



The Best Books of 2008

as recommended by Youth Services Staff, San Diego County Library

FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS

Duck & Goose, 1, 2, 3 by Tad Hills
Hello Night / Hola noche by Amy Costales
Maisy Goes to the Museum by Lucy Cousins
Not a Stick by Antoinette Portis
Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes by Mem Fox and Helen Oxenbury
Wave by Suzy Lee
Where is Baby's Birthday Cake? by Karen Katz

PICTURE BOOKS for Preschoolers and All Ages

Chester; Chester's Back by Melanie Watt
Colors / Colores by Jorge Elías Luján
Dinosaur Vs. Bedtime by Bob Shea
Doctor Ted by Andrea Beaty
Ducks Don't Wear Socks by John Nedwidek
Gallop: A Scanimation Picture Book by Rufus Butler Seder
Giant Pop-Out Vehicles; Giant Pop-Out Bugs; Giant Pop-Out Pets by Amelia Powers
Has Anyone Seen My Emily Greene? by Norma Mazer Fox
Hush Little Dragon by Boni Ashburn
I Completely Know About Guinea Pigs by Lauren Child
If You're Happy and You Know it by James Warhola
I'm Not Santa (and all the others in the Owl series) by Jonathan Allen
Jake's Best Thumb by Ilene Cooper and Claudio Muñoz
Juggling Pug by Sean Bryan
Latke Who Wouldn't Stop Screaming by Lemony Snicket
Little Britches and the Rattler by Eric Kimmel
Little Hoot by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears by Emily Gravett
Little Yellow Leaf by Carin Berger
Monkey and Me by Emily Gravett
Monsters on Machines by Deb Lund
My Penguin Osbert and My Penguin Osbert in Love by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel
Night of the Veggie Monsters by George McClements
Perfectly Martha by Susan Meddaugh
Pilot Pups by Michelle Meadows
Quinito Day and Night / Quinito día y noche, Quinito's Neighborhood / Vecindario de Quinito by Ina Cumpiano
Ribbit! Flip and See Who Froggy Can Be by Bender and Bender
Round Like a Ball by Lisa Campbell Ernst
Scaredy Squirrel at the Beach by Melanie Watt
Smash Crash by Jon Scieszka
Timothy and the Strong Pajamas: A Superhero Adventure by Viviane Schwarz
Too Many Toys by David Shannon
Visitor for Bear by Bonny Becker
Wabi Sabi by Mark Reibstein

PICTURE BOOKS for School-Age and Older Kids

Class Two at the Zoo; Class Three at the Sea by Julia Jarman
Give a Goat by Jan West Schrock
Goodnight Goon by Michael Rex
One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference by Katie Smith Milway
Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai by Claire A. Nivola

JUVENILE NON-FICTION

Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman by Marc Tyler Nobleman
Ain't Nothing But a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry by Scott Reynolds Nelson and Marc Aronson

Being Caribou: Five Months on Foot with a Caribou Herd by Karsten Heuer (also in paperback and documentary CD format)

Frogs by Nic Bishop

Great Race: The Amazing Around the World Auto Race of 1908 by Gary Blackwood

Honda: The Boy Who Dreamed of Cars by Mark Weston

Go, Go America by Dan Yaccarino

Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship and Survival by Kirby Larson

We Are The Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson

What the World Eats by Faith D'Aluisio

JUVENILE FICTION

39 Clues (bks . 1 & 2) by Rick Riordan (mystery adventure)

Bronte's Book Club by Kristina Gregory (friendships)

Coraline (graphic novel version) based on the novel by Neil Gaiman, adapted and illustrated by P. Craig Russell (horror)

Dear Julia by Amy Bronwen Zemser (humor, friendship)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules by Jeff Kinney (humor, school)

Kingdom Keepers I & II: Disney After Dark (series) by Ridley Pearson (fantasy / adventure)

Septimus Heap / Magyk series by Angie Sage (bks. 1-4 so far) (fantasy)

Talented Clementine by Sara Pennypacker (school)

Tales of Beedle the Bard by J. K. Rowling (fantasy)

TEEN FICTION

Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie (autobiography)

Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary E. Pearson

Another Kind of Cowboy by Susan Juby

Beastly by Alex Flinn (romance)

Bringing by Christopher Paolini (fantasy)

Chains: Seeds of America by Laurie Halse Anderson (historical fiction)

Cheater: A Novel by Michael Laser (techno-thriller)

City of Ashes by Cassandra Clare (urban fantasy series)

Dead and the Gone by Susan Beth Pfeffer (contemporary urban survival)

Debbie Harry Sings in French by Meagan Brothers (coming of age)

Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks: A Novel by E. Lockhart

Evernight by Claudia Gray Feast of Fools by Rachel Caine (vampire)

Frostbite; Shadow Kiss by Richelle Mead (vampire)

Graceling by Kristin Cashore (fantasy)

Hero Type by Barry Lyga (political / coming of age)

How I Found the Perfect Dress by Mary Rose Wood (fantasy / romance)

Ink Exchange by Melissa Marr (dark fantasy)

Jessica's Guide to Dating on the Dark Side by Beth Fantaskey (vampire)

Just Listen by Sarah Dessen (romance)

Little Brother by Cory Doctorow (urban alternative history / adventure)

Nation by Terry Pratchett (fantasy / alternate history)

Ninth Grade Slays; Eighth Grade Bites (Chronicles of Vladimir Tod series) by Heather Brewer (supernatural)

Paper Towns by John Green (coming of age)

Rumors: A Luxe Novel by Anna Godbersen (historical fiction series)

Shift by Jennifer Bradbury (urban mystery / adventure)

Someday This Pain Will Be Useful To You by Peter Cameron (identity / coming of age)

Stop in the Name of Pants! Confessions of Georgia Nicolson by Louise Rennison (humorous romance series)

Summoning: Book 1 by Kelley Armstrong (romantic supernatural series)

Sweethearts: A Novel by Sarah Zarr (school / coming of age)

Things Not Seen; Things Hoped For; Things That Are (trilogy) by Andrew Clements (contemporary fantasy / mystery)

Twilight series (4 books, including 2008's Breaking Dawn) by Stephenie Meyer (vampire)

Wake (bk. 1) by Lisa McMann (supernatural series)

TEEN NON-FICTION

Ridiculous / Hilarious / Terrible / Cool: A Year in an American High School by Elisha Cooper

Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China During the Cultural Revolution by Moying Li

Year We Disappeared: A Father-Daughter Memoir by Cylvn Busby and John Busby