**2014 Louisiana Young Readers’ Choice (LYRC)**

**Grades 6-8th, Nominated Title List**

1. **Charlie Joe Jackson’s Guide to Not Reading** by Tommy Greenwald. Illustrations by J. P. Coovert. 224 pages

Charlie Joe, a middle-schooler intent on avoiding reading at all costs, details his school adventures. Tips about how to not read are scattered in the short chapters to help the audience “not read” as well. Charlie Joe must pull off a massive feat, the “Position Paper,” and maintain his non-reading stance. He devises a plan to accomplish this task by convincing a boy to do his reading, and just when it seems as if Charlie Joe has managed the impossible, he is caught. The twisted punishment is both laughable and just. IL: **MG** - BL: **5.4** - AR Pts: **5.0**

**Hardcover. Roaring Brook Press. 2011.** 9781596436916. $14.99.

**Paperback. Square Fish. 2012.** 9781250003379. $6.99.

**Compact Disc. Brilliance Audio. 2012.** 9781455894918. $14.99.

EBook available.

1. **The Fourth Stall** by Chris Rylander. 320 pages.

Sixth-grader Mac is running a business out of the fourth stall in an unused bathroom at school. He helps kids solve problems with their school work, parents and bullies. He has made enough cash to buy tickets for himself and his buddy Vince to go to a World Series game should the Cubs make it in. All is well until an older bully, Staples, moves in on Mac’s business. Will Mac stand up to Staples to save his business? *The Fourth Stall* has action, adventure and most of all humor. This book is billed as “Diary of a Wimpy Kid meets The Sopranos.” IL: **MG** - BL: **5.1** - AR Pts: **11.0**

**Hardcover. Walden Pond Press. 2011.** 9780061994968. **$15.99.**

**Paperback. Walden Pond Press. 2012.** 9780061994975. $6.99.

1. **Hidden** by Helen Frost. 160 pages

Eight-year-old Wren is accidentally kidnapped when the car she is hiding in is stolen; Darra’s father is the car thief. Six years later, the two girls meet at summer camp, each aware of the other and their unexpected relationship. *Hidden*, written in two forms of free verse, tells a fast-paced story of discovering the truths about the people in our lives and coming to terms with unavoidable events. IL: **MG** - BL: **3.9** - AR Pts: **3.0**

**Hardcover.** Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 2011. 9780374382216. $16.99.

1. **How to Rock Braces and Glasses** by Meg Haston. 336 pages.

Kacey Simon is a dispenser of truth at Marquette Middle School. She knows what’s best for everyone and she’s not afraid to give out free advice. Unfortunately, failure to use her prescribed eye drops for her new contact lenses causes an eye infection which impairs her vision which leads to a skating accident where she falls and must then wear braces to correct some problems with her teeth. Now, she needs to regain her popularity. In order to do that she turns to an old friend and a new guy. Together they just might be able to teach her how to rock braces and glasses! IL: **MG+** - BL: **4.4** - AR Pts: **9.0**

**Hardcover. Poppy. 2011.** 9780316212731. $16.99.

**Paperback. Poppy. 2012.** 9780316068246. $7.99.

Compact Disc. Hachette Audio. 2011. 9781611130140. $18.98.

EBook available.

1. **Michael Vey: the Prisoner of Cell 25** by Richard Paul Evans. 336 pages.

Michael’s mom and genius best friend, Ostin, are the only people who know about his special electrical superpowers. That is until the prettiest cheerleader in school sees him in action against school bullies and reveals that she too has powers. When Michael and Taylor begin comparing lives they learn that each was born in the same hospital within days of each other. Now an evil, power hungry organization is trying to acquire them in order to add them to their collection. IL: **MG+** - BL: **3.5** - AR Pts: **11.0**

Hardcover. Simon Pulse/Mercury Ink. 2011. 9781451656503. $17.99.

Paperback. Simon Pulse/Mercury Ink. 2012. 9781442468122. $9.99.

Compact Disc. Simon & Schuster Audio/Mercury Ink. 2011. 9781442346499. $39.99.

EBook available.

1. **Quarterback Season** by Fred Bowen. 144 pages.

When Matt is forced to write in a weekly journal in 8th grade English, he decides to write about his triumphs and defeats on the school’s football team. From the interactions with his teacher about his entries, Matt not only leans how to improve his writing, but also how to improve his game. IL: **MG** - BL: **4.5** - AR Pts: **3.0**

**Paperback.** Peachtree Junior. 2011. 9781561455942. $5.95.

1. **The Running Dream** by Wendelin Van Draanen. 352 pages.

What would you do if you lost your leg in a tragic bus accident minutes after winning a track race? That is what happens to Jessica, a high school junior and school track star. In this story she recovers from losing a leg and gains a prosthetic limb. Jessica’s life changes from being seen and normal to being “invisible” and an afterthought. Through her recovery she discovers herself and others that were “invisible” to her before the accident, like the math genius, Rosa who has cerebral palsy. Jessica learns that her future goes beyond just walking again to maybe even running again. IL: **MG+** - BL: **4.1** - AR Pts: **9.0**

**Hardcover. Knopf Books. 2011.** 9780375866678. $16.99.

**Paperback. Ember. 2012.** 9780375866289. $9.99.

**Compact Disc. Listening Library. 2011.** 9780307747983. $34.00.

**EBook Available.**

1. **Silhouetted by the Blue** by Traci L. Jones. 208 pages.

Serena has landed the coveted role of Dorothy in “The Wiz.” The joy of performing in the play is overshadowed by the day to day responsibilities she has had to assume in caring of her younger brother and running the household after the death of her mother. Her dad’s depression reaches the point that Serena must seek outside help. IL: **MG** - BL: **4.6** - AR Pts: **6.0**

**Hardcover. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 2011.** 9780374369149. $16.99.

**EBook Available.**

1. **Variant** by Robison E. Wells. 356 pages.

When seventeen year old Benson Fisher accepts a scholarship to the elite Maxfield Academy, he thinks he will be leaving his troubled foster care life behind for a new start in boarding school. Instead, he finds himself trapped on the remote campus with no teachers, no classes, video cameras recoding his every move, and roughly seventy other students who have divided themselves into rival gangs. Then, Benson discovers the true purpose of the school and realizes that escape is the only option. IL: **UG** - BL: **4.5** - AR Pts: **12.0**

**Hardcover.** HarperTeen. 2011. 9780062026088. $17.99.

**Paperback** HarperTeen. 2012. 978-0062026095. $9.99.

**EBook Available.**

1. **Wild Life** by Cynthia DeFelice. 192 pages.

Erik’s plans to spend the hunting season with his friends are destroyed when both his parents are deployed overseas. After being sent to live with grandparents he barely knows, he finds his grandmother loving but evasive and his grandfather cool and distant. After rescuing a stray retriever who was attacked by a porcupine, Erik’s grandfather tells him the dog can’t stay. Erik

decides to run away with the dog. In this story of family upsets and the reality of trying to survive on his own, Erik learns about family secrets, compassion, and forgiveness. IL: **MG** - BL: **5.5** - AR Pts: **5.0**

Hardcover. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 2011. 9780374380014. $16.99.

**EBook Available.**

1. **Wonderstruck** by Brian Selznick. 640 pages.

An illustrated novel interweaving plots told in words and pictures. In 1977, twelve year old Ben embarks on a journey to find the father he has never met after losing his ability to hear during a lightning storm near his home in Minnesota. Clues in his late mother’s old cabin lead him to New York City’s Museum of Natural History to search for his father. Ben’s story is told through text and alternates with the story of Rose, a hearing impaired girl longing for independence from her family in New Jersey in 1927. The narrative of Roses’ story, which is told parallel to Ben’s, is related primarily in pencil sketches. Rose’s curiosity about the world outside her home leads her to a hobby of making 3-D models and a love of the Natural History Museum.

IL: **MG** - BL: **5.4** - AR Pts: **4.0**

**Hardcover.** Scholastic Press. 2011. 9780545027892. $29.99.

1. **A World without Heroes** by Brandon Mull. 464 pages.

In this high fantasy adventure quest Jason finds himself in the land of Lyrian. He is a Beyonder, a person from Earth who has crossed over into Lyrian, a magical realm ruled by a wizard. To defeat the evil wizard he must locate the syllables needed to spell a word that when said will destroy the wizard. IL: **MG+** - BL: **5.1** - AR Pts: **19.0**

**Hardcover.** Simon & Schuster/Aladdin. 2011. 9781416997924. $19.99.

**Paperback.** Simon & Schuster/ Aladdin. 2012. 9781416997931. $7.99.

**Compact Disc.** Simon & Schuster Audio. 2011. 9781442337350. $39.99.

**EBook available.**