



Pick of the Decade 1995-2005

3rd Grade

Compiled by:

Susan Fichtelberg, Woodbridge Public Library

Bonnie Kunzel, New Jersey State Library

Pat Vasilik, Clifton Public Library

Picture Books for Older Readers

Bunting, Eve. *Gleam and Glow* , 2001.

Eight-year-old Viktor flees his home with his family when war ravages the countryside. When they return home, they find it destroyed, but the fish Viktor put in their pond have survived (based on a true story of Bosnian refugees).

Cheng, Andrea. *Anna, the Bookbinder* , 2003.

Anna's father is a bookbinder in the early 1900s, but when he is called away, it is Anna who carefully stitches the binding on the special order her father has received.

Cherry, Lynne. *The Dragon and the Unicorn* , 1995.

The dragon and the unicorn mourn the king's destruction of the forest and turn to the princess for help. (See also: *The Great Kapok Tree* .)

Gerrard, Roy. *Wagons West!* , 1996.

Buckskin Dan leads a family West along the Oregon Trail where rollicking adventures await. (See also: *Sir Cedric* ; *Sir Cedric Rides Again* ; *Sir Francis Drake and His Daring Deeds* ; *Rosie and the Rustlers* ; and *Roman Twins* .)

Hamilton , Virginia . *The People Could Fly: The Picture Book* , 2004.

In this retelling of a folktale, a group of slaves, unable to bear their sadness and starvation any longer, calls upon the African magic that allows them to fly away.

Hesse, Karen. *The Cats in Kransinski Square* , 2004.

Two Jewish sisters, escapees of the infamous Warsaw ghetto, devise a plan to thwart an attempt by the Gestapo to intercept food bound for starving people behind the dark Wall .

Hoffman, Mary. *The Color of Home* , 2002.

Hassan has recently moved from Somalia to America and although his new classmates are friendly he is homesick. When the teacher hands out art supplies, Hassan discovers he can communicate through his pictures.

Hopkinson, Deborah. *Girl Wonder: A Baseball Story in Nine Innings* , 2003.

In the early 1900s, Alta Wiess loves to play baseball and must find a way to prove that she can play professionally, even though she is a girl (based on a true story).

Hughes, Shirley. *Ella's Big Chance* , 2004.

In this version of the Cinderella tale set in the 1920s, Ella has two men courting her--the handsome Duke of Arc and Buttons the delivery boy.

Keller, Laurie. *The Scrambled States of America* , 1998.

When the states become bored with their place on the map, they decide to change places.

Kimmel, Eric. *A Cloak for the Moon: A Tale of Rabbi Nachman Bratslov* , 2001.

Haskel, a tailor, loves the moon. Dreaming that she is cold, he goes in search of just the right.

Lester, Julius. *Let's Talk About Race* , 2005.

The author introduces the concept of race as only one component in an individual's or nation's "story."

MacDonald, Margaret. *The Old Woman Who Lived in a Vinegar Bottle* , 1995.

A generous fairy tries to help a cranky old woman, but in the end decides the vinegar bottle might be the best place for her after all.

Maloney, Peter. *The Magic Hockey Stick* , 1999.

When Tracy begins to play hockey with Wayne Gretzky's stick, she suddenly becomes the star of the team, but Wayne is in the worst slump of her career.

McKissick, Patricia. *Goin' Someplace Special* , 2001.

As Tricia Ann journeys through the segregated Nashville of the 1950's, she experiences the harsh reality of exclusion at place after place until she reaches the integrated public library.

Melmed, Laura. *Little Oh* , 1997.

In old Japan , a little origami doll comes to life, but when she gets separated from her creator, she undertakes a perilous journey to return home.

Osborne, Mary Pope. *New York's Bravest* , 2002.

Mose Humphreys, a larger-than-life firefighter, works tirelessly to rescue those in need in 19th century New York City .

Pak, Soyung. *Dear Juno* , 1999.

Juno receives a letter from his grandmother in Korea . Although he must wait for his parents to translate, he understands her from the picture he sends and creates his own picture to send to her.

Stanley, Diane. *The Giant and the Beanstalk* , 2004.

Unlike other giants, young Otto is gentle and polite. When Jack steals his beloved pet chicken (who just happens to lay golden eggs), Otto climbs down the beanstalk in search of him, but encounters a plethora of nursery rhyme Jacks before working out a trade with the right one. (See also, *Rumpelstiltskin's Daughter* .)

Chapter Books

Cameron, Ann. *Gloria Rising* , 2002.

Gloria, an African-American girl, is headed for fourth grade with some trepidation for her new teacher is known as, "the Dragon of Doom." When Gloria finds herself struggling in her class, she remembers advice from the astronaut she met over the summer and strives to be the best she can be. (Newest in a series that began with, *The Stories Julian Tells* .)

Danziger, Paula. *Amber Brown Is Green with Envy* , 2003.

Fourth-grader Amber Brown must make some important decisions when her mother and Max move their wedding date up and prepare to buy a house together, while her father makes some bad choices of his own. (Newest in a series which began with , *Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon* .)

Doyle, Roddy. *The Giggler Treatment* , 2000.

Adults who mistreat children, beware, the Gigglers, furry little creatures of justice, will punish you. Their favorite method of punishment? Placing dog poo in your path. (Sequel: *Rover Saves Christmas* .)

Fine, Anne. *The Jamie and Angus Stories* , 2002.

Jamie sees Angus in the toy-shop window and knows right away that he and the bull must be together. From the moment he receives him as a Christmas present, the two are inseparable and have a variety of adventures.

Hesse, Karen, *Just Juice* , 1998.

Talented, nine-year-old, Juice, is good at working with her hands, but she has difficulty reading and working with numbers. School is so hard that she would rather just stay home, but when she learns that her family is in danger of losing their home, she decides to take action to save them.

Hill, Elizabeth Star. *Bird Boy* , 1999.

Chang lives in contemporary China on a houseboat with his family. His father earns a living by using cormorants, great black birds that dive for fish, to fish. Although Chang has been mute since birth, he can make bird sounds and is looking forward to the day when his father will let him train one of the amazing birds. (Sequel: *Chang and the Bamboo Flute* .)

Kelly, Katy. *Lucy Rose: Here's the Thing About Me* , 2004.

Eight-year-old Lucy Rose keeps a diary of her first year in Washington , D.C. , her home since her parents separation, where she spends time with her grandparents, makes new friends, and longs to convince her teacher to let her take care of the class pet during a holiday. (Sequel: *Lucy Rose: Big on Plans* .)

King-Smith, Dick. *Jenius: The Amazing Guinea Pig* , 1996.

Although her parents tell her that guinea pigs can't be trained, Judy works diligently at teaching Jenius. Meanwhile Jenius' parents tell him that guinea pigs can't do tricks. In the end, both surprise their parents.

Kinsey-Warnock, Natalie. *Lumber Camp Library* , 2002.

Ruby was raised in a logging camp. She loved the woods and adored her father, but when a tragic accident takes his life, she, her mother and ten siblings must move to town and find a way to make it on their own.

Le Guin, Ursula. *Jane on Her Own: A Catwings Tale* , 1999.

Jane, the youngest of five cats with wings, leaves the safety of the farm and embarks on an adventure to explore the world, heedless of the danger of humans, who would want to imprison a cat that can fly. (Newest in the series begun with, *Catwings* .)

Levine, Gail Carson. *The Princess Test* , 1999.

In the magical kingdom of Biddle , Prince Nicholas is searching for a bride, and the lovely Lorelei shows up at the castle gates. His parents are very particular, though, and have devised a series of tests for the prospective princesses. (See also: *The Fairy's Mistake* ; *Princess Sonora and the Long Sleep* ; *Cinderellis and the Glass Hill* ; *For Biddle's Sake* ; and *The Fairy's Return* .)

Look, Lenore. *Ruby Lu, Brave and True* , 2004.

"Almost-eight-year-old" Ruby Lu spends time with her baby brother, goes to Chinese school, performs magic tricks and learns to drive, and has adventures with both old and new friends.

MacLachlan, Patricia. *Caleb's Story* , 2001.

Anna has gone to town to finish school, so now it is Caleb's job to write down the happenings on the family farm, and when the lurking stranger turns out to be his long lost grandfather, he has plenty to write about. (See also: *Sarah, Plain and Tall* , *Skylark* and *More Perfect Than the Moon*.)

Marsden, Carolyn. *The Gold-Threaded Dress* , 2001.

Oy, a Thai girl, wants desperately to fit in with her classmates. When Lilandra, the leader of the clique that has been excluding her, demands she let her wear the beautiful, traditional dress that was a gift from her grandmother, as the price she must pay to join the club, Oy acquiesces with disastrous results. (See also: *Silk Umbrellas* .)

McPhail, David. *Piggy's Pancake Parlor* , 2002.

Piggy and Fox, both runts of the litter, strike up an unusual friendship and open a pancake parlor together. They are wildly successful because of the secret ingredient added to their pancakes.

Mills, Claudia. *Gus and Grandpa Go Fishing* , 2003.

Gus is going to go fishing for the first time and needs some help. Mom doesn't fish and dad is too busy, but grandpa is there to give him a hand. (Newest in the series which began with, *Gus and Grandpa* .)

Pilkey, Dav. *The Adventures of Captain Underpants* , 1997.

George and Harold are pranksters extraordinaire and when they find a way to hypnotize the principal, they turn him into a superhero, Captain Underpants. (First in an ongoing series.)

Scieszka, Jon. *Da Wild, Da Crazy, Da Vinci* , 2004.

In their latest time travel adventure, Fred, Joe, and Sam da Brooklyn meet Leonardo da Vinci and try to avoid becoming toilet scrubbers in a sixteenth-century Italian army. (Newest in the ongoing *Time Warp Trio* series which began with, *The Knights of the Kitchen Table* .)

Stevenson, James. *Flying Feet: A Mud Flat Story* , 2004.

Stan and the other animals of Mud Flat, fall for a scheme that pretends to teach them to be tap dancers, but in the end, the community pulls together in triumph. (Newest in an ongoing series that began with, *The Mud Flat Olympics* .)