



Voice of Youth Award Titles 2011-2012 7th and 8th Grades

The Voice of Youth Award (VOYA) is a special school year reading program offered by the Youth Services Department of Skokie Public Library. Students in grades 3 through 8 are encouraged to read books of high quality that our Youth Services librarians have carefully selected for reading and interest level. Multiple copies of the books are available in the Youth Services Department for check out.

Students who read at least three of the books will be invited to vote for their favorite book during National Library Week in April 2012. Students vote at Skokie Public Library or at their school library. The winning title will be announced and the author will be invited to visit the Library and several Skokie schools. Schools that participate in the VOYA program are eligible to have the winning author come to their school.

*Abbott, Tony. **Firegirl**. 2006.

Overweight and unpopular, Tom feels invisible since most of his classmates ignore him. Then, a new girl named Jessica appears in class and she is impossible to ignore. Horrible burns cover most of her body. Tom watches her sitting by herself and knows what it's like to be without friends. Will he be able to befriend Jessica? And will she let him?

*Carter, Ally. **Heist Society**. 2010.

At fifteen, Kat is already an expert thief and con artist. Why not? She spent her childhood helping her dad, a master art thief. She is now determined to put her life of crime behind her, but when her father is falsely accused of stealing art, Kat has no choice but to use her skills to prove his innocence.

*Dashner, James. **The Maze Runner**. 2009.

Thomas wakes up alone in a creaky, old elevator and remembers nothing about his past, except his name. He suddenly finds himself, along with a group of teen-age boys, imprisoned in a walled-in clearing surrounded by a sinister maze. Can any of them escape?

* Books also available on audio.

Deuker, Carl. **The Runner**. 2005.

Chance's alcoholic father loses his job, so when Chance is offered the opportunity to make some money, he takes it. He doesn't know what is in the packages he picks up and delivers, but he becomes suspicious as the job becomes dangerous. And then there's a murder...

*Hoose, Phillip M. **Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice**. 2009.

Do you think kids can't change history? Think again! Before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus, 15-year-old Claudette Colvin did the same thing. The result of her actions? The Civil Rights movement was born!

Morris, Paula. **Ruined: A Novel**. 2009.

Rebecca, having been sent to live in New Orleans while her father is traveling, feels she doesn't fit in. One night, though, while walking in an old cemetery across from her aunt's house, she meets and becomes friends with Lisette. But, Lisette has a secret: a big secret.

Sheth, Kashmira. **Boys Without Names**. 2010.

After Gopal's family has moved to Mumbai to find work, his father goes missing and Gopal, 11-years-old, looks for work. He ends up a slave with five other boys, forced to work for no pay, in horrible conditions, and little food. How can he – and the other boys with him – escape?

*Sonnenblick, Jordan. **Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie**. 2004.

Eighth-grader Steven is consumed with playing drums, finding a girlfriend, and avoiding his annoying little brother, Jeffrey. Then, Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, and everything changes.

*Tashjian, Janet. **The Gospel According to Larry**. 2001.

Seventeen-year-old Josh starts a website under the pseudonym Larry, where he posts his rants about today's culture of celebrity worship, greed, and consumerism. Then, to his dismay, "Larry" becomes a celebrity!

Telgemeier, Raina. **Smile**. 2010.

Graphic novel fans, this one is for you! Most junior high girls worry about grades, boys, and friends. But sixth-grader Raina has an additional worry: teeth! When she falls and breaks off her front teeth, Raina must endure a dental nightmare that lasts for years!

* Books also available on audio.



Skokie Public Library

5215 Oakton Street

Skokie, Illinois 60077

847.673.7774 / 847.673.7797 fax

www.skokielineibrary.info

Skokie Public Library Trustees: Diana Hunter, President/President Emerita; John Graham, Vice President; Zelda Rich, Secretary; Richard Basofin; Susan Greer; Karen Parrilli; John M. Wozniak

Director: Carolyn A. Anthony

2C0711