

***Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek***

**by Deborah Hopkinson**

Strolling down to Knob Creek, seven-year-old Abe and his friend, Austin, decide to cross the creek and suddenly get an important lesson about friendship and courage when an unexpected and frightening event takes place that could have changed the course of history for the entire nation. 32p. For ages 4 – 8. Lexile 600

***Tsunami!***

**by Kimiko Kajikawa**

When the old and wealthy Ojisan decides to watch the rice ceremony from his balcony because of a strange feeling inside his soul, he notices the ocean water retreating in the distance. Knowing it is the sign of a tsunami, Ojisan must do what he can to save the lives of his fellow villagers from certain death in just a short amount of time. 29p. For ages 3 – 5. Lexile NC620

***Oh, Theodore!: Guinea Pig Poems***

**by Susan Katz**

A young boy acquires his first pet, a guinea pig named Theodore, and learns what Theodore likes to eat, what things scare him, the sounds he makes, how he likes to play, and where he likes to hide. 43p. For ages 4 – 8. Lexile 648

***Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival***

**by Kirby Larson**

Having been left behind by their owners and forced to ride out the deadly storm, Bobbi the dog breaks free from his chain and goes in search of food on his own, followed by a frightened, blind cat whose survival depends on his new best friend. 32p. For ages 4 – 8. Lexile AD810

***The Squeaky Door***

**by Margaret Read MacDonald**

When Little Boy is frightened by a squeaky bedroom door, his grandmother brings in various animals to help him feel secure enough to sleep. 40p. For ages 3 – 6. Lexile NA

***Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln***

**by Doreen Rappaport**

Describes the life of our sixteenth president, a self-taught man whose compassion and honesty gradually earned him the trust of many Americans and eventually a seat in the highest office of the United States. 34p. For ages 4 – 8. Lexile AD820

***Cowboy & Octopus***

**by Jon Scieszka**

In this hilarious picture book, featuring cool, vintage-style cut-outs, Cowboy, who likes beans'n'bacon, and Octopus, who likes raw seafood, form an unlikely friendship. 32p. For ages 4 – 8. Lexile AD350

***Splat the Cat***

**by Rob Scotton**

On Splat the cat's first day of school, he brings along his pet mouse, Seymour, just in case he doesn't make any new friends, but when Seymour escapes from Splat's lunchbox, chaos ensues and wise Mrs. Wimpydimple must take charge and teach everyone an important new lesson. 29p. For ages 3 – 7. Lexile AD390

***Dog and Bear: Two Friends, Three Stories***

**by Laura Vaccaro Seeger**

Simple, engaging text and bright, colorful pictures follow a frisky dachshund and a slightly timid stuffed bear who share in fun, friendship, and adventure. 30p. For ages 4 – 8. Lexile AD320

***Too Many Toys***

**by David Shannon**

When the house becomes too overrun with Spencer's out-of-control collection of toys, Spencer will have to figure out which ones will stay and which ones will go when he can't convince his mother that he needs to keep them all. 32p. For ages 4 – 8. Lexile AD600

***Help Me, Mr. Mutt!: Expert Answers for Dogs with People Problems***

**by Janet Stevens**

Dogs across the United States write to Mr. Mutt, a people expert, for help with their humans, but the dog's advice gets warning letters from the Queen, the cat he lives with. 48p. For ages 3 – 7. Lexile AD350

***Mudball***

**by Matt Tavares**

During a rainy Minneapolis Millers baseball game in 1903, Little Andy Oyler has the chance to become a hero by hitting the shortest and muddiest home run in history. 32p. For ages 4 – 8. Lexile NA

***Rhyming Dust Bunnies***

**by Jan Thomas**

As three dust bunnies, Ed, Ned, and Ted, are demonstrating how much they love to rhyme, a fourth, Bob, is trying to warn them of approaching danger. 34p. For ages 3-6. Lexile NA

**Keena Ford and the Second-grade Mix-up**

by Melissa Thomson

Trying to make a good impression on her new teacher, Keena Ford stumbles into yet another unexpected adventure after Mr. Hanson mistakenly believes it to be her birthday and presents her with a cake and sparkly crown in front of the entire class. 102p. For ages 6 – 8. Lexile 620

**Your Pal, Mo Willems Presents Leonardo the Terrible Monster**

by Mo Willems

Losing all hope in his ability to scare people, which is sorely lacking, Leonardo, who is terrible at being a monster, discovers a nervous little boy who seems to be the perfect candidate for him to practice on. 44p. For ages 4 – 8. Lexile NA

Visit the Monarch Award website at:

[www.islma.org/monarch.htm](http://www.islma.org/monarch.htm)



**Recent Monarch Award Winners**

2010 **Scaredy Squirrel**  
by Melanie Watt

2009 **Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude**  
by Kevin O'Malley

2008 **If I Built a Car**  
written & illustrated by Chris Van Dusen

2007 **Superdog: The Heart of a Hero**  
written by Caralyn Buehner  
illustrated by Mark Buehner

2006 **My Lucky Day**  
by Keiko Kasza

2005 **David Gets in Trouble**  
by David Shannon



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# Monarch Award Reading List 2011

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The Monarch Award was established in 2003 to promote the joy of reading for children in kindergarten through 3rd grade.

The winners are chosen by Illinois children in grades K-3 after reading books from a list of 20 titles.

This is the list of nominees for the 2011 Award.

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**When Dinosaurs Came with Everything by Elise Broach**

Although his mother is a little worried, a young boy is delighted to discover that every shop in town is giving away real dinosaurs to their customers. 40p. For ages 3 – 7. Lexile 380

**Bad Kitty Gets a Bath by Nick Bruel**

Takes a humorous look at the normal way cats bathe, why it is inappropriate for humans to bathe that way, and the challenges of trying to give a cat a real bath with soap and water. Includes fun facts, glossary, and other information. 125p. For ages 7 – 10. Lexile 650

**Fred Stays with Me by Nancy Coffelt**

A child describes how she lives sometimes with her mother and sometimes with her father, but her dog is her constant companion. 32p. For ages 3 – 6. Lexile 430

**Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale by Carmen Agra Deedy**

In this humorous retelling of a Cuban folktale, a cockroach interviews her suitors in order to decide whom to marry. 32p. For ages 4 – 8. Lexile AD720

**A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever by Marla Frazee**

When James and Eamon go to Nature Camp and stay at Eamon's grandparents' house, they are much more interested in eating waffles and playing video games than in nature until something unexpected happens to change their minds. 32p. For ages 6 – 9. Lexile AD680