

Sensational Summer Reading
William Annin Middle School Library Media Center
70 Quincy Road Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Get started by reading the nominees for the 2010 Garden State Book Award!
You will have an opportunity to vote for all your favorites next December.

FICTION NOMINEES FOR THE GARDEN STATE TEEN BOOK AWARD – a selected list

[Home of the Brave.](#) Katherine Applegate.

Imagine moving to a foreign country where you don't understand the language, technology, or customs. After surviving the war in Sudan, where his brother and father were murdered, Kek is rescued and brought to live in Minnesota with his cousin and aunt, where he must adjust to a new life, all while hoping that someone will find his mother alive. Written as a novel in verse, this is a great read for anyone who has ever felt like an outsider.

[Evolution, Me, and Other Freaks of Nature.](#) Robin Brande.

Mena lost all of her friends when she exposed their attempt to straighten a gay member of their church youth group. Her new lab partner, Casey, is kind of cute, but how can she explain her strict religious background? This friendship pulls Mena into the center of a battle between her biology teacher and her old youth group, between ideas of intelligent design and evolution.

[The P.L.A.I.N. Janes.](#) Cecil Castellucci.

Jane's parents relocate to the suburbs when she's caught in a bomb attack in Metro City. Bored and lonely in her new town and school, the teen is thrilled when she meets three other girls named Jane, all of them as out of place as she is. They form a secret club, the Plain Janes, and decide to liven up the town with art. Told in graphic novel format.

[This is What I Did.](#) Ann Dee Ellis.

Zyler and Logan were best friends. Then something terrible happened to Zyler. Logan saw everything and did nothing. Now he has to live with himself.

[Uprising.](#) Margaret Peterson Haddix.

It's 1927 and the working conditions at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory are almost unbearable. After nearly starving and freezing during a workforce strike, the workers return to their jobs only to be caught in one of the worst workplace tragedies in New York City history. Told from the perspective of three factory girls, theirs is a story of strength, persistence, and hope.

[Deep and Dark and Dangerous.](#) Mary Downing Hahn.

Ali should have known better. Ali insisted on spending the summer in the cottage on the lake, but it rains all the time, the cottage is boring, and Ali and four-year-old Emma are tormented by Sissy, a little girl from nearby who teases Emma and threatens Ali. And Sissy keeps talking about a girl named Teresa, who drowned in the lake when Ali's mom was little. Who is Teresa? Why does Ali's mom refuse to say her name? Is the summer turning into a nightmare?

[Book of a Thousand Days.](#) Shannon Hale.

Imprisoned in a tower for seven years and slowly starving to death, Lady Saren is kept alive by her maid Dashti, who keeps a record of their confinement in this retelling of Grimm's Maid Maleen fairytale.

[Skulduggery Pleasant.](#) Derek Landy.

When twelve-year-old Stephanie inherits a house from her deceased uncle, a horror writer, she finds herself allied with Skulduggery Pleasant, a walking, talking, sarcastic skeleton (who is also a wizard detective, of course), and the two of them must fight against Nefarian Serpine and the Faceless Ones. Can they save the world?

[The Declaration.](#) Gemma Malley.

Anna was born illegally in a future in which taking two pills a day allows you to live forever. Anna has accepted her life; she lives by the rules of Grange Hall and tries to be a useful surplus. But when a mysterious fifteen-year-old boy named Peter arrives, the knowledge he brings will cause Anna to rethink everything.

[The Wednesday Wars.](#) Gary D. Schmidt.

Throughout seventh grade in 1967, Holling Hoodhood experiences a series of mishaps and adventures involving rats, cream puffs, and yellow tights with feathers, in addition to being forced to read Shakespeare after school.

[Un Lun Dun.](#) China Mieville.

An unbelievable adventure where the prophecy is unfulfilled, so the heroine, Zanna, decides to go ahead and make things right. Giant menacing giraffes, stupid cats, and powerful umbrellas make this tale one to treasure. A 2008 "Best Book for Young Adults."

[The Invention of Hugo Cabret.](#) Brian Selznick.

Orphan, clock winder, AND petty thief, twelve-year-old Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station in 1931, where his survival depends on anonymity. When he meets a girl and her godfather the toymaker, his most precious secrets are put to the test. Winner of the 2008 Caldecott Medal, this book is also a 2007 National Book Award finalist.

[Peak.](#) Roland Smith.

Peak Marcello's dad wants him to be the youngest guy ever to climb Everest – and takes him there to do it!

[Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree.](#) Lauren Tarshis.

Emma-Jean is a strange girl. Rather than living the life of a seventh grade girl, she's been observing it. When she sees a fellow student crying in the bathroom, she decides to help and there is no returning from the world of messy mixed-up middle school emotions.

[The New Policeman.](#) Kate Thompson.

When J.J.'s mom declares she'd like more time for her birthday, he sets off to get her some. In his travels he finds a gateway to Tir na n'Og, the world of the fey. There he finds that there is a time bleed from our world to theirs and it must be fixed or both worlds will perish. Winner of The Guardian Children's Book Prize and the Whitbread Children's Book Award.

[Robot Dreams.](#) Sara Varon.

In this wordless, graphic novel, Dog assembles Robot and they become fast friends. However, an unfortunate accident at the beach leaves Robot immobilized and Dog must abandon him. In the months that follow, both Dog and Robot meet other friends and foes, but they never forget each other.

[Feathers.](#) Jacqueline Woodson.

It's 1971 and Frannie's class is reading the Emily Dickinson poem with the lines: Hope is the things with feathers/that perches on your soul. The words fascinate Frannie, helping her make sense of the good and bad in her life as she deals with class bullies, unlikely friendships, and the Vietnam War.

NONFICTION NOMINEES FOR THE GARDEN STATE TEEN BOOK AWARD – a selected list

Laika. Nick Abadzis. **(Grades 7+)**

A graphic-format biography of plucky Laika, the little Russian stray dog who became the first living creature in space.

Frida : Viva la Vida! Long Live Life! Carmen T. Bernier-Grand. **(Grades 7+)**

A biography in verse of artist Frida Kahlo told alongside Kahlo's artwork.

Tracking Trash : Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion. Loree Griffin Burns. **(Grades 6-8)**

A fascinating look at the ocean's motion by scientist Curt Ebbesmeyer as he tracks plastic flotsam, including tub toys, LEGO pieces and Nike sneakers, found in the sea through storm drains and cargo spills.

Breathe : Yoga for Teens. Mary Kaye Chrysticas. **(Grades 7+)**

A great introduction to yoga featuring color photos of teen girls practicing a variety of poses. The author explains the benefits of yoga in an approachable way. A 35-minute DVD is included.

Encyclopedia Horrifica : The Terrifying Truth! About Vampires, Ghosts, Monsters and More. Joshua Gee. **(Grades 6-9)**

From killer sharks to haunted houses, learn the truth behind the legends.

Blue Lipstick : Concrete Poems. John Grandits. **(Grades 6-9)**

A series of concrete poems told from the perspective of a ninth grade girl.

Houdini the Handcuff King. Jason Lutes. **(Grades 6-9)**

Ever wonder how Harry Houdini kept his death-defying feats a secret? Follow the great escape artist over the course of one day and one amazing stunt to learn a secret or two and understand the keys to his success.

Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! : Voices from a Medieval Village. Laura Amy Schlitz. **(Grades 6-8)**

What was it like to be a beggar in a medieval village? A shepherdess? A lord's nephew? Multiple characters show you what life 750 years ago was really like.

The Arrival. Shaun Tan. **(Grades 6+)**

Tan takes readers on a truly unique immigrant adventure told in wordless graphic novel format through exquisite images that will captivate and enchant.

NEW JERSEY ONE BOOK SELECTION FOR TEENS

Life as We Knew It. Susan Beth Pfeffer.

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

NEW JERSEY ONE BOOK SELECTION FOR MIDDLE READERS

Marley: a dog like no other. John Grogan.

Marley, a lovable Labrador retriever, is always getting himself into trouble. Some may say he is the world's worst dog. But those who know and love Marley understand that nothing can stop his loyalty, exuberance, and passion—not even the Grogans' screen door! How this big, rambunctious dog becomes the heart of the Grogan family is the story of *Marley*.

WHY READ IN THE SUMMER?

(We know the answer! Those who read...SUCCEED!)

"In *Summer Learning and the Effects of Schooling* (Academic Press, 1978), Barbara Heyns followed sixth and seventh graders in the Atlanta public schools through two school years and one summer. Among the findings of her research:

- The number of books read during the summer is consistently related to academic gains.
- Children in every income group who read six or more books over the summer gained more in reading achievement than children who did not.
- The use of the public library during the summer is more predictive of vocabulary gains than attending summer school is."

In Stephen Krashen's book, *The Power of Reading*, (Libraries Unlimited, 1993) the value of **free voluntary reading** in the development of reading, writing and spelling skills is demonstrated. Studies are reviewed that illustrate how free voluntary reading benefits student achievement, including these highlights:

- People who read more, write better.
- Reading as a leisure activity is the best predictor of comprehension, vocabulary and reading speed.
- Outstanding high school writers reported extensive summer reading.

We hope that you choose to READ this summer!

These book suggestions were compiled by Kathleen Hedden, Media Specialist at William Annin Middle School and Karen Olivari, Young Adult Services Librarian at Bernards Township Library.

Copies of these and other great books are available at the township library.

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