

Kennebec Valley Book Award Books 2008-2009

1. Avi. Iron Thunder: The Battle Between the Monitor and the Merrimac: A Civil War Novel. Hyperion. 192p. In 1862, 13 year old Tom Carroll goes to work at the Brooklyn Navy Yard where they are building the first ironclad ship, the Monitor. He is asked by Confederate spies to share information about the ship, but cleverly escapes them with the help of friends. Gr. 4-8. Historical Fiction.
2. Babbitt, Natalie. Jack Plank Tells Tales. Scholastic. 128p. Jack Plank started out to be a pirate, but soon it was clear that he was not good at plundering. What was he to do? Gr. 2-6. Fiction.
3. Banks, Kate. Lenny's Space. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 152p. Nine year old Lenny has no friends because he cannot control himself in school and his interests are not like those of his classmates. He starts visiting a counselor, and meets Van who has leukemia. Gr. 3-7. Realistic Fiction.
4. Bartlett, Susan. Opening Day. Tilbury. 32p. Sam's friend, Eric, and his family love to hunt. Sam's mom is a vegetarian and his dad buys his meat at the market. Sam wants to make up his own mind, so he gets a hunting license and joins Eric and his dad on opening day. But what if he decides hunting is not for him? Will Eric still be his friend? Gr. 3-7. Realistic Fiction.
5. Bishop, Nic. Nic Bishop Spiders. Scholastic. 48p. Much different from the usual sweet spider story, this photo-rich book is packed with astonishing facts about spiders. Gr. 2-4. Non Fiction.
6. Blume, Judy. Soupy Saturdays with The Pain and The Great One. Delacorte. 108p. Read about the challenging relationship between a 6 year old (The Pain) and his 8 year old sister (The Great One). Gr. 3-5. Realistic Fiction.

7. Clements, Andrew. **No Talking**. Simon & Schuster. 146p. The noisy 5th grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud 5th grade girls to a “no talking” contest. Gr. 3-6. Realistic Fiction.
8. Creech, Sharon. **Castle Corona**. Joanna Cotler. 336p. Two orphaned peasant children discover a mysterious pouch, the contents of which lead them to the majestic Castle Corona where their lives may be transformed forever. Gr. 4-7. Fairy Tale.
9. Crowe, Ellie. **Surfer of the Century**. Lee and Lowe Books. Unpaged. Picture biography of Hawaiian Duke Kahanamoku, five time Olympic swimming champion from the early 1900’s who is also considered worldwide as the “father of modern surfing”. Gr. 2-4. Biography.
10. Davies, Jacqueline. **Lemonade War**. Houghton. 192p. At the end of the summer, Evan discovers that his younger sister, Jessie, has just skipped third grade, and will be in his 4th grade classroom. Over vacation, they battle for who will make the most money during the summer. Gr. 4-8. Realistic Fiction.
11. Debon, Nicolas. **The Strongest Man in the World: Louis Cyr**. Groundwood Books. 27p. Louis Cyr was truly the strongest man in the world astounding audiences with his amazing feats including lifting a horse on his back as well as 314 pounds of cement. Gr. 2-6. Graphic Biography.
12. Florian, Douglas. **Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars**. Harcourt. 45p. Blast off with this new high-flying large format book with 20 poems about space from the moon to the stars, from Earth to Mars. Gr. 3-5. Poetry.
13. Funke, Cornelia. **Igraine, the Brave**. Chicken House. 224p. Twelve year old Igraine longs to become a knight, but her family of magicians cannot understand her dream. When life at the family castle is threatened, Igraine’s skills in horsemanship and swordplay are pressed into action. Gr. 4-8. Fantasy.

14. Gifford, Peggy. Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little. Random House. 92p. With summer coming to an end, fourth grader, Moxy Maxwell, does a hundred different things to avoid reading her assigned summer reading book. Gr. 2-6. Realistic Fiction.
15. Graff, Lisa. Thing about Georgie. HarperCollins. 220p. Georgie's dwarfism causes problems, but he could always rely on his parents, his best friend, and Jeanie the Meanie's teasing, until a surprising announcement, a new boy in school, and a class project shake things up. Gr. 3-6. Realistic Fiction.
16. Jenkins, Steve. Living Color. Houghton Mifflin. 32p. Red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, pink - animals can be amazingly colorful! Why are they found in so many hues? How do their brilliant feathers, scales, shells, and skin help them survive.? Find out how animals use color to warn predators, signal friends, attract a mate, or hide from their enemies. Gr. 4-8. Non Fiction.
17. Jonell, Lynn. Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat. Henry Holt. 346p. When Emmy discovers that she and her parents are being drugged by her evil nanny, who has access to rodent potions that can change people in frightening ways, she and her new friends must try everything possible to return things to normal. Gr. 3-6. Fantasy.
18. Kennedy, Marlane. Me and the Pumpkin Queen. Greenwillow. 181p. Although Aunt Arlene tries to interest her in clothing and growing up, 10 year old Mildred is entirely focused on growing a pumpkin big enough to win the annual contest. Gr. 4-8. Realistic Fiction.
19. Kennedy, Robert. Joshua Chamberlain and the American Civil War. Hyperion Books. 37p. Musician, college professor, farmer, husband and father - Joshua Chamberlain was a great leader who never hesitated to fight every battle on the front line. Gr. 4-8. Maine Biography.
20. MacLachlan, Patricia. Edward's Eyes. Atheneum. 116p. Edward is part of a family that loves baseball, music, books and one another. When he unexpectedly dies, his parents donate his wonderful eyes to a perfect recipient. Gr. 3-7. Realistic Fiction.

21. Markle Sandra. **Octopuses**. First Avenue Editions. 39p. An introduction to the behavior and the intelligence of the octopus featuring eye-popping photographs of the animals on nearly every page. Gr. 3-8. Non Fiction.
22. Mills, Claudia. **Being Teddy Roosevelt**. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 90p. When he is assigned Teddy Roosevelt as his biography project in school, 4th grader, Riley, finds himself inspired by Roosevelt's determination. Riley decides to try and get what he most wants - a saxophone and music lessons. Gr. 2-4. Realistic Fiction.
23. Nagda, Stephanie. **Tarantula Power!** Holiday House. 93p. Richard is excited about the "Invent a Cereal" class project, but not excited about having Kevin, the school bully for his partner. Gr. 3-4. Realistic Fiction.
24. O'Brien, Patrick. **The Mutiny on the Bounty**. Walker. Unpaged. A retold tale of the 1788 voyage of the Bounty as it sailed from England to Tahiti encountering hardships, betrayal and murder. Gr. 4-6. Graphic Novel.
25. O'Connor, Barbara. **How to Steal a Dog**. Farrar, Straus, Giroux. 170 p. Georgina and her mother and brother are living in their car after Georgina's father has left them with no money. Georgina persuades her younger brother to help them get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward money. Gr. 3-6. Realistic Fiction.
26. Pennypacker, Sara. **The Talented Clementine**. Hyperion. 137p. After her 3rd grade teacher announces that the class will be putting on a talent show, Clementine panics because she doesn't sing or dance or play an instrument. She is desperate. Gr. 2-5. Realistic Fiction.
27. Ray, Deborah. **Down the Colorado: John Wesley Powell: The One-Armed Explorer**. Farrar, Straus, Giroux. 48p. Even after losing his right arm in battle during the Civil War, John Wesley Powell would not be deterred from his dream of leading the first scientific expedition down the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon. Gr. 3-5. Non Fiction.

28. Root, Phyllis. **Aunt Nancy and the Bothersome Visitors.** Candlewick. 56p. It would take a real pesky visitor to make himself unwelcome to Aunt Nancy, but just her luck, four bothersome folks come knocking at her door. Gr. 3-4. Humorous Fiction.
29. Scott, Elaine. **When is a Planet not a Planet? The Story of Pluto.** Clarion. 38p. On August 24, 2006, a group of astronomers made a big announcement: Pluto could no longer be considered a planet. How and why the number of planets went from nine to eight. Gr. 4-7. Non Fiction.
30. Selznick, Brian. **The Invention of Hugo Cabret.** Scholastic Press. 526p. When 12 year old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks in a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are in danger. Gr. 3-6. Graphic Fiction.
31. Siy, Alexandra. **Sneeze a good week!** Charlesbridge. 42p. Lily closes her eyes - WAIT! What's that inside Lily's nose? Isaiah's nose twitches as he breathes in the smell of pepper. Although Sydney can't see them, there are thousands of tiny spider-like creatures living in the chair cushions. Exploring the world of sneezing. Gr. 4-6. Non Fiction.
32. St. George, Judith. **The Ghost, the White House, and Me.** Holiday House. 153p. When 11 year old KayKay Granger learns that the White House is haunted, she uses that knowledge to play a prank on her family and lands in big trouble with her mother, who is President of the United States. Gr. 3-7. Mystery.
33. Sullivan, George. **Helen Keller: Her Life in Pictures.** Scholastic. 75p. Helen Keller, blind and deaf, carved a path from darkness to light. The story of her struggles and triumphs have inspired thousands around the world. Gr. 3-6. Biography.
34. Thomson, Sarah. **Dragon's Egg.** Greenwillow. 267p. When she goes on a dangerous journey carrying a dragon's egg to the fabled Hatching Grounds, Mella, a young girl trained as a dragon keeper, learns that the legends of old are true. Gr. 4-6. Fantasy.

35. Urban, Linda. **A Crooked Kind of Perfect.** Harcourt. 214p. Ten year old Zoe longs to play the piano, but is resigned to learning the organ. She finds that her music has a positive impact on workaholic mother, her jittery father, and her school social life. Gr. 4-6. Humorous Fiction.

36. Wise, Bill. **Louis Sockalexis: Native American Baseball Pioneer.** Lee. 32p. On a Maine summer day in 1884, a 12 year old Penobscot Indian, Louis Sockalexis, first fell in love with baseball and dreams of one day joining a major league team. Gr. 2-5. Maine Biography.