**2013 3-5th Louisiana Young Readers’ choice**

**Nominated List**

1. ***All Star! : Honus Wagner and the Most Famous Baseball Card Ever*** by Jane Yolen. Illus. Jim Burke. 36 pgs. The most famous baseball card of all time is of the player Honus Wagner, a Pittsburgh Pirate, whose card sold for 3 million dollars. Honus started out poor but became one of the best shortstops of all time. Honus played in more games than anyone in the National League. One anecdote in the book describes how Honus displayed character by not wanting his baseball card to support smoking. He was not a smoker and did not want children to feel that he encouraged that behavior. He took a stand and had his card taken off the market. Before this action was taken, a few cards got out to the public. Those cards are very valuable now. **(picture book, biography, baseball)**

IL: **LG** - BL: **4.8** - AR Pts: **0.5**

Hardback. Penguin Group. 2010. 9780399246616. $17.99.

1. ***The Case of the Lost Boy: The Buddy Files Book 1*** by Dori Hillestad Butler. Illus. Jeremy Tugeau. 123 pgs. Mystery and dog lovers will enjoy this easy to read story about Buddy, a talkative golden retriever. When his original owners disappear, Buddy ends up in the pound but is adopted by a new family. While Buddy tries to discover what happened to his first owners when his new owner, Connor also disappears. Buddy is on the case and determined to solve the mystery. The sequels are: The Case of the Mixed-Up Mutts and The Case of the Missing Family. **(Told through dog’s eyes, early chapter book, reluctant readers, first in a series)** IL: **LG** - BL: **3.0** - AR Pts: **1.0**

Hardback. Albert Whitman & Company. 2010. 0-8075-0910-8 $14.99.

Trade Paper. Albert Whitman & Company. 2010. 0-8075-0932-9 $4.99.

Ebook Available.

1. ***Cloud Tea Monkeys*** by Mal Peet. Illus. Juan Wijngaard. 48 pgs. In the shadow of the Himalayas, Tashi’s mother labors on a tea plantation while Tashi spends time with the wild monkeys. When her mother is taken ill, Tashi tries to work in place of her mother but she is too small. If she cannot pick tea and earn money she will never be able to pay a doctor to cure her mother. Her monkey friends take her basket, collected her tea for her and return the basket full of the rarest most prized tea leaves. The Royal Tea Taster selects Tashi’s as the best tea and pays her the gold needed for a doctor. IL: **LG** - BL: **5.0** - AR Pts: **1.0 (multicultural, Chinese legend, folk tales, fantasy, great read aloud)**

Hardback. Candlewick Press.2010**.** 0-7636-4453-6. $15.99.

Ebook Available.

1. ***Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave*** by Laban Carrick Hill. Illus. Bryan Collier. 40 pgs. This is the biography of an uncommon artist who lived 200 years ago in the 1800’s. As a slave, Dave mixed clay and water on his potter’s wheel and hand shaped the lifeless mounds into magnificent pottery. A sense of history was realized since Dave signed and dated his work. (African-American, nonfiction, biography, written in prose, Won Caldecott Medal, Won Coretta Scott King Award) IL: **LG** - BL: **6.0** - AR Pts: **0.5**

Hardback. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 2010. 9780316107310. $16.99.

1. ***The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester*** by Barbara O’Connor. 168 pgs. Owen Jester is about ready to have the most memorable summer of his lifetime. He starts the summer off by taking capture of the biggest, slimiest bullfrog in Carter, Georgia. Most people might think this is his secret but it’s not. Owen’s secret comes from a loud crash he heard one night. He discovers that the crash was made when the Water Wonder 4000, a two-person submarine fell from a train. The adventure unfolds as Owen tries to keep this secret from the adults and his know-it-all neighbor and arch-nemesis, Viola. When Viola discovers the sea craft he must let her in on the plan to launch the sub. **(frogs, submarine, summer adventure, relationships)**  IL: **MG** - BL: **4.7** - AR Pts: **4.0**

Hardback. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 2010. 9780374368500. $15.99.

Paperback. Squarfish. 2011. 0-312-67430-9. $6.99.

Ebook Available

1. ***The Junkyard Wonders*** by Patricia Polacco. 48 pgs. Trisha struggles academically and is upset when she finds her class at her new school is known as ‘the junkyard.” Mrs. Peterson, the teacher of this “special” class, does not allow her students to feel like misfits. Mrs. Peterson takes her class to a junkyard where Trisha discovers the true meaning of genius and that they are, in fact, “Junkyard Wonders”. **(based on a true story, teacher-student relationships, self esteem)** IL: **LG** - BL: **4.0** - AR Pts: **0.5**

Hardback. Penguin Group. 2010. 0-399-25078-6. $17.99.

1. ***Mirror, Mirror: A Book of Reversible Verse*** by Marilyn Singer. Illus. Josee Massee. 32 pages. This book of poetry shows that there are always two sides to every story. By reusing the same words, with only changes in punctuation, Singer creates what she calls “reverse” poems. On the left is a split picture from a fairy tale and on the right, the two poems. This work is ingenious and gorgeously illustrated. (Poetry, fairy tales)

No A/R test yet

Hardback. Penguin Group. 2010. 0-525-47901-5. $16.99.

1. ***Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters*** by Barack Obama. Illus. Loren Long. 40 pgs. By asking questions to his daughters, the author introduces 13 American heroes. Some are the ones familiar to all, such as George Washington, Martin Luther King, and Helen Keller. Other figures may be new to readers such as Billie Holiday, Georgia O’Keeffe and César Chávez. This encouraging picture book is a great read aloud. **(nonfiction,** African-American, picture book**)** IL: **LG** - BL: **6.0** - AR Pts: **0.5**

Hardback. Random House Children’s Books. 2010. 0-375-83527-X. $17.99.

Ebook Available.

Audiobook Available.

1. ***Ol Bloo’s Boogie-Woogie Band and Blues Ensemble*** by Jan Huling. Illus. Henri SÃ Rensen. 32 pgs. A take-off on the familiar tale, Bremen Town Musicians, this hilarious version is set in Louisiana. The quartet features Ol’ Bloo Donkey, Gnarly Dog, One-Eyed Lemony Cat, and Rusty Red Rooster. The four head to New Orleans to sing in a fancy honky-tonk but get side tracked. The imaginative language and stunning illustrations, which include some in silhouettes and some in gorgeous full color, make this a treat for

the eyes and ears as a wonderful read aloud. IL: **LG** - BL: **4.7** - AR Pts: **0.5** (LA Interest, humorous, Southern retelling of the Bremen Town Musicians)

Hardback. Peachtree Publishers. 2010. 1-56145-436-2 $16.95.

1. ***The PS Brothers*** by Maribeth Boelts. 137 pages. Russell has been living with an Uncle because of family problems and Shawn’s family is very poor. The two best friends decide that owning a big mean dog will protect them from bullies and solve some of their problems. They spend time at the library reading about dogs and dream of having their very own. Russell and Shawn decide to raise money by getting paid to pick up other dogs’ poop. They call themselves the Poop Scoop Brothers. Through their business venture they stumble across an illegal dog fighting ring. **(guy interest, mystery, reluctant readers, bullies, early chapter book)**  IL: **MG** - BL: **4.8** - AR Pts: **3.0**

Hardback. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 2010. 9780547342498. $15.00.

Paperback. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 2011. 0-547-57717-6. $5.99.

Ebook available.

1. ***The Shadows: The Books of Elsewhere, Volume 1*** by Jacqueline West Illus. Poly Bernatene. 241 pgs. When Olive’s family moves into an old house filled with paintings she discovers that the paintings are really doors into the strange world of Elsewhere. Olive discovers an unusual pair of glasses that allow her to enter this universe. She meets Morton, a nine year old boy who lives inside one of the paintings. Led by three talking cats, she explores this dark mysterious world and confronts the power that wants to get rid of Olive by any means. She defeats one evil power but the house has many more secrets to reveal. IL: **MG** - BL: **5.1** - AR Pts: **7.0 (Fantasy, suspense, creepy)**

Hardcover. 2010. 9780803734401. Penguin Group. $16.99.

Paperback. 2011. 0142418722. Puffin. $6.99.

Audiobook. 2010. 0-14-314571-1. Penguin Group. $29.00.

Ebook Available.

1. ***Touch Blue*** by Cynthia Lord. 186 pgs. Taking in a foster child seems a simple solution to the families in the island community of Bethsaida who want to keep their one room school open. Eleven year old Tess Brooks loves her community, her family and her way of life. She counts on all the superstitions and good luck charms she has to make things work with Aaron, the 13 old foster child who comes to live with them. Together they find out that having a sense of belonging has nothing to do with where you are from, your expectations, luck or superstitions. **(coming of age story, adventure, foster family, guy and girl main characters, realistic fiction)** IL: **MG** - BL: **4.4** - AR Pts: **5.0**

Hardback. Scholastic. 2010. 0-545-03531-7. $16.99.

Compact Disk. Recorded Books. 978-1-4498-3900-0. $46.75.

1. ***We the Children: Benjamin Pratt and the Keepers of the School Bk. 1*** by Andrew Clements, Illus. Adam Stower. 142 pgs. Benjamin Pratt received a mysterious gold coin from his school janitor which embarks Ben and his friends on a quest to save their 200 year old school from being torn down to build and amusement park. They begin to search for clues to explain the mysterious words on the coin, “First and always my school belongs to the children. Defend it.” The students recognize that their beloved school is really under attack. A sailing race with a nail biting finish brings this first installment of the story to a close. IL: **MG** - BL: **5.2** - AR Pts: **3.0 (mystery, adventure, guy interest, on a mission to save their school)**

Hardback. 2010. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. 1-4169-3886-9. 14.99.

Trade Paper. Antheum. 2011. 1-4169-3907-5. $4.95.

Audio. Simon & Schuster Audio. 2010. 0-7435-8384-1. $14.95.

1. ***Wildfire Run*** by Dee Garretson, 261 pgs. US president’s son Luke is left behind at Camp David when his father has to leave to take care of an emergency. Luke is suddenly forced to team up with Callie, someone he has never gotten along with. Together they have to survive a raging wildfire without the help of any adults and overcome great odds against them. IL: **MG** - BL: **4.5** - AR Pts: **7.0 (Action Adventure, boy and girl main characters, survival)**

Hardback. HarperCollins. 2010. 9780061953477. $16.99.

Paperback. HarperCollins. 2011. 0-06-195350-4 . $6.99.

Audio Book. HarperCollins. 2010. 0-06-199980-6.

Ebook Available

1. ***Young Zeus*** by G. Brian Karas. 48 pages. Zeus is the mightiest of the Greek gods but have you ever wondered what his childhood was like? In this playful and humorous retelling, you learn that Zeus grew up lonely with no other gods to play with. His mother Rhea missed all of his birthdays and his father, Cronus, swallowed up all of his brothers and sisters and trapped them in his belly. Zeus wants to play with his brothers and sisters more than anything in the world and has to come up with a plan to free them. **(mythology, action adventure)** IL: **LG** - BL: **3.2** - AR Pts: **0.5**

Hardback. Scholastic. 2010. 9780439728065. $17.99.