom, Florian presents 21 spider and insect poems and paintings. The book is a perfect
blend of science and wordplay and brings many insects to life. The illustrations are reminiscent of Eric Carle. (Team 5)


John Willy and Freddy McGee
Holly Meade. Ill. by the author.

These two engaging guinea pigs live a perfect, yet boring, life until one day when they discover the door to their cage has been left open. Young readers are delighted with the sights and sounds of the guinea pigs’ adventures in the world. (Team 2)


The Kingfisher First Animal Encyclopedia
John Farndon and Jon Kirkwood. Ill. Various and with photographs.

One hundred fifty-five wild and domestic animals, from aardvarks to zebras, are arranged in alphabetical order for young researchers in this encyclopedia. One thousand color pictures are visually attractive, and the print size is appropriate for the elementary researcher. (Team 5)


Lemonade Sun: And Other Summer Poems
Rebecca Kai Dotlich. Ill. Jan Spivey Gilchrist.

Gilchrist’s beautiful acrylics evoke the colors and images of every child’s favorite season: summer. The multi-cultural cast of characters invites the reader to experience the rhythm and wordplay of the text. (Team 5)


Lucy Dove
Janice Del Negro. Ill. Leonid Gore.

Lucy Dove has lost her job. When a sackful of gold is offered to anyone who can sew a pair of pants “by the light of the full moon” in the haunted cemetery, Lucy accepts the challenge. (Team 1)


Mouse, Look Out!

A suspenseful story of a mouse, a cat, and a deserted old house. Shadows and realistic drawings add atmosphere to the story as the ending brings a surprise. (Team 2)


Noah and the Space Ark
Laura Cecil. Ill. Emma Chichester Clark.

When the earth becomes too polluted to support life, Noah builds a space ark to take animals and plants in search of a new home. This book was a favorite. Students are gently reminded of their ecological responsibilities. (Team 5)


Paddington Bear and the Busy Bee Carnival
Michael Bond. Ill. R.W. Alley.

Delight in the carnival atmosphere as Paddington and Mr. Gruber search for objects that start with the letter B. Children join in the fun of the Adventure Trail contest to find the most B words. (Team 5)


Pete’s a Pizza
William Steig. Ill. by the author.
When Pete finds himself in a bad mood because the ball game is called due to the rain, his dad tries to cheer him up by making him into a pizza. (Team 1)

The Pillow War
Matt Novak. Ill. by the author.
An all-out pillow war is fought as two young children argue over who their dog loves the best. Beginning readers will enjoy the images of a battle that rages around the world. (Team 3)

PolkaBats and Octopus Slacks:
14 Stories
Calef Brown. Ill. by the author.
If you like Edward Lear, you’ll love Calef Brown’s nonsense poems that tickle the funny bone. The 14 rhyming tales provide a visual and aural feast to be enjoyed silently or aloud. (Team 5)

Prairie Willow
Maxine Trottier. Ill. Laura Fernandez and Rick Jacobson.
At her new home on the prairie, Emily wishes for trees. Her family mail-orders a willow. That willow puts down strong roots and survives both good and bad times, just as Emily does throughout her long life. The illustrations glow with prairie golds, browns, reds, and oranges. (Team 4)

Preston’s Goal
Colin McNaughton. Ill. by the author.
Preston Pig, a terrific soccer player, takes his soccer ball on his way to get a loaf of bread. As he scores goals along the way, Preston is creating havoc, and the Wiley Wolf is being blamed. Will the wolf get even? (Team 1)

Rainbow Fish and the Big Blue Whale
Marcus Pfister. Translated by J. Alison James. Ill. by the author.
Kindergarten students were engaged during the read-aloud of this book. The story allowed for predictions and involvement in the tale of the little fish. Unsolicited applause came at the end. (Team 3)

Show and Tell Bunnies
Kathryn Lasky. Ill. Marylin Hafner.
A sequel to Lunch Bunnies, this story will bring smiles to every reader. Clyde needs to find something to show at school, and what he discovers in the basement makes a great surprise ending. (Team 2)

The Silly Gooses
Dav Pilkey. Ill. by the author.
Two silly gooses meet, fall in love, get married, and have silly goose babies. Children of all ages will enjoy reading this funny, mixed-up book.
So Many Bunnies: A Bedtime ABC and Counting Book
Rick Walton. Ill. Paige Miglio.
*Old Mother Rabbit has 26 children, and readers will enjoy predicting the rhymes as she puts them all to bed. Practice in the alphabet, counting, and identifying rhymes is made fun while imagining so many bunnies.* (Team 3)

Sweet Dream Pie
Audrey Wood. Ill. Mark Teague.
*This is the delicious adventure of Ma Brindle’s sweet dessert. Children’s mouths water as they read the ingredients in this special treat, and their stomachs ache from laughing as the adventure takes place. David said, “I wish a chocolate tornado would sweep through my neighborhood!”* (Team 3)

10 Minutes Till Bedtime
Peggy Rathmann. Ill. by the author.
*Tourist hamsters arrive by van and bus, turning a little boy’s room into their adventureland for 10 whole minutes before bedtime. Each two-page spread is filled with exciting details children will want to study again and again. They might even check out the web page that started it all—www.hamstertours.com!* (Team 4)

Throw Your Tooth on the Roof: Tooth Traditions From Around the World
*For all readers with wiggly-jiggly teeth, this book describes rituals many nations follow when children lose their baby teeth. A wonderful comparative study of traditions, the book is a springboard to geographical research.* (Team 5)

Tooth Tales From Around the World
Marlene Targ Brill. Ill. Katya Krenina.
*Children today offer their lost teeth to the tooth fairy in exchange for a treat of some kind. Long ago children gave their teeth to the tooth mouse, hoping for strong new ones to grow in.* (Team 4)

Zak’s Lunch
Margie Palatini. Ill. Howard Fine.
*Zak doesn’t want to eat the lunch that his mother has prepared. Ham is too hammy and cheese is too cheesy. He imagines that he arrives at Zak’s Place, where he is served as...* (continued on p. 177)
much as he wants of whatever he wants. (Team 1)


Intermediate Readers

The Amazing Pop-Up Multiplication Book
Kate Petty and Jennie Maizels. Ill. by the authors.
Each number from 0 to 12 has a page filled with things for a reader to push and pull in order to practice the multiplication facts. There are tips, tricks, and details galore to keep children interested in learning about multiplication. (Team 4)

Cats
The purrfect book for a novice cat owner or a cat lover. Breeding, care, and behavior, along with a reference section, glossary, and index, are included in this truly enjoyable volume. (Team 3)

Dinosaurs
Michael Benton. Ill. Various.
Benton’s book will be a favorite with young dinosaur enthusiasts and makes a great addition to science classrooms. Different types of dinosaurs, how they lived, theories about why they disappeared, and the investigations that led to their discovery are included. (Team 5)

Dracula’s Tomb
Colin McNaughton. Ill. by the author.
This coffin-shaped volume is Dracula’s scrapbook, including his school report, letters home, vacation pictures, and facts about his family and pets. The pictures and words show Dracula’s sharp sense of humor. (Team 4)

Godzilla Deluxe Storybook
James Preller. Ill. Various.
This book will be a favorite of fans of the high-tech movie. It is an accurate retelling of the story, including plentiful stills from the film. (Team 3)

Tips for parents, primary caregivers, and educators (continued)

Primary grade book activities
• Continue to spend time reading with the child; set aside a specific time and place.
• Be familiar with Children’s Choices books and other high-quality children’s literature.
• Become aware of the interests of your children and books that extend life experiences so they know what happens in the world around them.
• Encourage children to share books read in school with parents and caregivers at home. Parents and caregivers should encourage children to share books they’ve read at home with their teachers and schoolmates.
• Continue to extend the information and knowledge bases through computer programs and other technology that capitalize on topics initiated through reading.

Independent reader activities
• Challenge readers to compare and contrast books.
• Encourage children to develop an interest in a variety of genres such as biography, historical fiction, and poetry.
• Encourage children to read books related to beginning career and vocational choices.
• Seek a balance between school book activities; home and school literature activities; and familiarity with newspapers, magazines, and other text media that address contemporary social, cultural, and civic issues.

Develop the desire to be a lifelong reader
• Have students bring what is read to bear on what is viewed on film, television, and computer and other media technologies.
• View technology in the reflection of the literature.
• Keep in mind that the most memorable conversations are often filled with anecdotes from literature.
• Relate what has been read to the solution of problems. By internalizing what has been read, we use knowledge and wisdom to solve personal problems, to make significant decisions related to career choices, to find solutions to community and social problems, and to develop healthy attitudes toward a positive world environment.

IRA/CBC Joint Committee
Marilyn Scott, 1998–99 IRA/CBC Cochair
Andrea Davis Pinkney, 1998–99 IRA/CBC Cochair

Home Run: The Story of Babe Ruth
Robert Burleigh. Ill. Mike Wimmer.
Babe Ruth is a boy just starting on his baseball career at the beginning of this book. He goes on to be the best in the field. The illustrations are realistic, colorful, and supplemented by vintage style baseball cards. (Team 2)

Children’s Choices for 1999 9
Lives of the Presidents: Fame, Shame (and What the Neighbors Thought)
Kathleen Krull. Ill. Kathryn Hewett.
Interesting biographical and anecdotal information about 42 presidents of the United States. Kids enjoy learning about some of the secrets shared by folks who knew the leaders of the U.S. (Team 1)

Look-Alikes
Joan Steiner. Ill. by the author.
Children will love reading the rhyming passages and looking at the everyday objects used for the three-dimensional pictures. Balloons, pistachios, brushes, and candles are just a few of the objects used. This could only happen in Look-Alike Land. (Team 3)

Marty Frye, Private Eye
Janet Tashjian. Ill. Laurie Keller.
Marty Frye is a “Poet Detective.” He likes to sleuth, rhyme, and climb trees. He solves crimes by turning rhymes. In one day, Marty finds a lost diary, a box of missing toys, and a bag of disappearing flour. (Team 1)

McBroom Tells the Truth
Sid Fleischman. Ill. Amy Wummer.
A humorous, enjoyable story about a family that was the butt of a joke. The joke was reversed when their boggy pond dried and turned out to be the richest, fastest-growing farm land ever. (Team 5)

Safari
Through captivating stories and detailed paintings by famous artist Robert Bateman, children embark on a memorable safari to meet some animals of the savanna, bush, and forest of Africa. Readers are encouraged to protect wild places. (Team 2)

Sammy, Dog Detective
Colleen Stanley Bare. Ill. with photographs.
The life of this active police dog and beloved family pet is described in short, easy-to-read sentences. (Team 2)

The Scrambled States of America
Laurie Keller. Ill. by the author.
At the first annual States party, all of the states decide to change places. At first everyone is happy, but soon things start to go wrong. This fun book includes many interesting state facts. (Team 1)

Squids Will Be Squids
Jon Scieszka. Ill. Lane Smith
Each two-page spread tells a fable about people, disguised as animals, who do things that aren’t very nice. Readers will probably be reminded of people they know (or maybe even
More About Children’s Choices

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

Cochairing the 1998–99 IRA–CBC Joint Committee were Marilyn Scott, Ursuline College, Pepper Pike, Ohio, and Andrea Davis Pinkney, Hyperion Books for Children, New York, New York. Representing IRA on the committee were Elizabeth M. Baker, Mingshui Cai, Nancy M. Davenport, Ellen V. LiBretto, Arden Ruth Post, Philip Talbert, and Michelle Theberge; those representing CBC were Jacky Harper, Susan Hawk, Amy Kaufman, and Megan Tingsley. 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:** Corvallis, Oregon, consisted of eleven semi-rural elementary schools and three semi-rural middle schools. Team leader: Shari Furtwangler, Adams School, Corvallis, Oregon. Support team leaders: Andrea Brown, Cara Furtwangler.

**Team 2:** Clarion, Pennsylvania, consisted of four rural elementary schools. Team leader: Barbara J. Grugel, Clarion University, Clarion, Pennsylvania. Support team leaders: Ann Creany, Judy Wolbert, Mary Ann Reynolds, Nancy Keen, Shawn Corcetti, Suzanne DeVore, Mary Beth Cox, and Amy Ulery.

**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, Diane Memmer-Novak, Suzanne Cusumano, and Tracey Gaugler.


**Team 5:** Mission, Texas, consisted of one rural and two inner city elementary schools, and one rural and two suburban middle schools. Team leader: Marci Mitchell, Mitchell Educational Consulting. Support team leaders: Elias Hernandez, Ernest Moreno, Noemi Garza, Gaye Noyola, Irma Mondragon, Alex Perez, Evangelina de la Rosa, and Dodi Cox.

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. All applications remain on file for 3 years, at which time CBC will reconfirm your interest. For additional information about this project, visit CBC’s Web site at [http://www.CBCBooks.org](http://www.CBCBooks.org).

How can I order copies of this list?

Offprints of this annotated 1999 Children’s Choices list (publication #9106) are available from the International Reading Association. The list is available for viewing in PDF format at [www.readingonline.org/reviews/choices/choices_index.html](http://www.readingonline.org/reviews/choices/choices_index.html). 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 your 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 Reading Teacher* and is also available in bulk as a separate reprint. Young Adults’ Choices lists approximately 30 new trade books that middle, junior high, and senior high school students have selected as being particularly appealing for their age group. This list appears each November in 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 Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, 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

(continued)
recognize themselves) in the characters of each hilarious fable. (Team 4)


The Stone in the Sword: The Quest for a Stolen Emerald
Deri and Jim Robbins. Ill. by the authors.
When Squire Leofric was polishing Sir Garderobe’s sword, the priceless emerald fell out. The squire’s monkey grabbed it and off he went. The reader has to search the detailed illustrations to follow the emerald’s journey and discover many other mix-ups. (Team 4)


Who Ordered the Jumbo Shrimp?
And Other Oxymorons
John Agee. Ill. by the author.
Thoughtful readers will appreciate the oxymorons Agee has selected. The absurd logic is clearly illustrated by the author’s black-and-white sketches. (Team 2)

Advanced Readers

Achingly Alice
Phyllis Reynolds Naylor.

Another book in a popular series, this story tells of Alice coming to terms with love and relationships through the author’s warmth, candor, humor, and genuine affection for the character. (Team 3)


The Adventures of Sojourner
Susi Trautmann Wunsch. Ill. with photographs.
Fascinating photographs and detailed text are certain to captivate the interest of anyone wondering, “What’s out there?” The story of the Sojourner mission to Mars is well documented in this nonfiction book. (Team 3)


Alex and Friends: Animal Talk, Animal Thinking
Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. Ill. with photographs by William Muñoz.
Ever wonder if animals can actually talk to one another? This is must reading for those interested in learn-
ing how and why animals communicate. (Team 5)

Alice Rose and Sam
Kathryn Lasky
Alice Rose, a 12-year-old girl living in Virginia City, Nevada, during the U.S. Civil War, gets help from Samuel Clemens to uncover the evil deeds of a group of Confederate vigilantes. (Team 1)

Amistad: A Long Road to Freedom
Walter Dean Myers.
A historical account of the 1839 revolt on the slave ship Amistad. Myers details the journey, the mutiny led by Sengbe, and the trials in the U.S., as well as the struggle to return home for the survivors of the voyage. (Team 1)

Ancient Greece
Judith Crosher. Ill. Tim Benké.
Maps, drawings, diagrams, artifacts, and projects provide ways to learn what life was like in ancient Greece. Information about food, clothing, buildings, transportation, sports, and many other topics can easily be located by using the table of contents, index, glossary, and timeline. (Team 4)

Angels Turn Their Backs
Margaret Buffie. Ill. Florentina Bogdan.
What do you do when you are 15 and experience panic attacks that leave you hiding in your room? The reader will feel empathy for Addy as she fights her fears and begins to realize her strengths. (Team 2)

Art of the Far North: Inuit Sculpture, Drawing, and Printmaking
Carol Finley.
Although the Inuit lifestyle has changed over the years, they remain a distinct society with their own customs, beliefs, and legends. This book examines the three major forms of Inuit art. (Team 2)

The Atlanta Braves Baseball Team
Thomas S. Owens. Ill. with photographs.
This is the story of the Atlanta Braves, a team and its players fallen from grace, but resurrected by new leadership and new “veteran” players. Easy reading. (Team 5)

Bald Eagles
Karen Dudley.
Nature lovers will be enthralled by the majestic pictures and up-to-date information about bald eagles. The book also includes interesting folk-
lore relating to eagles and contacts for advocacy groups working to ensure their survival. (Team 3)

**Beyond the Mango Tree**
Amy Zemser.
Sarina, tied up by her mother in many ways, is freed by her new Liberian friend, Boima. Boima’s stories and joyfulness help Sarina see things more clearly. Readers will get a glimpse of the sights and sounds of rural Liberia. (Team 4)

**Bloomability**
Sharon Creech.
Thirteen-year-old Domenica has been sent by her aunt and uncle to a school in a foreign country. Her family and home seem far away. Eventually she comes to love her new school, friends, and land. (Team 2)

**Blue Star Rapture**
James W. Bennett.
T.J., a high school basketball player, faces a series of challenges and dramatic events linked to college recruitment, underscoring the importance of young people making responsible, informed choices. A must read for those who dream of playing collegiate sports. (Team 3)

**The Boxes**
William Sleator.
Sleator has created a suspenseful tale of a modern-day Pandora. Readers will be drawn into the compelling plot, which explores issues such as curiosity, dimensions of time, corporate greed, and family and peer relationships. (Team 2)

**Bradley and the Billboard**
Mame Farrell.
Thirteen-year-old Bradley is a baseball hero. He is offered a job as a fashion model and must deal with ridicule and come to terms with what it means to be a “real” man. This book dispels many male/female stereotypes. (Team 1)

**Chicken Soup for the Kid’s Soul**
Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Patty Hansen, Irene Dunlap. Ill. various.
This is an inspiring collection of short stories by and about adolescents. The sometimes painful realities of life are dealt with sensitively. (Team 3)

**Clockwork**
Philip Pullman. Ill. Leonid Gore.
Taking shortcuts is not always in the best interest of time. Little Gretl proves that a heart of gold works
better than an “Ironsoul.” Sure to wind up many hearts. (Team 5)


Crush

Ellen Conford.

Anyone who has ever been in love will enjoy this book. The characters are so true to life you get caught up in the spirit of Valentine’s Day. Many readers will identify with them. (Team 5)


Graveyards of the Dinosaurs

Shelley Tanaka. Ill. Alan Barnard, Mark Hallett, John Sibbick, and with photographs.

Dinosaur lovers of all ages will learn how the dinosaurs lived and died through actual photos of fossils and scientists at work to uncover them. Full-color illustrations and explanations of what might have happened accompany the photos. (Team 2)


Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone


Eleven-year-old Harry Potter had the misfortune of living with an aunt and uncle who despised him, until a letter arrived, delivered by a giant, that changed his life. It happens that Harry is really a wizard with mysterious powers. (Team 1)


Light Shining Through the Mist: A Photobiography of Dian Fossey

Tom L. Matthews. Ill. with photographs.

The fascinating text tells of Dian Fossey’s lifelong concern for animals, her arrival in Africa, and her studies of the mountain gorillas. The full-color photographs show the realities of field study and convey the majesty and beauty of the gorillas. (Team 4)


Mapping Our World

Martyn Bramwell.

Maps, maps, maps...they are a necessity in our wide open world. This book is all about different kinds of maps and how they are made. The illustrations are very colorful and the explanations are easy to understand. (Team 5)


The New Way Things Work

David Macaulay. Ill. by the author.

The ABCs of how things work, old and new. Four hundred pages of color illustrations and easy to read information. Good reading for the young scientist or inventor. (Team 5)


101 Questions Your Brain Has Asked Itself But Couldn’t Answer...Until Now

Faith Hickeman Brynie. Ill. Sharon Lane Holm. Also ill. with photographs.

What is the brain like? How do we remember and learn? How do drugs affect the brain? What happens when things go wrong? Readers can easily find brief answers to these and many other questions. Fascinating case histories are included. (Team 4)


Reef of Death

Paul Zindel.

In a thrilling, suspenseful departure from his usual genre, Zindel creates a cast of characters who must cope with the horrifying creature disturbed by underwater mining. Sure to cause some sleepless nights.


Sirena

Donna Jo Napoli.

Being loved by a human gives a mermaid immortality, but Sirena wants to grow old with her beloved husband, Philoctetes. Stories of Greek gods and goddesses, warriors, and nymphs are woven throughout the fabric of this love story. (Team 4)


Vampire and Werewolf Stories

Alan Durant. Ill. Nick Hardcastle.

An anthology of werewolf and vampire stories collected by Alan Durant. Included are stories by popular authors such as Arthur Conan Doyle, Bram Stoker, Woody Allen, and Jane Yolen. A good introduction to the “horror” genre. (Team 1)

The Children’s Book Council (CBC) is a nonprofit organization encouraging the use and enjoyment of books and related literacy materials for young people. CBC sponsors National Children’s Book Week each November, and also prepares and sells display and informational materials to promote year-round reading. The Council cooperates on a variety of projects with the International Reading Association and with other national professional associations.

The International Reading Association is a nonprofit professional organization of classroom teachers, reading specialists, administrators, reading researchers, parents, librarians, and others interested in improving reading instruction. It encourages study of the reading process, research, and better teacher education. It promotes the development of reading proficiency to the limit of one’s ability, and awareness of the importance for reading.

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