

2015 Battle of the Books Competition List

- Abbott Firegirl** A middle school boy's life is changed when Jessica, a girl disfigured by burns, starts attending his Catholic school while receiving treatment at a local hospital. (Realistic Fiction)
- Abrahams Down the Rabbit Hole** Ingrid Levin-Hill lands the plum role of Alice in the Echo Falls production of "Alice in Wonderland." Things in Ingrid's small town soon keep getting "curiouser and curiouser." Then events in Echo Falls turn into a nightmare, and Ingrid is determined to wake up. (Mystery)
- Aiken The Serial Garden** Follows the adventures of Mr. and Mrs. Armitage and their children, Harriet, Mark, and little Milo, as they try to find innovative ways to cope with a variety of extraordinary events including stray unicorns in the garden, lessons in magic that go awry, and eviction from their house to make way for a young magicians' seminary. (Fantasy)
- Anderson Speak** A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school. (Realistic Fiction)
- Avi Nothing But the Truth** A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story. (Realistic Fiction)
- Balliet The Calder Game** When seventh-grader Calder Pillay disappears from a remote English village--along with an Alexander Calder sculpture to which he has felt strangely drawn--his friends Petra and Tommy fly from Chicago to help his father find him. (Mystery)
- Barron Lost Years of Merlin** A young boy who has no identity nor memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures. (Fantasy)
- Baskin Anything But Typical** Jason, a twelve-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world. (Realistic Fiction)
- Bloor Tangerine** Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight. (Sports/Realistic Fiction)
- Bradley Hot Lunch** When Molly and Cassie are assigned to work in the kitchen as a punishment for their food fight, they realize that the only way they are going to be released from the duty is to cooperate and learn to cook. (Realistic Fiction)
- Bruchac The Dark Pond** After he feels a mysterious pull drawing him toward a dark, shadowy pond in the woods, Armie looks to old Native American tales for guidance about the dangerous monster lurking in the water. (Horror)
- Cameron A Dog's Purpose** Bailey, the canine narrator, offers an inside look at how a dog thinks, feels, and behaves, exploring the unique bond she has with her humans and the many benefits of owning a dog. (Humor)
- Chima The Warrior Heir** After learning about his magical ancestry and his own warrior powers, sixteen-year-old Jack embarks on a training program to fight enemy wizards. (Fantasy)
- Christie And Then There Were None** Ten people arrive on Indian Island off England's southwest coast, lured to a mansion by invitations from a mysterious host. As one guest after another is murdered, terror mounts in Christie's most popular work, an elaboration of the famous children's rhyme "Ten Little Indians." (Mystery)
- Colfer Artemis Fowl** When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll. (Fantasy)
- Connor Waiting for Normal** 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. (Realistic Fiction)
- Cooney The Lost Songs** In small-town Carolina, sixteen-year-old Lutie Painter treasures the "Laundry List" of songs written by her ancestor and does not want to share them, but ultimately they help her learn more about her absent mother and connect with fellow students Kelvin, Doria, and especially Train, a former friend. (Realistic Fiction)
- Cooney Code Orange** While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City. (Suspense)
- Cooper Dark is Rising** On his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the Dark. (Fantasy)
- Creech Chasing Redbird** Thirteen-year-old Zinnia Taylor uncovers family secrets and self truths while clearing a mysterious settler trail that begins on her family's farm in Kentucky. (Realistic Fiction)
- Crowe Mississippi Trial, 1955** In Mississippi in 1955, a sixteen-year-old finds himself at odds with his grandfather over issues surrounding the kidnapping and murder of a fourteen-year-old African American from Chicago. (Historical Fiction)
- Cushman Catherine Called Birdy** The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off. (Historical Fiction)

Danziger P.S. Longer Letter Later Twelve-year-old best friends Elizabeth and Tara-Starr continue their friendship through letter-writing after Tara-Starr's family moves to another state. (Realistic Fiction)

Draper Out of my Mind Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time. (Realistic Fiction)

Draper Romiette and Julio Romiette, an African-American girl, and Julio, a Hispanic boy, discover that they attend the same high school after falling in love on the Internet, but are harrassed by a gang whose members object to their interracial dating. (Realistic Fiction)

Engle Tropical Secrets Escaping from Nazi Germany to Cuba in 1939, a young Jewish refugee dreams of finding his parents again, befriends a local girl with painful secrets of her own, and discovers that the Nazi darkness is never far away. (Historical Fiction)

Farmer House of the Scorpion In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 140-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States. (Science Fiction/Adventure)

Fogelin Crossing Jordan Twelve-year-old Cass meets her new African-American neighbor, Jemmie, and despite their families' prejudices, they build a strong friendship around their mutual talent for running and a pact to read Jane Eyre. (Realistic Fiction)

Gansworth If I Ever Get Out of Here Seventh-grader Lewis "Shoe" Blake from the Tuscarora Reservation has a new friend, George Haddonfield, from the local air force base, but in 1975 upstate New York, there is a lot of tension and hatred between Native Americans and whites. (Historical Fiction)

Gantos Dead-End in Norvelt In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses. (Historical fiction/Humor)

Green Football Hero When twelve-year-old Ty's brother Thane is recruited out of college to play for the New York Jets, their Uncle Gus uses Ty to get insider information for his gambling ring, landing Ty and Thane in trouble with the Mafia. (Sports)

Haddix The Always War In a war-torn future United States, fifteen-year-old Tessa, her childhood friend Gideon, now a traumatized military hero, and Dek, a streetwise orphan, enter enemy territory and discover the shocking truth about a war that began more than seventy-five years earlier. (Science Fiction/Adventure)

Hiassen Chomp Wahoo's dad wrangles animals for a living. But to handle the arrogant, reckless host of *Expedition Survival*—and get out of debt—he needs Wahoo's help. (Adventure)

Hinton The Outsiders The struggle of three brothers to stay together after their parent's death and their quest for identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society. (Realistic Fiction)

Hobbs The Maze Rick, a fourteen-year-old foster child, escapes from a juvenile detention facility near Las Vegas and travels to Canyonlands National Park in Utah where he meets a bird biologist working on a project to reintroduce condors to the wild. (Adventure)

Jacques Redwall When the peaceful life of ancient **Redwall** Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy. (Fantasy)

Jones Out of Reach Pressured by his aggressively competitive father to play soccer, teenaged Pip McLeod secretly pursues a sport that he truly enjoys--indoor rock climbing. (Sports)

Kadohata Cracker A young soldier in Vietnam bonds with his bomb-sniffing dog. (Historical Fiction/Adventure)

Kelly The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to an important discovery. (Historical Fiction)

Kerr One Small Step In 1969 Houston, Texas, thirteen-year-old Scott learns to fly from his father, an Air Force flight instructor, but when NASA needs him for a secret space mission, Scott's elation is tempered by concern that his mother, who has moved to Florida, will find out. (Historical Fiction/Adventure)

Korman Pop Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, sixteen-year-old high-school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker who is great at training him, but whose childish behavior keeps Marcus in hot water. (Sports)

Korman Schooled Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a guidance counselor and attend the local middle school. (Realistic Fiction)

Lasky The Extra When 15-year-old Lilo and her family are picked up by Hitler's police and imprisoned as part of the Gypsy plague, Lilo and Django are chosen by filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl to work as movie extras. (Historical Fiction.)

Law Savvy Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "**savvy**"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident. (Fantasy)

L'Engle A Wrinkle in Time Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government. (Science Fiction)

Levine The Lions of Little Rock In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism. (Historical Fiction)

Levine Fairest In a land where beauty and singing are valued above all else, Aza eventually comes to reconcile her unconventional appearance and her magical voice, and learns to accept herself for who she truly is. (Fairy Tale/Fantasy)

Leyson The Boy on the Wooden Box Leon Leyson describes growing up in Poland, being forced from home to ghetto to concentration camps by the Nazis, and being saved by Oskar Schindler. (Non-Fiction)

Lu Legend In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, 15-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover they have a common enemy. (Science Fiction)

Lubar Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer. (Realistic Fiction)

Lupica Heat Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof. (Sports)

Meyer The True Adventures of Charley Darwin In nineteenth-century England, young Charles Darwin rejects the more traditional careers of physician and clergyman, choosing instead to embark on a dangerous five-year journey by ship to explore the natural world. (Historical Fiction)

Moriarty A Corner of White Fourteen-year-old Madeleine of Cambridge, struggling to cope with her mother's illness, and fifteen-year-old Elliot of the Kingdom of Cello, searching for his missing father, exchange notes through a crack between their worlds. (Fantasy)

Mulligan Trash Fourteen-year-olds Raphael and Gardo team up with a younger boy, Rat, to figure out the mysteries surrounding a bag Raphael finds during their daily life of sorting through trash in a third-world country's dump. (Mystery)

Neilsen The False Prince In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war. (Adventure/Mystery)

O'Neal The False Princess For sixteen years, Nalia has been raised as the princess of Thorvaldor, but one day she learns that her real name is Sinda and that she is part of a complicated plot that would change the future of her country forever. (Fantasy/Mystery)

Oppel This Dark Endeavor When his twin brother falls ill in the family's chateau in the independent republic of Geneva in the eighteenth century, sixteen-year-old Victor Frankenstein embarks on a dangerous and uncertain quest to create the forbidden Elixir of Life described in an ancient text in the family's secret Bibliotheka Obscura. (Horror/Historical Fiction)

Palacio Wonder Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student. (Realistic Fiction)

Patterson Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "bird kids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose. (Fantasy/Adventure)

Paulsen Notes from the Dog When Johanna shows up at the beginning of summer to house-sit next door to Finn, he has no idea of the profound effect she will have on his life by the time summer vacation is over. (Realistic Fiction)

Paulsen Soldier's Heart Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat. (Historical Fiction)

Peck Long Way from Chicago A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother. (Historical Fiction/Humor)

Perkins Criss Cross Teenagers in a small town in the 1960s experience new thoughts and feelings, question their identities, connect, and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life and love. (Historical Fiction)

Peters Define "Normal" When she agrees to meet with Jasmine as a peer counselor at their middle school, Antonia never dreams that this girl with the black lipstick and pierced eyebrow will end up helping her deal with the serious problems she faces at home and become a good friend. (Realistic Fiction)

Pfeffer The Dead and the Gone After a meteor hits the moon and sets off a series of horrific climate changes, seventeen-year-old Alex Morales must take care of his sisters alone in the chaos of New York City. (Adventure/Survival)

Philbrick The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg Twelve-year-old Homer, a poor but clever orphan, has extraordinary adventures after running away from his evil uncle to rescue his brother, who has been sold into service in the Civil War. (Historical Fiction/Adventure)

Ritter Over the Wall Thirteen-year-old Tyler, who has trouble controlling his anger, spends an important summer with his cousins in New York City, playing baseball and sorting out how he feels about violence, war, and in particular the Vietnamese conflict that took his grandfather's life. (Realistic Fiction)

Rorby Hurt Go Happy Thirteen-year-old Joey Willis, deaf since the age of six, is used to being left out of conversations because her mother never allowed her to learn sign language. Everything changes when Joey meets Dr. Charles Mansell and his baby chimpanzee, Sukari, but as Joey's world blooms with possibilities, the everything changes again. (Realistic Fiction)

Ryan Becoming Naomi Leon When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father. (Realistic Fiction)

Sachar Small Steps Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along. (Adventure)

Shulman Scrawl When eighth-grade bully Tod and his friends get caught committing a crime on school property, his penalty, staying after school and writing in a journal under the eye of the guidance counselor, reveals aspects of himself that he prefers to keep hidden. (Realistic Fiction)

Sloan Counting by 7's Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident. (Realistic Fiction)

Sloan I'll Be There Raised by an unstable father who keeps constantly on the move, Sam has long been the voice of his silent brother, Riddle, but everything changes when Sam meets Emily Bell and, welcomed by her family, the brothers encounter normalcy for the first time. (Realistic Fiction)

Smith Independence Hall Quest and his stepsister Angela are thrust into the dangerous world of the American Secret Service and the Israeli Mossad when they learn Angela's real mother was a former Secret Service agent who was killed by a terrorist group. (Adventure)

Spinelli Stargirl In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever. (Realistic Fiction)

Stead When You Reach Me As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1970s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. (Science Fiction/Historical Fiction)

Stewart The Mysterious Benedict Society After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. (Adventure/Science Fiction)

Tebow Through My Eyes One of the best quarterbacks in the history of college football traces his path to success, discussing his childhood as the son of Christian missionaries and how his faith combined with his drive to succeed have made him the person he is today. (Sports/Biography)

Vawter Paperboy When an eleven-year-old boy takes over a friend's newspaper route in July, 1959, in Memphis, his debilitating stutter makes for a memorable month. (Historical Fiction)

Weeks So B. It After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is. (Realistic Fiction)

Weyn Distant Waves In the early twentieth century, four sisters and their famed spiritualist widowed mother travel from New York to London, and as the "Titanic" conveys them and their acquaintances home, Tesla's inventions will either doom or save them all. (Historical Fiction)

Wiesel Night This book chronicles the true and terrifying story of the author and his life as a Jew under the Nazis. (History)

Winerip Adam Canfield of the Slash While serving as co-editors of their school newspaper, middle-schoolers Adam and Jennifer uncover fraud and corruption in their school and in the city's government. (Realistic Fiction)

Wooding Silver Students find silvery beetles on school grounds, and when the beetles attack them and a mysterious virus starts spreading, a group of mismatched students must work together to survive. (Science Fiction)

Woodson Feathers When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light. (Historical Fiction)