

***The Mailbox* by Audrey Shafer**

When his Uncle Vernon dies, twelve-year-old Gabe, who grew up in foster care, tells no one for fear that he will go back into the system. When a strange note arrives in the mailbox and his uncle's body disappears—a unique correspondence begins. 178p. For grades 5 – 8. Lexile 790

***Notes from the Midnight Driver* by Jordan Sonnenblick**

After being assigned to perform community service at a nursing home, sixteen-year-old Alex befriends a cantankerous old man who has some lessons to impart about jazz guitar playing, love, and forgiveness. 265p. For grades 7 – 8. Lexile 930

Recent Rebecca Caudill Award Winners

- 2010 ***All the Lovely Bad Ones***
by Mary Downing Hahn
- 2009 ***The Lightning Thief***
by Rick Riordan
- 2008 ***Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie***
by Jordan Sonnenblick
- 2007 ***So B. It*** by Sarah Weeks
- 2006 ***Eragon*** by Christopher Paolini
- 2005 ***Hoot*** by Carl Hiaasen
- 2004 ***Stormbreaker*** by Anthony Horowitz
- 2003 ***Fever, 1793*** by Laurie Halse Anderson
- 2002 ***Holes*** by Louis Sachar
- 2001 ***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone***
by J. K. Rowling.
- 2000 ***Ella Enchanted*** by Gail Levine
- 1999 ***Frindle*** by Andrew Clements
- 1998 ***Mick Harte Was Here*** by Barbara Park
- 1997 ***The Best School Year Ever***
by Barbara Robinson
- 1996 ***The Giver*** by Lois Lowry
- 1995 ***Flight #116 is Down*** by Caroline Cooney
- 1994 ***Shiloh*** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- 1993 ***Maniac Magee*** by Jerry Spinelli
- 1992 ***Number the Stars*** by Lois Lowry
- 1991 ***Matilda*** by Roald Dahl

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Rebecca Caudill Reading List 2011

The Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award was developed to encourage young people to read for personal satisfaction.

Winners are chosen by Illinois children in Grades 4–8, after reading books from a list of 20 titles.

Books recommended for Grades 6 & up have more mature content.

This is the list of nominees for the 2011 Award.

***Chains: Seeds of America* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War. 316p. For grades 6 – 8. Lexile 780

***The Boy Who Dared* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti**

In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hübener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people. 202p. For grades 6 – 8. Lexile 760

***Scarlett* by Cathy Cassidy**

After being expelled from yet another school in London, twelve-year-old Scarlett is sent by her exasperated mother to live with her father, stepmother, and stepsister in Ireland, where, with the help of a mysterious boy, she eventually overcomes her anger and resentment and feels part of a family again. 261p. For grades 5 – 8. Lexile 770

***The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins**

In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through a televised survival competition pitting young people against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place. 374p. For grades 7 – 8. Lexile 810

Waiting for Normal by Leslie Connor

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York. 290p. For grades 5 – 8. Lexile 570

Diamond Willow by Helen Frost

In a remote area of Alaska, twelve-year-old Willow helps her father with their sled dogs when she is not at school, all the while unaware that the animals surrounding her carry the spirits of dead ancestors and friends who care for her. 111p. For grades 4 – 7. Lexile 670

Found by Margaret Peterson Haddix

When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time. 314p. For grades 4 – 8. Lexile 750

The Great Wide Sea by M. H. Herlong

While in the midst of a year-long sailing trip arranged by their father in the hopes of helping the boys come to terms with the loss of their mother, their father suddenly goes missing one evening--leaving brothers Ben, Dylan, and Gerry to fend for themselves in treacherous waters. 283p. For grades 6 – 8. Lexile 660

Scat by Carl Hiaasen

Although a strange note was left behind that explained her sudden absence from school, Nick and Marta are still doubtful about the whereabouts of their teacher, Mrs. Bunny Starch, since she went missing from a field trip to Black Vine Swamp, and so they set out together to discover the truth! 371p. For grades 6 – 8. Lexile 810

Schooled by Gordon Korman

After his hippie grandmother ends up in the hospital, Cap Anderson is forced to leave the commune where he is homeschooled and attend Claverage Middle School, where his odd looks and behavior make him the target of bullies. 208p. For grades 4 – 8. Lexile 740

Savvy by Ingrid Law

Thirteen is when a Beaumont's savvy hits—and with one brother who causes hurricanes and another who creates electricity, Mibs Beaumont is eager to see what she gets. But just before the big day, Poppa is in a terrible accident. And now all Mibs wants is a savvy that will save him. In fact, Mibs is so sure she'll get a powerful savvy that she sneaks a ride to the hospital on a rickety bus with her sibling and the preacher's kids in tow. After this extraordinary adventure—full of talking tattoos and a kidnapping—not a soul on board will ever be the same. 342p. For grades 5 – 8. Lexile 1070

11 Birthdays by Wendy Mass

It's Amanda's 11th birthday and she is super excited--after all, 11 is so different from 10. But from the start, everything goes wrong. The worst part of it all is that she and her best friend, Leo, with whom she's shared every birthday, are on the outs and this will be the first birthday they haven't shared together. When Amanda turns in for the night, glad to have her birthday behind her, she wakes up happy for a new day. Or is it? Her birthday seems to be repeating itself. What is going on?! And how can she fix it? Only time, friendship, and a little luck will tell. 267p. For grades 4 – 6. Lexile 650

A Friendship for Today by Patricia C. McKissack

Having prepared herself to be one of the first African-American students to attend the all-white school in Missouri in the 1950s, Rosemary is saddened when her best friend becomes ill and she has to face the challenge alone, but after some initial hardship and racist reactions, Rosemary develops a new friendship in the most unexpected way. 172p. For grades 4 – 8. Lexile 670

Fablehaven by Brandon Mull

Unaware that their grandfather is the current caretaker of Fablehaven, Kendra and her brother, Seth, venture into this magical land filled with dangerous and plotting witches, imps, and fairies and learn quickly about the evil forces that are unleashed when rules are broken. 351p. For grades 4 – 8. Lexile 700

All Shook Up by Shelley Pearsall

When he goes to live with his dad in Chicago, thirteen-year Josh gets the shock of his life when he realizes that his quiet father has turned into an Elvis impersonator. Trying to keep it secret from his new friends at school, Josh is thrown for a loop when he discovers that his father is going to perform at the upcoming school concert. 261p. For grades 5 – 8. Lexile 890

Yellow Star by Jennifer Roy

From 1939, when Sylvia is four and a half years old, to 1945 when she has just turned ten, a Jewish girl and her family struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the Nazi occupation. 227p. For grades 5 – 7. Lexile 710

Trouble by Gary D. Schmidt

When his older brother falls into a coma after being struck by a Cambodian driver's pickup truck, Henry vows to climb a mountain as part of an effort to help his family grieve and come to terms with long-standing prejudices. 297p. For grades 7 – 8. Lexile 930

The Alchemyst by Michael Scott

When the legend that Nicholas Flamel lives due to his ability to make the elixir for life is discovered to be true, Dr. John Dee begins his plot to steal the Book of Abraham the Mage from him in order to rule the world. Knowing that they are the only ones with the power to stop him, Josh and Sophie quickly set their own plan in motion. 400p. For grades 5 – 8. Lexile 890