

KENNEBEC VALLEY BOOK AWARD BOOKS 2009-2010

1. Auch, Mary Jane. **A Dog on His Own.** Holiday. 153 pp. After a daring escape from the animal shelter, Pearl, Peppy and K-10 explore the outside world while moving from one adventure to another. Gr. 3-5. Animal Fiction.
2. Barrows, Annie. **Ivy & Bean Take Care of the Babysitter.** Chronicle. 123 pp. Red Alert! Bean discovers that her parents are leaving her for the afternoon with meanie Nancy, her big sister, as the babysitter. She needs her best friend, Ivy, to help her turn bad babysitting into a great time. Gr. 2-5. Humorous Fiction.
3. Birdsall, Jeanne. **The Penderwicks on Gardam Street.** Knopf. 308 pp. Mr. Penderwick's sister has decided it is time for him to start dating and his four daughters know that can only mean one thing: disaster! They come up with a "Save-Daddy Plan" with mixed results. Gr. 4-8. Humorous Fiction.
4. Bishop, Nic. **Nic Bishop's Frogs.** Scholastic. 48 pp. Some jump, some glide, some burrow, but all frogs are interesting to look at, especially up close. Nic Bishop's photographs show huge frogs and very tiny ones and even a frog that is transparent. Gr. 3-5. Nonfiction.
5. Bolden, Tonya. **George Washington Carver.** Abram. 38 pp. Shampoo from peanuts? Wallpaper from clay? Ink from sweet potatoes? Discover Carver's imagination and inspiration in this one-of-a kind biography. Gr. 4-7. Biography.
6. Bryant, Jennifer. **A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams.** Eerdmans. 40 pp. Picture book biography tells of this doctor/poet whose love of nature inspires the rhythms of his poetry. Gr. 4-6. Biography.
7. Creech, Sharon. **Hate That Cat.** Harper Collins. 148 pp. This is a story of words, sounds, silence, teacher and a cat. "Today the fat black cat up in the tree by the bus stop said Murr-mee-urr in a nasty spiteful way. I hate that cat"! Gr. 3-5. Fiction in Poetry.
8. Cowley, Joy. **Snake and Lizard.** Kane/Miller. 85 pp. Snake is elegant and calm. Lizard is excitable and non-stopping. Through a series of small (and not so small) adventures, the two compete with each other, go into business, and finally end up as life long friends. Gr. 3-5. Animal Fiction.

9. Dowell, Frances. **Phineas L. MacGuire...Blasts Off!** Atheneum. 195 pp. Phineas (Big Mac) MacGuire is interested in all things science like volcanoes and slime molds. His current interest is space and he wants to attend Space Camp. To earn money to do this, he signs up as a dog walker for Lemon Drop, the slobberiest labrador retriever in existence. Gr. 4-7. Humorous Fiction.
10. Duple, Kathleen. **The Story of the Samson.** Charlesbridge. 40 pp. The Samson, a schooner built in 1885, was part of many major events in history: from a whaling ship, an exploration boat, to a trade ship. It even may have been the mysterious boat present when the Titanic went down! A grandfather tells his grandson of its' history through a fictional conversation. Gr. 2-5. Historical Fiction.
11. Gardner, Sally. **Magical Kids: The Smallest Girl Ever; The Boy Who Could Fly.** Dial Books. 211 pp. Two stories about children who, after facing difficulties in life, develop magical powers that improve their lives immeasurably. Gr. 3-5. Fantasy.
12. Gibson, Sarah. **The Truth about Horses: Friends, & My Life as a Coward.** Marshall Cavendish. 146 pp. As she fearfully begins learning to ride and manages the horses she never wanted to own, Sophie also starts to make friends on her Maine island home. Gr. 3-5. Animal Fiction.
13. Helman, Andrea. **Hide and Seek: Nature's Best Vanishing Acts.** Walker. Unpaged. In habitats around the world, animals rely on clever ways to hide in plain sight. Blink and you might miss these creatures using camouflage either to outwit or outhunt one another. Gr. 3-5. Nonfiction.
14. Hicks, Betty. **Basketball Bats.** Roaring Brook Press. 55 pp. Henry and his basketball teammates, the Bats, take on the Tigers, and Henry learns a lesson about working as a team. Gr. 3-4. Sports Fiction.
15. Jenkins, Emily. **Toy Dance Party: Being the Further Adventures of a Bossyboots Stingray, a Courageous Buffalo, and a Hopeful Round Someone Called Plastic.** Schwartz Wade Books. 169 pp. Six stories tell further adventures of three best friends, who happen to be toys, as they meet a fearsome Shark, enjoy a dance party, and deal with a rejection by The Girl, who is growing up. Gr. 3-5. Fantasy.
16. Jenkins, Steve. **Sisters & Brothers.** Houghton Mifflin. Unpaged. Peregrine Falcons learn to hunt by practicing with their sisters and brothers. Elephant sisters babysit their younger siblings. Hyena brothers often fight to the death. Find out more about these animal and others inside this book. Gr. 3-5. Nonfiction.

17. Kerley, Barbara. What To Do About Alice? How Alice Roosevelt Broke the Rules, Charmed the World, and Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy! Scholastic. Unpaged. President Theodore Roosevelt had a small problem. Her name was Alice. What it is like to be the president's daughter when you have a pet snake, wear a leg brace, and dive into a ship's swimming pool wearing your clothes? Gr. K-3. Biography.
18. King-Smith, Dick. The Mouse Family Robinson. Roaring Brook Press. 71 pp. After a close call with the cat who stalks the hallways, a family of mice, including adventurous young Beaumont and elderly Uncle Brown, move to a more mouse-friendly house down the block. Gr. 2-4. Animal Fiction.
19. Krull, Kathleen. The Road to Oz: Twists, Turns, Bumps, and Triumphs in the Life of L. Frank Baum. Knopf. Unpaged. The fascinating and little known story of the author of the Wizard of Oz. Gr. 3-5. Biography.
20. Look, Lenore. Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things. Random. 172 pp. A young boy who loves super heroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything. Gr. 3-5. Humorous Fiction.
21. Lowry, Lois. The Willoughbys. Houghton Mifflin. 157 pp. The four Willoughby children set about to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents leave on an around the world adventure, leaving them in the care of an evil nanny. Gr. 4-5. Fiction.
22. McGhee, Alison. Julia Gillian (and the Art of Knowing). Scholastic. 281 pp. Ten year old Julia Gillian knows everything about her strange neighbors and the claw machine at the hardware store. But she doesn't know how the book she is reading is going to end. It doesn't seem as if it's going to have a happy ending, and that scares her. Gr. 3-5. Humorous Fiction.
23. Morris, Gerald. The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great. Houghton Mifflin. 92 pp. Many years ago, King Arthur brought justice to England with the help of his Knights of the Round Table, but there was never one so fearless, so honorable, so shiny as the dashing Sir Lancelot who defended the helpless and protected the weak. Gr. 3-5. Folklore.
24. Nuzum, K. A. The Leanin' Dog. HarperCollins. 250 pp. Eleven year old Dessa Dean lives with her father, a hunter and a trapper, in a remote wilderness area. She is grieving her mother's death and cannot bear to leave the cabin even to use the outhouse, until a lame, half-starved dog comes to the door and needs her help. Gr. 4-7. Animal Fiction.

25. Patent, Dorothy. When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone. Walker. 40 pp. After more than 10 years of wolf hunting in Yellowstone, scientists now realize the wolves' essential role and return them to the park. Yellowstone's natural balance is gradually being restored. Gr. 3-5. Nonfiction.
26. Pennypacker, Sara. Clementine's Letter. Hyperion Books. 150 pp. Clementine cannot believe her ears! Her beloved teacher, Mr. D'Matz, might be leaving for the rest of the year to go to Egypt. She hatches a plan to get him to stay even if it means ruining his once-in-a-lifetime chance. Gr. 3-4. Humorous Fiction.
27. Plourde, Lynn. Margaret Chase Smith: A Woman for President. Charlesbridge. Unpaged. Hillary Clinton was not the first woman to run for president. One of those who came before her was Margaret Chase Smith, best known as the senator from Maine at a time when women in Congress were in scarce supply. Gr. 3-4. Biography.
28. Prelutsky, Jack. My Dog May Be a Genius. Greenwillow. 153 pp. Have you ever encountered an underwater marching band, a pig in a bathing suit, a pet orangutan, or a witch in a hardware store? You will have, once you've read this collection of poems! Gr. 3-5. Poetry.
29. Rappaport, Doreen. Lady Liberty - a Biography. Candlewick Press. 40 pp. This is the story (in free-verse) of the individuals who were involved in the Statue of Liberty from the person who designed it, to the person who wrote the words at the base of the statue, to the little girl who donated her roosters to be sold to raise money for Lady Liberty. Gr. 2-5. Nonfiction.
30. Riddell, Chris. Ottoline and the Yellow Cat. HarperCollins. 171 pp. Lapdogs are disappearing in the Big City and Ottoline and her silent sidekick, the hairy Norwegian, Mr. Munroe, are determined to solve the mystery. Gr. 3-5. Mystery.
31. Schulman, Janet. Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York. Knopf. 40 pp. The birdwatchers of Central Park were buzzing - a young red-tailed hawk had been spotted. Pale Male and his mate built a nest on one of New York's fanciest buildings. Nine years and 23 chicks later he is still there, but in 2004 the residents of the building want his nest taken away! An outcry is heard from around the world. Gr. 3-5. Nonfiction.
32. Selznick, Brian. The Houdini Box. Atheneum. Unpaged. Victor is forever trying to escape from locked trunks, to walk through walls and to perform any number of Houdini's magic tricks... without success. Then he meets his idol and begs Houdini to explain himself. Gr. 2-5. Fiction.

33. Singer, Marilyn. **Eggs.** Holiday House. 32p. Explains the varieties, functions, and characteristics of the eggs of many animals including insects, birds, and reptiles. Beautiful illustrations. Gr. 3-5. Nonfiction.
34. Snyder, Laurel. **Up and Down the Scratchy Mountains.** Random. 238 pp. Lucy, a milkmaid, and her best friend Wynston, a reluctant prince, go in search of information about Lucy's missing mother - even though Wynston is supposed to be searching for a proper princess to marry. Gr. 4-7. Fairy Tale.
35. Tanaka, Shelley. **Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator.** Madison Press. 45 pp. On July 2, 1937, Amelia Earhart vanished on her way to Howland Island in the South Pacific. She and her plane were never found, but it is Amelia's life story that is truly remarkable. Gr. 4-5. Biography.
36. Vernon, Ursula. **Nurk: The Strange, Surprising Adventures of a (Somewhat) Brave Shrew.** Harcourt. 131 pp. Nurk, a sort-of brave shrew, packs up a few pairs of clean socks and sails off on an adventure, guided by wisdom found in the journal of his famously brave and fierce grandmother, Lady Surka, the warrior shrew. Gr. 3-8. Animal Fiction.
37. Weatherford, Carole. **I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer.** Walker. Unpaged. Matthew Henson learned to survive in the Arctic wilderness, and stood by Admiral Peary for years. After decades of facing danger and defying the odds, Henson reaches the North Pole and makes history. Gr. 3-5. Biography.
38. Winters, Kay. **Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak.** Dutton. Unpaged. Ethan, the printer's boy, is told to deliver a message to the Patriots who are gathering at Old South Meeting House. As he makes his way through the streets of Boston he meets various people from the teacher to the clock maker to a slave and learns about life in colonial times. Gr. 4-7. Historical Fiction.