

Best Books of 2010

AR = Accelerated Reader

School Name: _____

Three letter school code: _____

_____ *All the broken pieces.* **Burg, Ann E. Gr. 7,8,A** – 12-year-old Matt struggles to cope with his memories of family left behind in war-torn Vietnam with the help of his adoptive parents, his music teacher, and his baseball coach. \$10.19 AR 9780545080927

_____ *Almost astronauts: 13 women who dared to dream.* **Stone, Tanya Lee. Gr. A** – The story of the “Mercury 13” women who paved the way for females in space and aeronautics by challenging the political and social culture behind NASA’s unwritten rule that astronauts must be male. \$14.99 AR 9780763636111

_____ *Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring.* **Greenberg, Jan. Gr. 2,3,4,5,6** – This dynamic picture book presents the story of the collaborative genius behind the classic ballet. Dance lovers will be intrigued by the poetic narrative and bold watercolors, while readers interested in learning more about Graham and her fellow artists—composer Aaron Copland and set designer Isamu Noguchi—will appreciate the impressive back matter. \$10.79 AR 9781596433380

_____ *Benno and the night of broken glass.* **Wiviott, Meg. Gr. 3,4,5** – An orange-and-white cat that makes its home in the basement of a friendly Berlin apartment house is witness to the terrors of the November 1938 night that shatters lives and signals the start of the Holocaust. Plain language and angular, mixed-media artwork move deftly through scenes that descend from light into darkness as neighbors turn on neighbors. \$5.17 AR 9780822599753

_____ *Charles and Emma: The Darwins’ leap of faith.* **Heiligman, Deborah. Gr. A** – This lively biography of Charles Darwin focuses on the family life of one of the world’s most famous scientists, including the impact differing religious beliefs had on the family’s relationships. **Caution: Charles and Emma attend a séance and on the last page his granddaughter idolizes Charles.** \$11.37 AR 9780805087215

_____ *Chasing Lincoln’s killer.* **Swanson, James L. Gr. 7,8,A** – Much more than just Lincoln’s killing went on the night of the Ford Theater assassination. This book will inform and entertain; an interesting, fast-paced historical account of the 12-day manhunt for Lincoln’s assassin. \$10.19 AR 9780439903547

_____ *Crossing stones.* **Frost, Helen. Gr. 7,8,A** – Muriel’s itching for a life outside her family’s Vermont farm, but bigger changes await her in 1917 as first her neighbor and then her brother enlist to fight in Europe. \$10.19 AR 9780374316532

_____ *Don’t want to go!* **Hughes, Shirley. Gr. K** – With Mom in bed nursing the flu and Dad off to work, a toddler faces a day at a neighbor’s with trepidation. But a peekaboo-playing baby, his good-natured older brother, and a little white dog change her feelings, if not her plaintive refrain. Gouache paintings with homey details illustrate this warmhearted winner. \$10.19 9780763650919

_____ *The elements: A visual exploration of every known atom in the universe.* **Gray, Theodore. Gr. A** – The 118 elements of the periodic table are photographed and described with humor, style and authority. **Caution: Occasionally mentions evolution.** \$17.97 9781579128142

_____ *Emily’s fortune.* **Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. Gr. 4,5,6** – Recently orphaned, a timid eight-year-old girl journeys west via stagecoach to live with her kindly aunt, but it will take all of her gumption—and the help of fearless fellow orphan Jackson—to face down a passel of predicaments and an inheritance-snatching evil uncle. A breathless adventure told with mustache-twisting melodrama, tongue-tingling language, and cliff-hangers galore. \$8.99 AR 9780385736169

- _____ *The extraordinary Mark Twain (according to Susy)*. **Kerley, Barbara**. **Gr. 3,4,5,6** – Determined to prove there is much more to her world-famous father than his public persona, Twain’s 13-year-old daughter compiles her very own biography. Kerley cleverly incorporates excerpts from Susy’s journal into an intimate, eye-opening, and uproariously entertaining portrait of an American icon, an account matched punch-for-punch by Fotheringham’s frolicsome, autumn-hued artwork. \$10.79 AR 9780545125086
- _____ *Frederick Douglass: A noble life*. **Adler, David A**. **Gr. 7,8,A** – Born a slave, and separated from his mother at a young age, Douglass was raised on plantations owned by people both cruel and caring. But freedom was never far from his mind and, once he achieved it, he became an eloquent spokesperson for the rights of others. A commanding biography enhanced by well-chosen black-and-white photos and reproductions. \$11.37 AR 9780823420568
- _____ *The good, the bad, and the Barbie: A doll’s history and her impact on us*. **Stone, Tanya Lee**. **Gr. 6,7,8,A** – Immensely readable and chock-full of entertaining photos, this narrative incorporates social history, a study of post-World War II entrepreneurial spirit and advertising, a biography of a farsighted toy manufacturer, and the voices of generations of fervent admirers and detractors. For a doll that sat for months on warehouse shelves before beginning her ascent as an American icon, she’s come a long way. \$11.99 AR 9780670011872
- _____ *The great and only Barnum*. **Fleming, Candace**. **Gr. 7,8** – \$11.39 The amazing and thrilling life of the great P.T. Barnum is laid bare in this stupendous biography as it explains the life achievements of America’s greatest showman. \$11.39 AR 9780375841972
- _____ *Here comes the garbage barge!* **Winter, Jonah**. **Gr. K,1,2** – Based on a 1987 event, this tale follows the wanderings of a trash-laden boat that departs from Islip, NY, journeys down the coast in search of a dumping ground only to be repeatedly repelled, and eventually returns to its starting point 162 malodorous days later. Zany narrative, overblown characters, and clever made-from-garbage artwork convey an important message with a light touch. \$10.79 AR 9780375852183
- _____ *Insect detective*. **Voake, Steve**. **Gr. K,1,2,3** – Amble through woods where wasps can be heard scraping and ground beetles in jewel-like colors are waiting to be discovered. Notes in hand-lettered print add precious details about the creatures encountered while delicate pen-and-watercolor illustrations encourage the kind of close observation that yields rewards on outdoor excursions. \$10.19 AR 9780763644475
- _____ *Kubla Khan: The Emperor of everything*. **Krull, Kathleen**. **Gr. 3,4,5,6** – Distinguished watercolor-and-ink art details the splendors of an empire expanded by a man described as a brilliant military leader; a fierce but often tolerant ruler; a patron of the arts and sciences; and a sponsor of vast public projects and lavish displays of pageantry. \$10.79 AR 9780670011148
- _____ *The Notorious Benedict Arnold*. **Sheinkin, Steve**. **Gr. 7,8,A** – What made this general in the Continental Army known for his courage and loyalty betray the compatriots he fought so long aside? In this absorbing and enlightening narrative, Sheinkin recounts the life and times of a man whose name today is synonymous with the word “traitor.” \$11.99 AR 9781596434868
- _____ *One crazy summer*. **Williams-Garcia, Rita**. **Gr. 4,5,6,7** – It’s 1968, and change is in the air across the country and in the lives of three sisters sent to spend a month in Oakland, CA, with the aloof, poet mother they do not know. While the Black Panthers look after the girls during daytime programs, at home it’s a different story. Readers will fall in love with these self-possessed siblings, even if their mother does not, and carry their resilient voices with them well beyond the pages of the story. \$9.59 AR 9780060760885

_____ ***Pop! The invention of bubble gum.* McCarthy, Meghan. Gr. 2,3,4** – Setting the stage in 1920s Philadelphia, McCarthy reveals how Walter Diemer, a candy company accountant who “knew lots about math but not much about gum,” managed to take charge of concocting this kid-favorite creation. Sparkling text and effervescent artwork make this true tale of persistence and passion a confection worth chewing on. \$10.19 AR 9781416979708

_____ ***The quiet book.* Underwood, Deborah. Gr. K,1** – This combination concept book and bedtime story—“There are many kinds of quiet”—features cuddly toy animals in everyday scenarios from the lives of young children. An unhurried pace and subtle hues make this a stellar book to settle down with at the close of the day. \$11.00 9780547215679

_____ ***Seasons.* BLEXBOLEX. Gr. K** – Raspberry-tinted captions in block letters—“BUD,” “SUNBURN,” “MIGRATION,” “STILLNESS”—set the tone for this joyful portfolio that accommodates recollection and anticipation of seasonal experiences. The large, stylized silk-screen prints are rich with inventive forms and combinations of color. \$11.97 9781592700950

_____ ***Sugar changed the world: A story of magic, spice, freedom, and science.* Aronson, Marc. Gr. A** – This wide-ranging narrative looks at the bitter realities behind the growth, harvesting, and refining of sugar cane, including its role in driving the Atlantic slave trade and the displacement and brutalization of millions of people. Songs, oral histories, and archival photos and reproductions help to bring the history to life. \$12.00 AR 9780618574926

_____ ***They called themselves the K.K.K.: The birth of an American terrorist group.* Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. Gr. A – A** lucid and gripping account of the white supremacist organization that originated in the post-Civil War South, set in the context of the times. Carefully researched and documented, the narrative is supported by innumerable first-person accounts and archival images that add immediacy. \$11.40 AR 9780618440337

_____ ***Three rivers rising.* Richards, Jame. Gr. 8,A** – The romance between a determined young woman from a wealthy family and the son of a coal miner is at the heart of this lyrical, free-verse novel that speaks to social-class boundaries and mores amid impending disaster. Tight plotting and a relentless sense of foreboding swiftly reach a crescendo in the wake of the 1889 Western Pennsylvania flood. \$10.19 AR 9780375858857

_____ ***Truce.* Murphy, Jim. Gr. 7,8,A** – Bored and miserable after months in the trenches along Europe’s Western Front during WWI, German and Allied soldiers brought fighting to a halt to celebrate Christmas together in 1914. \$11.99 AR 9780545130493

_____ ***War to end all wars: World War I.* Freedman, Russell. Gr. 7,8,A** – While historians continue to debate the causes of the First World War, there is no disagreement that it ushered in an era of modern warfare with weapons capable of mass destruction and death. Black-and-white archival photographs chronicle a conflict that left 20 million dead and a future war unthinkable, but not unlikely. \$13.20 AR 9780547026862

_____ ***What if?* Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. Gr. K,1** – Simple yet sublime, this picture book presents the third-wheel dilemma—two seals tossing around a beach ball are joined by another who wants to play too—with three different outcomes. Brief narrative prompts and gorgeous color-saturated paintings invite children to voice events, contemplate friendship issues, and imagine alternative possibilities. \$9.59 9781596433984

_____ ***Wicked girls: A novel of the Salem witch trials.* Hemphill, Stephanie. Gr. A** – This novel in verse gives voice to the “afflicted” girls of Salem, whose accusations led to the hangings of 19 residents in 1692. Mercy Lewis, 17, and Ann Putnam, Jr., 12, vie for control of the group of girls who quickly get caught up in their celebrity and become emboldened to brand townspeople as witches or wizards. Historical drama with multiple contemporary hooks. **Caution: Descriptive kissing scene.** \$10.19 AR 9780061853289