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 2001 list is the 27th 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.

The Children’s book Council is the nonprofit professional association of U.S. publishers and packagers of books for young people. It encourages childhood literacy through sponsorship of national programs including Young People’s Poetry Week and the 92-year-old annual observance, Children’s Book Week, as well as working cooperatively with other professional associations.

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. 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 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)

How are books selected and annotated?

More than 700 books were evaluated by children for Children’s Choices for 2001. The books to be tested were selected by publishers from the books they published in 2000 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 99 titles for 2001 were announced at the International Reading Association Annual Convention in May. The review teams provided an annotation for each title on the list.
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 2001; 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: 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.

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**Beginning Readers**

**Bear’s Christmas Star**
Mireille D’Allancé. Ill. by the author.

_Students will connect with Bear, who always seems too small to help Papa. This beautifully illustrated story reminds us that even the tiniest child can help at Christmas._ (Team 4)


**Blue Rabbit and Friends**
Christopher Wormell. Ill. by the author.

_While searching for a new home, Blue Rabbit discovers that his friends can find perfect homes with a little exchanging. However, it’s adventure, not a home, that Blue Rabbit finds._ (Team 1)


**Captain Bob Sets Sail**
Roni Schotter. Ill. by Joe Cepeda.

_This brave captain makes taking a bath an exciting adventure. The illustrations will make you believe you are on the voyage of your life! Your interest will be captured through the use of alliteration and rhyme._ (Team 4)


**Cold Little Duck, Duck, Duck**
Lisa Westberg Peters. Ill. by Sam Williams

_Arriving at the pond too early makes a little duck’s dreams of spring bring the season in faster. Descriptive words in this story will have young children reading along._ (Team 2)


**Dr. Duck**
H.M. Ehrlich. Ill. by Laura Rader.

_What does a doctor do when he gets sick? If he’s lucky enough to have friends for patients, they help him_
recuperate. Students can anticipate the rhyming patterns of the remedies. (Team 2)

Dr. Pompo’s Nose
Saxton Freymann & Joost Elffers. Ill. with photos by the authors.
It’s as simple as the nose upon your face. These realistic pumpkin characters will delight readers both young and young at heart. This simple lost-and-found tale has an interesting twist at the end. (Team 4)

Drip, Drop (An I Can Read Book)
Sarah Weeks. Ill. by Jane Manning.
Drip, drop is the rain pattering inside the mouse’s home. He cannot sleep for the drip, drops. Children will love the play with language and the funny illustrations of the mouse trying to save his home from flooding. (Team 5)

Duck in the Truck
Jez Alborough. Ill. by the author.
The duck needs help to get his truck unstuck from the muck. So the frog, sheep, and goat try their best to get the truck back on track. The use of pattern and rhyme add to this humorous tale. (Team 6)

Five Little Monkeys Wash the Car
Eileen Christelow. Ill. by the author.
Five monkeys work to get their car ready for sale. When it ends up in the swamp, the monkeys use their wits to sell it to the crocodiles. This rhyming tale will bring chuckles right to the end. (Team 1)

Froggy Goes to Bed
Jonathan London. Ill. by Frank Remkiewicz.
Froggy, like most children, needs to do just one more thing before bedtime, then one more, and one more. Patient to the end, Frog Mom makes each situation work out just right. (Team 1)

Good as Goldie
Margie Palatini. Ill. by the author.
Goldie is the BIG sister, and baby brother Nicholas can’t do anything as good as Goldie, except suck his thumb. Readers who secretly admit to still sucking their thumbs will find this book appealing. (Team 2)

How Big Is a Pig
Clare Beaton. Ill. by the author.
A young pig wanders around the farmyard and points out a variety of opposites. A simple sentence pattern and rhyming text support early reading efforts. (Team 1)

How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?
Laura Numeroff. Ill. by Felicia Bond.
If you take a mouse to the movies, you’ll enjoy this one. (Team 3)

If You Take a Mouse to the Movies
Joseph Slate. Ill. by Ashley Wolff.
Once again Miss Bindergarten and her students amuse children as more and more of them succumb to the flu and have to stay home while a substitute, Mr. Tusky, runs the class. Of course, the children cavort in alphabetical order. (Team 2)

Maisy enjoys the holiday traditions of stockings, cookies, and presents. Children will enjoy looking in stockings, opening the oven door, and peeking in presents. (Team 5)
Illustration ©2000 by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey from *Mouse in Love* by Robert Kraus. Used with permission of Orchard Books.
The Mouse That Snored
Bernard Waber. Ill. by the author.
Can a homeless mouse with a loud snore find an abode in a quiet house inhabited by a man, woman, cat, and parrot who are averse to noise? Acceptance and accommodation are important life skills and themes of this book. (Team 3)

Mrs. Hen’s Big Surprise
Christel Desmoinaux. Ill. by the author.
Children will giggle when Mrs. Hen’s diligence at tending an egg she found in her garden is finally rewarded in an unusual way as a dinosaur hatches and becomes her beloved “chick.” (Team 2)

Shoo Fly!
Iza Trapani. Ill. by the author.
Shoo Fly is based on the song, “Shoo Fly Don’t Bother Me!” The lyrics involve wonderful play with language, and the illustrations are a vivid and animated representation of the words. The book is great fun! (Team 5)

Snowie Rolie
William Joyce. Ill. by the author.
Rolie Polie Olie’s wish for a snowy day comes true. Mr. Snowie and Olie enjoy the fun and adventure of a snow-white world. (Team 5)

What Dads Can’t Do
Douglas Wood. Ill. by Doug Cushman.
This account of what a dinosaur dad can’t do without the help of his son is funny and heartwarming. Children relate to dad’s inability to shave by himself and his need to be kissed goodnight. (Team 2)

Illustration ©2000 by Doug Cushman from What Dads Can’t Do by Douglas Wood. Used with permission of Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.
What Grandmas Do Best/What Grandpas Do Best
Laura Numeroff. Ill. by Lynn Munsinger.
This upside-down book teaches what grannies do best one way, and what grampas do best the other way. Who teaches children to play hide and seek, take a nap, or go for a walk? Most of all, grandparents shower grandchildren with love. (Team 3)

Why I Will Never Ever Ever Ever Have Enough Time to Read This Book
Remy Charlip. Ill. by Jon J Muth.
The story details the everyday events that clutter a child's life, leaving no time for reading her book. It is fun to read the details of life's happenings for the various family members. (Team 5)

Young Readers
Aaron's Hair
Robert Munsch. Ill. by Alan and Lea Daniel.
Aaron hates his hair as many children do, and he yells, “Hair! I hate you!” His hair runs away, creating chaos and traffic congestion, and does not return until Aaron apologizes. It's a great book for any reader who has had a “bad-hair day.” (Team 3)

Bats Around the Clock
Kathi Appelt. Ill. by Melissa Sweet.
Boogie with the bats on American Batstand with host Click Dark! Get down with the beat that changes every hour. This teaching tool for time will have readers dancing in the aisles. (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. Most 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 or 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.

(continued on p. 8)
As a young girl in the early 1800s, she and her brother found an ichthyosaur skeleton. Her interest in hunting fossils continued throughout her life. (Team 2)


Mmm, Cookies!
Robert Munsch. Ill. by Michael Martchenko.
Robert Munsch has once again delivered a hilarious story! Christopher has made surprise cookies for his mother and father. How will Mom and Dad surprise Christopher? Who will get the real cookie? (Team 5)

Nothing Scares Us
Frieda Wishinsky. Ill. by Neal Layton.
Lucy and Lenny, the “Fearless Two,” think they’re invincible until they meet the “Creature.” They learn that everyone has fears as they help each other survive. (Team 4)

One Lonely Sea Horse
Saxton Freymann and Joost Elffers. Ill. with photos by the authors.
Playful rhymes describe how one lonely sea horse finds other sea creatures to count on. Children are captivated by the imaginative use of real fruits and vegetables to create the underwater images. (Team 1)

Open Wide: Tooth School Inside
Laurie Keller. Ill. by the author.
The book presents a new, fun way to learn about your teeth. The teeth are depicted as the children in a school. The teeth get into different problems as they share facts during the school day. (Team 5)

The Practically Perfect Pajamas
Erik Brooks. Ill. by the author.
Percy abandons wearing his footed pajamas in hopes of being better liked by the polar bear crowd. Readers will appreciate how Aurora the fox, even though quite different, is Percy’s true friend. (Team 1)

Illustration ©2000 by the author from The Practically Perfect Pajamas by Erik Brooks. Used with permission of Winslow Press.

A Pup Just for Me/
A Boy Just for Me
Dorothy P. Seeber. Ill. by Ed Young.
Here’s a sentimental, rhyming story about a boy who wants a pup, and a puppy who wants a boy. They go in search of each other and unite in the middle of this upside-down book. (Team 4)

Six Hogs on a Scooter
Eileen Spinelli. Ill. by Scott Nash.
When the car breaks down, six hogs try a variety of ways to get to the opera. Their attempts to ride a scooter, roller-skate, and fly in a hot-air balloon make “an interesting sight.” (Team 2)

Snow Family
Daniel Kirk. Ill. by the author.
Children delight in a little boy’s rough-and-tumble day of frolicking with his snow friends. At the end,
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 Liaison Committee
 Roseine Church, 2000–2001 IRA/CBC Cochair
 Susan Hawk, 2000–2001 IRA/CBC Cochair
Intermediate Readers

The Big Buck Adventure
Shelley Gill and Deborah Tobola. Ill. by Grace Lin.
A girl has one dollar to spend. Rhymed text describes possible purchases in the stores of her multiethnic neighborhood. Readers can have fun deciding how they would spend a dollar. (Team 1)

Cinderella Skeleton
Robert D. San Souci. Ill. by David Catrow.
Have you heard of Cinderella? She is back with a spooky twist. Instead of losing a slipper, she loses a foot! This book’s ghoulisic pictures depict a scary place that will give you a chill. (Team 4)

Crickwing
Janell Cannon. Ill. by the author.
This lovable cockroach loves to play with his food. He ventures off and is captured by a colony of ants. Crickwing has a surprise ending when a favor is returned and a lesson is learned. (Team 4)

Eyewitness: World War II
Simon Adams. Ill. with photos.
Children are fascinated with the many artifacts depicted in photographs in this Eyewitness book on World War II. Each picture is given a short description with engaging text for the reader. (Team 5)

Ferocious Girls, Steamroller Boys, and Other Poems in Between
Timothy Bush. Ill. by the author.
Children will identify with the familiar and sometimes comic situations found in these poems. The bright, lively illustrations coupled with the size and spacing of descriptive text make this book fun. (Team 4)

Goldilocks Returns
Lisa Campbell Ernst. Ill. by the author.
Fifty years after the scandalous events of her youth, a reformed and repentant Goldilocks makes another visit to the three bears, determined to put things right. She does so in her own inimitable fashion. (Team 3)

Halloween Motel
Sean Diviny. Ill. by Joe Rocco.
Reader beware! You may laugh, or cry, or just be scared, but your idea of Halloween will change forever. This motel is scary, hairy fun. (Team 4)
How to Talk to Your Cat
Jean Craighead George. Ill. by Paul Meisel.
Can you translate the purrs, whisker angles, tail and ear movements, postures, and actions of your cat? Jean Craighead George can. If you seek a deep understanding of your feline, read this one. (Team 3)

It’s Raining Pigs & Noodles
Jack Prelutsky. Ill. by James Stevenson.
This new volume of Prelutsky’s irreverent poems delights students with both “traditional” poems and ones written in shapes. One favorite is “You Can’t Make Me Eat That,” so don’t even try. (Team 3)

The Jazz Fly
Matthew Gollub. Ill. by Karen Hanke.
Includes audio CD.
Just in time to save the band’s job, the Jazz Fly improvises on all the animal sounds he heard that day. The CD will inspire readers to tap out their own new sounds and rhythms. (Team 1)

The Legend of the Loon
Legends series
Kathy-jo Wargin. Ill. by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.
Grandmother Lom saves her two grandchildren lost in a boat by using her song to call them to shore. She then flies away while her dream soul echoes the captivating call of the loon in the northern lakes. (Team 2)

The Legend of the Teddy Bear
Frank Murphy. Ill. by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.
Readers learn about the events that led to the creation of the stuffed bear named after Teddy Roosevelt. Children who love their teddy bears will appreciate the historical information. (Team 1)

mammalabilia
Douglas Florian. Ill. by the author.
This book is filled with 21 short poems and accompanying paintings celebrating mammals, from giraffes to porcupines. If poetry and mammals are your “dealia,” please read mammalabilia. (Team 3)

Miss Alaineus: A Vocabulary Disaster
Debra Frasier. Ill. by the author.
Problems begin when “Miss Alaineus” appears on Sage’s weekly vocabulary list. Sage thinks “Miss Alaineus” is the lady on the pasta box. The real meaning of “miscellaneous” inspires an embarrassed Sage to devise her costume for the annual Vocabulary Parade. (Team 2)

The Music Teacher From the Black Lagoon
Mike Thaler. Ill. by Jared Lee.
This tale follows the pattern of the other Black Lagoon books. It holds children captive by its vivid descriptions of the music teacher who will make you play an instrument. If not, then you will be an instrument. (Team 5)
More About Children's Choices

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

Cochairing the 2000–2001 IRA–CBC Joint Committee were Roseine Church, Education Consultant, Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Susan Hawk, Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, New York, New York. Representing IRA on the committee were Nancy M. Davenport, Shari Furftwangle, Rebecca L. Olness, Joan C. Stevenson, and Deborah L. Thompson; those representing CBC were Philip Lee, Victoria Tisch, David Wexler, and Andrea Wilk. 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: Madison, Wisconsin, consisted of two urban elementary schools, two suburban elementary schools, and one urban middle school. Team leader: Margaret Jensen, Huegel Elementary School, Madison, Wisconsin. Support team leaders: Ally McArdle, Lynn Johnson, Patty Schultt, Laureen Yoshino, and Renee Hoxie.


Team 3: Mission, Texas, consisted of two suburban elementary schools, one rural elementary school, one rural and one suburban middle school. Team leader: Marci Mitchell, South Texas Community College, McAllen, Texas. Support team leaders: Sheree Sieg, Noemi Garza, Irma Mondragon, and Darlene Perez.

Team 4: Green River, Wyoming, consisted of four small-town elementary schools and two small-town middle schools. Team leaders: Joyce Hart and JoAnn Leigh, Jackson Elementary School, Green River, Wyoming.

Team 5: Topeka, Kansas, consisted of 10 urban and suburban elementary schools and one urban junior high school. Team leader: Kimberly Young, Lawrence Public Schools, Lawrence, Kansas, and Elizabeth Shehmar, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas. Support team leaders: Jane Hunter Imber, Joyce Bell, Carolyn Gaddis, Catherine Myers, Paige Robinson, Karen Fredrickson, Margaret Coggins, Marcia Hershiser, Jan Dyer, and Teresa Lein.

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, 12 W. 37th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10018-7480, USA. All applications remain on file and periodically CBC reconfirms applicants' interest. For additional information about this project and a downloadable application form, visit CBC's Web site at http://www.cbcbooks.org.

How can I order copies of this list?

Offprints of this annotated 2001 Children's Choices list (publication #9106) are available from the International Reading Association. Single copies are US$1.00 when you send a self-addressed 9" × 3 1/2" envelope to the attention of Department EG. Single copies of each choices list may also be downloaded as a PDF file at http://www.reading.org/choices/. 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. Bulk copies are also available in lots of 10 at http://bookstore.reading.org.

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 and on the Association's Web site at http://bookstore.reading.org. 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 and on the Association's Web site at http://bookstore.reading.org.

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.

(continued on p. 14)
The Pig in the Spigot
Richard Wilbur. Ill. by J. Otto Seibold.
Kids receive some fun lessons in word play in this poetic book. Did you ever notice the bug in bugle, the pig in spigot, or the gnat in indignation? People, punsters, and poets will enjoy this book. (Team 3)

Robert Crowther’s Amazing Pop-Up House of Inventions
Robert Crowther. Ill. by the author.
This pop-up book is written as an informational text for older readers. Each set of pages features a different room in a house with information about the function and history of ordinary household items. (Team 5)

Walt Disney Pictures Presents: Dinosaur: The Essential Guide
Ill. with images and photographs.
This is a great book for kids who loved the movie Dinosaur, for anyone who collects “Disneyana,” or for those who love animation or dinosaurs in general. The book captures each creature from the film. (Team 3)

Weird Stories From the Lonesome Café
Judy Cox. Ill. by Diane Kidd.
Sam and his uncle spend the summer serving up food and coffee at the Lonesome Café, where they are definitely not lonesome! Many interesting folks stop by for chili and pie. Will Uncle Clem ever find time to write his book? (Team 5)

Who’s in the Hall? A Mystery in Four Chapters
Betsy Hearne. Ill. by Christy Hale.
This book brings home the lesson, “Don’t open the door to strangers.” Two sets of kids and babysitters in different apartments are smart enough not to open the door to strangers, but mishaps and misconceptions abound in this story full of wordplay. (Team 3)
The Body of Christopher Creed
Carol Plum-Ucci.

Sixteen-year-old Torey Adams is drawn into the mysterious disappearance of the class freak, Christopher Creed. After he vanishes, the weirdness that had once surrounded him begins to spread through the town of Steepleton. (Team 4)


The Boy of a Thousand Faces
Brian Selznick. Ill. by the author.

Fascinated with monsters and ghosts, Alonzo longs to transform his face into a thousand different characters. When a monster appears in town, Alonzo and his neighbor, Mr. Shadows, solve a mystery and encounter lots of ghoulish faces. (Team 1)


David v. God
Mary E. Pearson.

Travel to heaven with David and his biology class following a deadly bus accident. Witness David use the forum of debate to convince God to allow his return to earth and to acknowledge things about himself never before faced. (Team 2)


Don’t Tell Anyone
Peg Kehret.

This enticing story leads to danger and suspense when 12-year-old Megan visits feral cats housed in a field drainpipe. She witnesses a hit and run, becomes a kidnap victim, and has to save not only the cats but also herself. (Team 2)


Eggs in One Basket
Kathy Mackel.

Science fiction fans will love the adventures of Scott Schreiber, football hero of Bristol Middle School. Torturous music and a daydream about flying like a bird are mysterious elements that show Scott that he is more than a football hero. (Team 2)


Elvis Lives! and Other Anagrams
Jon Agee. Ill. by the author.

How does your name sound when written backwards? Cleverly written anagrams with humorous illustrations will appeal to those with a sophisticated sense of humor. (Team 4)


The Girls
Amy Goldman Koss.

Have you ever been an outsider? This is an interesting read about exclusion and cliques in middle school. The story is told from the viewpoint of five different members of a group. It’s a great book for teaching point of view. (Team 3)


The Grooming of Alice
Phyllis Reynolds Naylor.

Alice and her friends decide on summer makeovers, longing, like many adolescent girls, to match society’s expectations to be skinny and beautiful. Readers will enjoy the realistic events that lead Alice to a greater understanding and appreciation of herself. (Team 1)


Growing Wings
Laurel Winter.

Adolescents face enough problems, but Linnet’s are compounded when she discovers she has grown wings. Concealing her gift—or perhaps her deformity—proves impossible. It takes help from others for her to recognize what her future may hold. (Team 1)


Guy Time
Sarah Weeks.

Guy Strange’s problems begin when Autumn Hockney asks him out on a date. This hilarious tale gains momentum as Autumn’s confidante, Lana, stops at nothing to get him to say “yes.” (Team 4)


Highs! Over 150 Ways to Feel Really, REALLY Good…Without Alcohol or Other Drugs
Alex Packer, Ph.D. Ill. by Jeff Tolbert.

The author presents a collection of essays to help teenagers and young adults feel good sans drugs and alcohol. There are “serenity highs,” “physical and sensuous highs,” and “social, spiritual, and creative highs.” If you want a rush of adrenaline, or long for some peace, read this book. (Team 3)


Hostage
Willo Davis Roberts.

Hostage will engage the reader from the first page. Kaci loves to tell stories, but the wildest story is her own. Kaci becomes a heroine as she learns about herself and her new neighbor. (Team 5)

More about Children’s Choices (continued)

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 list or Science list, send US$2.00 and a self-addressed 6”×9” envelope stamped with 76¢ U.S. postage to CBC, 12 W. 37th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10018-7840, USA; Attn: Social Studies List, or Attn: Science List. Multiple copy rates are available on the CBC Web site http://www.ebebooks.org.

How can I use these books in my classroom?
The International Reading Association has a new publication full of ideas for making the most of these books. Celebrating Children’s Choices: 25 Years of Children’s Favorite Books (2000, ISBN 087207-276-2) is a collection of practical classroom applications of books from the lists. The book can be purchased through the Order Department for US$19.16 for members, US$23.95 for nonmembers. To order a copy by phone with a credit card (from within the United States and Canada only), call the International Reading Association at 1-800-336-READ, ext. 266, or call (from outside North America) 1-302-731-1600, ext. 266. This publication is also available through the Association’s online bookstore at http://bookstore.reading.org. Book rate shipping is US$3.00 for orders under US$25.00.

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. Submission information is available in late May. Publishers may request submission notification by e-mailing bibliographics@ebebooks.org.

CBC welcomes publishers, large and small, to join its diverse membership. For membership information, write to CBC, 12 W. 37th Street, 2nd Floor, Suite 404, New York, NY 10018-7840, USA.

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

Jade Green: A Ghost Story
Phyllis Reynolds Naylor.
Judith is a recently orphaned teenager living with her uncle and estranged older cousin in Whisper, South Carolina. Judith is told not to bring anything green to her new home. What will happen to Judith when she breaks this rule? (Team 5)

Magic Can Be Murder
Vivian Vande Velde.
Do you think it’s tough to be a teen? Try to imagine what it would be like to be a teen witch. The plot thickens when the witch, Nola, witnesses a murder and is framed for the crime. (Team 4)

Pharaoh’s Daughter: A Novel of Ancient Egypt
Julius Lester.
Lester’s recreation of the Moses story helps readers understand the social and political realities of the exodus of the Jews from Egypt. Lester uses Midrash, a way of exploring sacred text through the use of one’s imagination, to bring this biblical story to life. (Team 3)

Skin and Other Stories
Roald Dahl.
Thirteen short stories written for adults are collected here for teen readers. Readers will appreciate the sometimes grisly and unexpected twists in plot and conclusion. (Team 1)

Skullcrack
Ben Bo.
Jonah is a teenager living in Ireland, and his father is an alcoholic. Jonah escapes his reality by surfing at Crakkull Point, where he sees the images of a girl in the swirling mists of the cove. This suspenseful novel leaves you clinging to the edge of your seat. (Team 3)

Star in the Storm
Joan Hiatt Harlow.
In 1912, Maggie Wells faces a terrible decision—should she risk the life of her beloved dog in order to save people trapped at sea? This absorbing, tension-filled adventure is based on Newfoundland historical events. (Team 1)
Teen Angst? Naaah…
A Quasi-Autobiography
Ned Vizzini. Ill. by Chris Schons.
Nineteen-year-old Ned Vizzini writes about his trials and tribulations at Stuyvesant High School, one of the most academically challenging high schools in New York City. The author’s genuine and humorous style leaves you laughing and wanting to write your own autobiography. (Team 3)

The Wanderer
Sharon Creech. Ill. by David Diaz.
Through a journal, Sophie and Cody share insights about their trip across the Atlantic Ocean to England. The characters’ feelings are captured in this narrative. If you’re intrigued by adventure at sea, this book is for you! (Team 4)

The Wide Window: A Series of Unfortunate Events Book
Lemony Snicket. Ill. by Brett Helquist.
If you haven’t been introduced to the Baudelaire orphans, you’re in for a great surprise! This story is packed with excitement, including hurricanes, leeches, a big bad villain, and cold cucumber soup. (Team 4)

The Wish
Gail Carson Levine.
After being nice to an old lady, Wilma is granted her wish to be the most popular kid at school. Girls and boys are instantly her friends. Wilma wonders if her new-found popularity will continue when the wish wears off. (Team 5)

Year of the Griffin
Diana Wynne Jones.
In this fantasy sequel to Dark Lord of Derkholm, Elda, a golden griffin and student of wizardry, hatches wild schemes galore, confronting pirates and assassins in the process. (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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