What is the Children’s Choices project?

Each year, 10,000 schoolchildren 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 2002 list is the 28th 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 93-year-old annual observance of 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 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 2002. The books to be tested were selected by publishers from the books they published in 2001 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 2002 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 2002; they are subject to change
without notice. These abbreviations are
provided for easy reference:
III. illustrator of the book
pp. page count
ISBN identifies books and facilitates purchasing titles from
bookstores, wholesalers, or publishers

Beginning Readers

A Cat and a Dog
Cat and Dog fight all the time, until
one day when they need each other
very badly. The bright colors and
simple text make this story one that
young children will ask for again
and again. (Team 2)

Clara Caterpillar
This story artfully combines information about caterpillars with a surprisingly sweet story. Children will
enjoy finding all the words that start with c as they learn about caterpillars and friendship. (Team 3)
(trade). US$15.95. CAN$23.95.

Colors
Robert Crowther. Ill. by the author.
This is the perfect book for any child just learning the colors. It is a beautifully engineered pop-up book with
flaps, tabs, and hidden pictures. This interactive book invites a relaxing
evening with your child. (Team 2)
Candlewick Press. 16 pp. ISBN 0-7636-1404-1

The Dirty Little Boy
Margaret Wise Brown. Ill. Steven Salerno.
A little boy tries to bathe like the animals do—in dirt—and becomes dirtier than when he started. This story first appeared in Jack and Jill magazine in 1939. (Team 5)

Do You Have My Quack?
Keith Faulkner. Ill. Rob Hefferan.
Very young readers will enjoy interacting with the text through the animal sounds shown on pull-tabs. The simple storyline encourages participation and retelling. (Team 5)

Farm Flu
A young boy copes admirably with an outbreak of flu on the farm by doing
“what my mom would do if it were me
who had the flu.” Chickens, pigs,
turkeys, and sheep get cured, and then
minister to their caretaker. (Team 4)
Dawn Apperley. Ill. by the author.

**Flip and Flop**
Dawn Apperley. Ill. by the author.

This story will appeal to any reader who has a brother or sister. Flip and Flop find that they enjoy each other’s company more after taking time to play with friends of their own. (Team 3)


**Froggy Eats Out**

Froggy goes to a fancy restaurant with his parents for their anniversary. Froggy becomes impatient and forgets his manners. At the end of the meal they leave the restaurant and head out for hamburgers. (Team 5)


**Good Night, Monkey Boy**
Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Ill. by the author.

After giving three tigers strawberry milk, watching a lion brush his teeth, showering a whale down the drain, and borrowing pajamas from two dancing dogs, Lola is almost ready for bed. Children will identify with these typical bedtime excuses. (Team 4)


**I Am Not Sleepy and I Will Not Go to Bed**
Lauren Child. Ill. by the author.

This alphabet book is the perfect kindergarten story. Miss Bindergarten takes her class on a typical field trip. Readers will recognize the post office, fire station, bakery, public library, and city park. (Team 3)


**I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly**
Ill. Stephen Gubris.

Readers will enjoy singing along with this familiar story while spinning the Old Lady’s moveable stomach. (Team 3)


**I Love Going Through This Book**

Rhymes fill this whimsical look at the places a book takes us, like a thick wood, a wide river, or a mountainside. The fanciful journey ends at the last page of the book, but it will be read over and over again. (Team 5)


**I Love You This Much**
Lynn Hodges and Sue Buchanan. Ill. John Bendall Brunello.

Mother Bear teaches her son about God through her daily actions. This book is great for bedtime. The CD allows young children to listen to the story on their own. (Team 3)


**Leon the Chameleon**
Mélanie Watt. Ill. by the author.

Leon never turns the same color as everyone else! He learns the benefits of being different, however, when he and the other baby chameleons are lost in the desert. Children will benefit from this lesson of acceptance and self-respect. (Team 4)


**Miss Bindergarten Takes a Field Trip With Kindergarten**
Joseph Slate. Ill. Ashley Wolff.

This alphabet book is the perfect kindergarten story. Miss Bindergarten takes her class on a typical field trip. Readers will recognize the post office, fire station, bakery, public library, and city park. (Team 3)


**The Mouse Who Ate Bananas**
Keith Faulkner. Ill. Rory Tiger.

When Mouse carelessly discards a banana peel over his shoulder, the other jungle animals end up slipping and sliding their way to bruises and bandages. Double-page pop-up illustrations give readers the full view of each animal’s mishap. (Team 5)


**Our Friend Sam**
Mercer Mayer. Ill. by the author.

This book is one in the series of First Readers. Sam is a caterpillar captured in a backyard. Sam builds a chrysalis and becomes a butterfly. The illustrations add to a natural science project. (Team 5)


**Sleep Tight, Ginger Kitten**
Adèle Geras. Ill. Catherine Walters.

Ginger Kitten is trying to find the perfect spot to take a nap. The charm of this story is its rhyming text and brightly colored illustrations. This story is the perfect choice for young readers. (Team 1)

**Snow Day**  
Mercer Mayer. Ill. by the author.  
When school is canceled because of a snow day, Little Critter romps outside to celebrate. Children will enjoy reading predictable text with colorful, meaningful illustrations. (Team 2)  

**Snow Ponies**  
Old Man Winter brings snow to the forest using his beautiful snow ponies. As the ponies are set free from their stall, they gallop through the woods turning everything white and snowy. (Team 2)  

**Snug as a Bug**  
Amy Imbody. Ill. Mike Gordon.  
A little boy imagines sleeping like a number of young animals. The rhyming text goes well with the outrageous illustrations. Readers will love pointing out all the silly details. (Team 3)  

**Young Readers**

**Baloney (Henry P.)**  
Jon Scieszka. Ill. Lane Smith.  
When Henry P. Baloney is late for class again, he tells Mrs. Bugscuffle his excuse, which turns out to be quite a tall tale. The story is full of adventure, imagination, and unusual vocabulary. (Team 5)  

**Beware of the Storybook Wolves**  
Lauren Child. Ill. by the author.  
Herb is afraid of his evening read-aloud books. The wolves from “Little Red Riding Hood” and “The Three Little Pigs” visit him when his mother is away. The story becomes mixed up, with Cinderella and her fairy godmother making an appearance. (Team 5)  

**Brave As a Bunny Can Be**  
Alison Julian. Ill. by the author.  
Cooper overhears a remark that sends him off on his own to learn to...
be brave. He does well until he meets a fox. Cooper’s dealing with the fox proves that he truly is “brave as a bunny can be.” (Team 4)

Franklin and Harriet
Franklin usually enjoys being Harriet’s big brother, but when she insists on taking Sam, Franklin’s toy dog, he begins to rethink the whole situation. Young readers will enjoy Franklin’s realistic solution to this common problem. (Team 3)


Franny B. Kranny, There’s a Bird in Your Hair!
Harriet Lerner and Susan Goldhor. Ill. Helen Oxenbury.
Franny B. Kranny loves her amazing curly red hair, but it keeps causing problems. To prepare for a family reunion, Franny goes to the hairdresser. The resulting hairdo simultaneously subdues her hair and provides a nest for a bird. (Team 4)


Giraffes Can’t Dance
Rhyming text and bright watercolors give this book movement and pizzazz. Students will like Gerald, the clumsy giraffe, as he learns to stop listening to others and dance to his inner music. (Team 3)


The Great Gracie Chase: Stop That Dog!
Cynthia Rylant. Ill. Mark Teague.
Gracie liked her quiet house. All was well until the painters came. These noisy men put Gracie outside, where she led everyone on a rollicking chase through town. Children will root for Gracie as she outwits everyone and returns home safely. (Team 4)


Jabuti the Tortoise: A Trickster Tale From the Amazon
Gerald McDermott. Ill. by the author.
This rain forest tale tells of a tortoise whose dream of making music for the King of Heaven is upset by a vengeful vulture. Children will love the bright illustrations, as each bird coming to Jabuti’s aid receives a colorful gift. (Team 4)


Makeup Mess
Robert Munsch. Ill. Michael Martchenko.
Robert Munsch entertains us with a story of childhood fun. Julie saves her money to buy makeup, but she soon realizes makeup is not as easy as it looks. The story was written for Munsch’s daughter, who is beautiful without makeup. (Team 5)


Math Man
Teri Daniels. Ill. Timothy Bush.
A grocery store crisis calls for a mathematical solution that only one person can provide. Readers will find math problems interspersed with a fast-paced story and intricate illustrations. (Team 3)


Megatooth
Patrick O’Brien. Ill. by the author.
Children always love to read about dinosaurs. This book takes a different twist. It highlights giants of the sea such as the megalodon, the largest animal of the sea or land. The book provides facts about the megalodon in comparison to the more popular dinosaurs. (Team 5)


Monster Goose
Judy Sierra. Ill. Jack E. Davis.
The traditional Mother Goose rhymes are told with a ghoulish twist, including Little Miss Mummy; Slithery, Dickory, Dock; Mary Had a Vampire Bat; and others with many memorable monster characters. (Team 5)

One Dark Night
Hazel Hutchins. Ill. Susan Kathleen Hartung.
One dark night, a stray cat delivers a special gift to Jonathan and his grandparents. A terrible thunderstorm sets the stage in this delightful story for the young and the young-at-heart. (Team 2)

A Plump and Perky Turkey
Teresa Bateman. Ill. Jeff Shelly.
Squawk Valley residents are in desperate need of a turkey for Thanksgiving. Just when they think they have found the one, he disappears into thin air. Young readers will enjoy the surprise ending to this story told in rhyme.

Rufferella
Vanessa Gill-Brown and Mandy Stanley. Ill. by the authors.
Diamante decides to become a fairy godmother and turn her dog into a girl, Rufferella. Readers will connect with this book because of its Cinderella link and the engaging conversations between Diamante and Rufferella. (Team 1)

Sidney Won’t Swim
Hilde Schuurmans. Ill. by the author.
Kids will relate to the reluctant Sidney as he tries every trick in the book to get out of taking swimming lessons. With some help from his friends, Sidney learns that swimming isn’t dumb after all. (Team 4)

Spike in the Kennel
Paulette Bogan. Ill. by the author.
When Shannon has to leave for a day, Spike is sent to a kennel to spend the night. At first Spike has a hard time adjusting to this new place, but then he finds it hard to leave his new friends. (Team 2)

Ten Little Monkeys: A Counting Storybook
Ten playful monkeys find adventure in the jungle. This interactive book will involve children in counting backward while they swing their own manipulative monkeys down from a pop-up tree. (Team 2)

Trick-or-Treat on Milton Street
As Charley and his stepfather go trick-or-treating around their neighborhood, Charley finds many new friends. Children will enjoy the elaborate costumes and tasty treats Charley encounters. (Team 2)

Very Boring Alligator
Jean Gralley. Ill. by the author.
Here is an entertaining story about a girl trying to get rid of an alligator. This selection has terrific word choice. Children will enjoy predicting
the rhyming words, as well as the outcome of this charming tale. (Team 2)


Wait! No Paint!
Bruce Whatley. Ill. by the author.
“The Three Little Pigs” leap out of their traditional story when they have to battle both the big, bad wolf and the “illustrator” as they try to come to a happy ending. Students will enjoy the surprise ending more than the pigs do. (Team 3)


Widget
Widget is a warm, enchanting book of acceptance and individuality. Any child who has been an outsider will appreciate Widget’s strategy for fitting in without losing sight of who you are. (Team 3)


Intermediate Readers

Clarice Bean Guess Who’s Babysitting?
Lauren Child. Ill. by the author.
Clarice Bean is one member of a large, fun-loving family. Clarice’s fireman uncle comes to babysit for the four children and, as mom says, “We get along like a house on fire!” (Team 5)


The Custodian From the Black Lagoon
Mike Thaler. Ill. Jared Lee.
This custodian has a fire-breathing dragon in his dark cavern. He is mechanically challenged and is never seen by the students in the school. This book will entice children’s imaginations to visualize this wacky school. (Team 1)


Davy Crockett Saves the World
Rosalyn Schanzer. Ill. by the author.
The President of the United States needs Davy Crockett to save the world from Halley’s Comet. This story flew off the shelves because of the vibrant illustrations and the laughter on every page. (Team 1)


The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins
Dinosaur lovers of all ages will be entranced by the story of Waterhouse Hawkins, who built the first life-sized models of dinosaurs. What really attracts children to this book are the large pages and exceptional illustrations of the dinosaurs. (Team 1)


Experiments in Science: How Does It Work?
David Glover. Ill. with photos and drawings.
The book is designed for students to complete easy-to-do experiments under the direction of an adult. Scientific concepts are presented along with brief explanations under sections called “Science explained.” Photos of real-life examples accompany each experiment. (Team 4)


Fat Camp Commandos
Daniel Pinkwater. Ill. Andy Rash.
A brother and sister are sent to a camp in a small town in New York state in the hope that they will lose weight. They leave in disgust and spend several weeks on their own, learning resilience and self-respect. (Team 2)


Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman
Louise Borden and Mary Kay Kroeger. Ill. Teresa Flavin.

Bessie Coleman was the first African American to earn a pilot’s license. Learning to read spurred her transformation from the daughter of illiterate slaves to an international celebrity. Her words “Keep trying! Fly high!” inspire children to higher goals. (Team 4)


Horses
Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. Ill. with photos. by William Muñoz.

Students looking for a great nonfiction book about horses will love this one. The glossary and index in the back make it easy to use for research. The numerous photos and clear print make it enjoyable to browse through.


How Animals Saved the People:
Animal Tales From the South

The author has adapted this collection of animal tales with African, Cajun, Native American, Appalachian, Creole, and Deep South roots. While children enjoy reading these stories, they will take special delight in listening to the language and dialects. (Team 4)


Humpty Dumpty Egg-Splodes
Kevin O’Malley. Ill. by the author.

This wonderful offbeat retelling and combining of Mother Goose’s nursery rhymes has O’Malley’s tongue-in-cheek humor and short aside throughout. Readers will recognize their favorite characters who try to stop Humpty Dumpty’s rampage through Mother Goose Land. (Team 3)


Ice Cream Treats: The Inside Scoop
Paul Fleisher. Ill. with photos. by David O. Saunders.

Have you ever wondered how candy-coated ice cream bars are made? Photographs of an ice cream factory show readers the steps required in that process. Directions are given for making “shake and freeze” and “coffee-can” ice cream. (Team 4)


Jazz Cats
David Davis. Ill. Chuck Galey.

Children will love the flow of the text. It is like someone singing a jazz song, while describing each Jazz Cat in the band and providing various historic landmarks of New Orleans in the lyrics. (Team 5)


Joining the Boston Tea Party
Diane Stanley. Ill. Holly Berry.

The Time Traveling Twins are transported back to Colonial Boston in time for the Boston Tea Party. With its inviting illustrations and fun view of history, this book was very popular. (Team 1)


Judy Moody Gets Famous
Megan McDonald. Ill. Peter Reynolds.

More than anything else, Judy Moody wants to be famous. She tries entering a famous pet contest and breaking a world record for a human centipede. Nothing works until she secretly does a good deed. (Team 5)


Kate Culhane: A Ghost Story
Michael Hague. Ill. by the author.

This Irish folktale is not for young readers. The realistic illustrations make this ghost story very scary. Older children will be captivated by the gruesome details. The happy ending is a nice surprise. (Team 2)
**Kitchen Science**
Chris Maynard. Ill. with photos. and drawings. 
This book contains all the “how to” information kids need to conduct scientific experiments and learn scientific principles with common kitchen ingredients. (Team 4)

**The Lima Bean Monster**
Dan Yaccarino. Ill. Adam McCauley. 
What child hasn’t dreamed of finding a way around eating vegetables? Eerie illustrations, stiff pages, and clever text make this work feel more like a B-movie than a children’s story. Older readers will get the subtle jokes. (Team 3)

**Love That Dog**
Sharon Creech. Ill. William Steig. 
Jack is upset because Miss Stretchberry is making him read and write poetry. Jack believes that boys don’t write poetry. Readers will appreciate this story because it’s a quick but enjoyable read. (Team 1)

**Lunch Box Mail: And Other Poems**
Jenny Whitehead. Ill. by the author. 
This playful poetry collection captures childhood with all its fun and good times. Children will enjoy the way the poetry is written as well as the subjects. The fanciful illustrations are most engaging. (Team 2)

**Martin’s Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**
Doreen Rappaport. Ill. Bryan Collier. 
This charming book portrays the ideas and life of Martin Luther King, Jr. His strong belief in uniting cultures shines brightly through the text. Large print and wonderful illustrations bring this story to life for young readers. (Team 2)

**Monsters Inc.: The Essential Guide**
Ill. with pictures. 
This book is full of bright photos and plenty of white space. Kids who have seen the movie will enjoy reading about the characters. (Team 3)

**Mountain Dance**
Thomas Locker. Ill. by the author. 
Locker has created another masterpiece. Poetic text and detailed oil paintings combine to make this book easy to read while appealing to students who enjoy science and geology. Additional information in the back makes this book both beautiful and useful. (Team 3)

**Oh Boy, Amelia!**
Marissa Moss. Ill. by the author. 
10-year-old Amelia is studying her older sister, who has a crush on Oliver. The crush is making Cleo act differently. Readers will be attracted to the style and humor in the story. (Team 1)

Illustration ©2001 by the author from **Oh Boy, Amelia!** by Marissa Moss. Reprinted by permission of Pleasant Company.
More about Children’s Choices

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

Cochairing the 2001–2002 IRA–CBC Joint Committee were Roseine Church, Education Consultant, Cheyenne, Wyoming, and David Wexler, Lerner Publishing Group, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Representing IRA on the committee were Barbara Fritz, Shari Furtwangler, Stuart Murphy, Linda L. Pitzen, Shauna R. Tateoka, Joan Stevenson, and Junko Yokota; those representing CBC were Lucy Del Priore, Philip Lee, Victoria Tisch, Andrea Wilk, and Phoebe Yeh. 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: Billerica, Massachusetts, consisted of two suburban elementary schools and one suburban middle school. Team leader: Marion C. DePierro. Support team leader: Janice Peterson.

Team 2: Green River, Wyoming, consisted of four suburban elementary schools, two rural elementary schools, and two small-town middle schools. Team leaders: Joyce Hart and JoAnn Leigh.

Team 3: Madras, Oregon, consisted of three small-town elementary schools, one elementary school on the Warm Springs Reservation, and one central middle school. Team leader: Joan Brinkley. Support team leader: Mary Hawes.

Team 4: Williamsburg, Virginia, consisted of three suburban elementary schools and one suburban middle school. Team leader: Denise Johnson. Support team leaders: Anne Blair, Shelby Hawthorne, Mary Kenney, Barbara Orehovec, and Lisa Smith.

Team 5: Topeka, Kansas, consisted of seven urban and suburban elementary schools, one urban junior high school, and one suburban middle school. Team leaders: Elizabeth Schmar and Kimberly Young. Support team leader: Terry Keegan.

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 website at http://www.cbcbooks.org.

How can I order copies of this list?

Offprints of this annotated 2002 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 business-size 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 6021, Newark, DE 19714-6021, 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 website 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 website 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.

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 Students K–12, 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 80¢ U.S. postage to Children’s Book Council, 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 website, http://www.cbcbooks.org.

(continued)
More about Children's Choices (continued)

How can I use these books in my classroom?
The International Reading Association has a 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 non-members. 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 can I order these books?
By special arrangement, books named on the Choices lists can be purchased at a significant discount (32% off regular retail prices) from Schoolwide, Inc. A portion of the purchase price benefits the International Reading Association. Download the Schoolwide order form on the Association website http://www.reading.org (Books are shipped from Schoolwide’s New York state location. For information on shipping charges to destinations outside the United States, contact Schoolwide directly at the phone or fax numbers provided on the order form.)

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 early May. Publishers may request submission notification by e-mailing bibliographies@cbcbooks.org.

CBC welcomes publishers large and small to join its diverse membership. For membership information, write to Children’s Book Council, 12 W. 37th Street, 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 website at http://www.cbcbooks.org.

One Puppy, Three Tales
Karen Salmansohn. Ill. by the author.
Alexandria explores the concept of friendship with her best friend, boys, and her family. This book is bound to please its readers with its journal style format, cartoon drawings, and bright colors. (Team 1)

The Pirate, Pink
Jan Day. Ill. Janeen Mason.
Pink decides to become a pirate like her father, Red Beard. But once on board the ship, the real adventures begin. Children will be intrigued by this story because of the magnificent illustrations and Pink’s adventures at sea. (Team 1)

The Teachers’ Night Before Christmas
Steven Layne. Ill. James Rice.
If you are familiar with James Rice’s *Night Before Christmas books, this is one to add to the collection. Steven Layne has added humor to the confusion and harried Christmas preparations of a teacher on the first days of winter break. (Team 5)

To the Top of Everest
Laurie Skreslet with Elizabeth MacLeod. Ill. with photos.
The author gives a stunning account of his climb to the top of Everest in 1982. Laurie Skreslet’s book is thrilling and informative reading with fascinating photographs. Readers interested in nonfiction should not miss this one. (Team 1)

The War
Anais Vaugelade. Ill. by the author.
The Reds and the Blues are at war. Prince Julius and Prince Fabien decide a duel will determine the winner. When tragedy strikes, Fabien has a plan that he hopes will bring peace to the land. (Team 2)

Children's Choices for 2002 11
Advanced
Readers

Alice Alone
Phyllis Reynolds Naylor.
What will Alice do when her world turns upside down? Alice learns that there are more important life choices than boyfriends, dances, and make-up. She learns how to build deep friendships and to trust. (Team 5)

Anne Frank and Me
Cherie Bennett and Jeff Gottesfeld.
Nicole Burns is knocked unconscious while visiting an Anne Frank exhibit and is transported back in time to World War II Paris, France. Readers will find the mood light and funny initially, but sad and serious as the novel ends. (Team 1)

Bad Girl Blues
Sally Warner.
Quinney Todd is looking forward to the start of her life in middle school. Best friends Brynn and Marguerite have always shared everything with her before—why not now? A realistic account of the situations and dilemmas teens face every day. (Team 1)

Bad Girls
Mandy is bullied a lot because of her small size, and also because her mother treats her like a baby. She develops a friendship with a foster child who gets caught shoplifting. Mandy learns self-assurance and confidence. (Team 2)

Burp! The Most Interesting Book You’ll Ever Read About Eating
Diane Swanson. Ill. Rose Cowles.
Burp! has a captivating title followed by fascinating information, anecdotes, and experiments. Readers will be drawn in by the headlines and then educated by the facts. This book is a wonderful way to explain a scientific phenomenon. Audiences will devour it. (Team 1)

Cirque du Freak: A Living Nightmare...
Darren Shan.
Have you ever liked spiders or wanted to go to a freak show? Darren gets trapped in twisting tunnels of horror. He has to face a terrifying choice: to become a member of the living dead/undead or let his best friend die. (Team 5)
Darkness Before Dawn
Sharon M. Draper.
Mature readers will be moved by the tragedies and eventual triumphs that face Keisha Montgomery, an African American teen who strives to come out whole after a vicious attack by someone she loves. (Team 4)

Flipped
Wendelin Van Draanen.
This engaging book is about the confusing and alternating feelings of Bryce Loski and Juli Baker. Told by both lead characters, this story is enchanting and enlightening. (Team 1)

Hole in the Sky
Pete Hautman.
This story has a futuristic setting. Realistic to our times, however, a flu virus plagues the characters. Children will connect to this thought-provoking plot. (Team 2)

The Hostile Hospital (A Series of Unfortunate Events)
Lemony Snicket. Ill. Brett Helquist. The Baudelaire orphans make it through another nightmarish adventure in the eighth volume of this series. This time, they search for clues concerning their parents’ deaths while being pursued by the evil Count Olaf, who is after the family fortune. (Team 4)

Little Lit: Strange Stories for Strange Kids
Edited by Art Spiegelman and Françoise Mouly.
Want a quick read of assorted humorous comic strips? The topics range from having a beautiful friendship with your shadow to a comic strip maze. Truly a-maze-ing! (Team 2)

Money Hungry
Sharon G. Flake.
This is the story of the struggle of 13-year-old Raspberry Hill and her mother to leave low-income housing. They work to free themselves from poverty with the support of Raspberry’s three close friends. (Team 4)

Notes From a Liar and Her Dog
Gennifer Choldenko.
This is a bittersweet novel about Ant (Antonia) MacPherson’s fervent belief that she is adopted. It’s a painful journey that ends with our heroine understanding that life is what you make it. (Team 1)

Rover Saves Christmas
Roddy Doyle. Ill. Brian Ajhar. What will Santa do without Rudolph? Rudolph is not in the mood for sleigh riding this Christmas Eve. It’s Rover the dog to the rescue. Rover, his friends, and two lizards help Santa deliver all of the packages in this twisted tale of midnight madness. (Team 5)

The Secret School
Avi.
Ida and her schoolmates are stunned to learn that their teacher must close the school. They all love to learn, so they agree to meet secretly and have Ida teach them. This is a tale of determination, courage, and sacrifice. (Team 1)
Skeleton Man
Joseph Bruchac.
Molly awakens one Sunday morning to find her parents gone. She is sent to live with her creepy uncle, whom she has never met before. Can her uncle lead her to discover the truth about her parents’ disappearance? (Team 2)

A Smart Girl’s Guide to Boys: Surviving Crushes, Staying True to Yourself, and Other Love Stuff
Nancy Holyoke. Ill. Bonnie Timmons.
Ever been too embarrassed to ask a boy a question? Ever wonder what he really means when he looks at you in the hallway? This guide has it all. A must for any girl who’s ever been boy crazy. (Team 2)

Taking Chances (Heartland, #4)
Lauren Brooke.
Amy is trying to help her sister and grandfather keep Heartland alive. Heartland is her deceased mother’s dream of a ranch for abused horses. Readers who love horses and ranches will find this series heartwarming and enjoyable. (Team 1)

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.

The Two Princesses of Bamarre
Gail Carson Levine.
One princess is adventurous and brave. The other princess is meek and afraid. In this tale, set in times of sorcerers, monsters, and plagues, a princess shows that courage can be found in the face of adversity. (Team 5)

The Vile Village (A Series of Unfortunate Events)
The seventh book in this gloomy series follows the three Baudelaire orphans as they are taken to a village named “V.F.D.” that provides a clue to the tragic disappearance of the Baudelaires’ friends, the Quagmire triplets. (Team 4)

IRA/CBC Liaison Committee
Roseine Church, 2001–2002 IRA/CBC Cochair
David Wexler, 2001–2002 IRA/CBC Cochair

**Witch Hill**
Marcus Sedgwick.

*Here we have a frightening account of a boy named Jamie recovering from trauma while solving a supernatural mystery. Excitement and adventure abound. Filled with suspense and interspersed with flashbacks, this story is a nonstop read. (Team 1)*


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**The Witch Trade**
Michael Molloy. Ill. David Wyatt.

*In a world where good is threatened by evil night witches, Abby, Spike, Captain Starlight, and Sir Chadwick (the flamboyant leader of the Light Witches), set off on a journey to discover the hidden source of all Black Witch power. (Team 4)*


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**You Don’t Know Me**
David Klass.

*John, age 14, retreats into his own world to try to find solace from his mother’s abusive boyfriend. Coming to terms with his situation is a struggle. He finds out that his mother’s love still prevails. (Team 2)*

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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