



Voice of Youth Award Titles 2009-2010 5th and 6th 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 2010. 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.

*Barry, Dave and Pearson, Ridley. **Peter and the Starcatchers**. 2004.

In this exciting and difficult-to-put-down story, Peter and his friends encounter pirates, wicked mermaids, talking dolphins, treasure, and magic when they are sent to the land of Rundoon to serve the fearsome King Zarboff the Third.

*Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Elijah of Buxton**. 2008.

When 11-year-old Elijah, the first free child born in Buxton, a small town established by runaway slaves, goes after a man who steals the money meant to buy a family's freedom, he encounters the horrors of slavery and must overcome his fears to do what is right.

Fletcher, Ralph. **Flying Solo**. 1998.

Mr. Fabiano's substitute teacher never shows up and the kids in his sixth grade class decide to run the class themselves. As the day progresses and the tension builds, powerful emotions threaten to expose their plan.

Hale, Shannon and Hale, Dean. **Rapunzel's Revenge**. 2008.

This graphic novel version of the classic fairy tale *Rapunzel* takes place in the Wild West. When she discovers the dark world beyond her high garden walls, Rapunzel is imprisoned in a magic tree with only one window. She manages to escape and, with suspense and many adventures along the way, vows to bring down the cruel empire.

* Books also available on audio.

Hampton, Wilborn. **Kennedy Assassinated! The World Mourns: A Reporter's Story.** 1997. The author, a young reporter in Dallas on the day President Kennedy was killed, describes not only the tragedy of the day, but the exciting and competitive race for the "scoop."

Janeczko, Paul B. **Top Secret: A Handbook of Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Writing.** 2004. For those of us who love mysteries or who secretly long to be a spy, this how-to guide to making and breaking codes and ciphers includes many fascinating historical tales, as well as clever illustrations.

Lee, Ingrid. **Dog Lost.** 2008.

When Mackenzie's father gives him a pit bull he won in a card game, the boy and dog immediately fall in love with each other. And, almost as quickly, the dog is taken away and abandoned. Will the dog be able to survive? Will the town outlaw all pit bulls?

*Lord, Cynthia. **Rules.** 2006.

Catherine has created a set of rules for her younger brother, who has autism, in an attempt to help him be "normal." When she becomes friends with Jason, a boy who is nonverbal and confined to a wheelchair, she is able to help him improve his communication skills and he is able to help her look at her brother in a new way.

Ruckman, Ivy. **Night of the Twisters.** 1984.

Based on a true story, many people are killed and hundreds of homes destroyed when, on June 3, 1980, tornadoes devastate Grand Island, Nebraska. Dan and Arthur are babysitting when a tornado strikes and they must find the strength and courage to keep themselves, and the baby, safe.

*Tolan, Stephanie S. **Surviving the Applewhites.** 2002.

After having been thrown out of many schools, Jake's last chance is with the quirky Applewhite family and their Creative Academy. He's pretty much left on his own while the family works on their production of *The Sound of Music*. Will Jake fit in? Will he even want to?

* Books also available on audio.



Skokie Public Library

5215 Oakton Street

Skokie, Illinois 60077

847.673.7774 / 847.673.7797 fax

www.skokielibary.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
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