



## Nebraska Golden Sower Award Nominee Titles 2012-2013

Sponsored by Nebraska Library Association's  
School, Children's, and Young People's Section

The GSA nominee list is developed by selection committees of volunteer readers representing classroom teachers, media specialists, and librarians in Nebraska. Each list is created from nominated titles sent in by participating libraries and schools from across the state.

Local library or school officials are responsible for selecting books from these lists they feel are appropriate for the needs and interests of their patrons or students. Voting eligibility requires readers to have read or heard a minimum of **four** of the current nominees from the category in which they will be voting, Primary, Intermediate, or Young Adult.

### 2012-2013 Primary Nominees

Bottner, Barbara. *Miss Brooks Loves Books! (and I don't)*.

Illustrated by Michael Emberley. Knopf, 2010. ISBN 9780375846823

A first-grade girl who does not like to read stubbornly resists her school librarian's efforts to convince her to love books until she finds one that might change her mind.

Dennis, Brian, Kirby Larson & Mary Nethery. *Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle*.

Little, Brown and Company, 2009. ISBN 9780316053181

The story of a wild dog who befriended Major Brian Dennis in Iraq, and, when they were separated, trekked seventy miles through the desert winter to rejoin his friend.

Fleming, Candace. *Clever Jack Takes the Cake*.

Illustrated by G. Brian Karas. Random House, 2010. ISBN 9780375849794

A poor boy named Jack struggles to deliver a birthday present worthy of the princess.

Hills, Tad. *How Rocket Learned to Read*.

Illustrated by the author. Schwartz & Wade, 2010. ISBN 0375858997

A little yellow bird teaches Rocket the dog how to read by first introducing him to the "wondrous, mighty, gorgeous alphabet."

Krasnesky, Thad. *That Cat Can't Stay!*

Illustrated by David Parkins. Flashlight Press, 2010. ISBN 9780979974656

Dad is no match for clever Mom, a cat lover who manages to bring four cats into the household.

## 2012-2013 Primary Nominees (con't)

Lichtenheld, Tom. *Bridget's Beret*.

Illustrated by the author. Henry Holt & Company, 2010. ISBN 9780805087758

When Bridget loses the beret that provides her with artistic inspiration like other great artists, she thinks she will never be able to draw again.

Rotella III, Louis. *The Little King and His Marshmallow Kingdom*.

Illustrated by Mark Chickinelli. Ata Boy Productions, Inc., 2010. ISBN 9780982684214

As the mischievous King rules over his Marshmallow Kingdom where the sun always shines and everyone has marshmallows for dessert, he teaches his neighborhood friends that there are more similarities than differences.

Scillian, Devin. *Memoirs of a Goldfish*.

Illustrated by Tim Bowers. Sleeping Bear Press, 2010. ISBN 9781585365074

A goldfish gives a personal account of his experiences while swimming around his bowl as it slowly fills with fish and other accessories, only to realize when he is relocated for a cleaning how much he misses them.

Wheeler, Lisa. *Ugly Pie*.

Illustrated by Heather Solomon. Harcourt, 2010. ISBN 9780152167547

After baking a scrumptious Ugly Pie, made from ingredients donated by his neighbors, Ol' Bear invites everyone over for a slice.

Yolen, Jane. *Elsie's Bird*.

Illustrated by David Small. Philomel, 2010. ISBN 9780399252921

Young Elsie must find a way to adapt to her new home on the Nebraska prairie after she and her father leave their comfortable city life in Boston.



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### 2012-2013 Intermediate Nominees

Birdseye, Tom. *Storm Mountain*.

Holiday House, 2010. ISBN 9780823421305

Two thirteen-year-old cousins are trapped in a blizzard on the same treacherous mountain in the Cascades that claimed the lives of their world-famous, mountain-climber, twin fathers exactly two years earlier.

Buyea, Rob. *Because of Mr. Terupt*.

Delacorte, 2010. ISBN 9780385738828 [paperback: Yearling, Oct 2011. ISBN 9780375858246]

Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by "rookie teacher" Mr. Terupt.

Draper, Sharon M. *Out of My Mind*.

Atheneum, 2010. ISBN 9781416971702 [paperback: Atheneum, May 2012. ISBN 9781416971719]

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Epstein, Adam Jay and Andrew Jacobson. *The Familiars*.

Illustrated by Peter Chan and Kei Acedera. HarperCollins, 2010. ISBN 9780061961083 [paperback: HarperCollins, 2011. ISBN 9780061961106]

When an alley cat named Aldwyn passes himself off as a magical animal companion to Jack, a young wizard in training, Aldwyn and his fellow "familiar," a blue jay and tree frog, must save the kingdom after the evil queen of Vastia kidnaps Jack and two other wizards.

## 2012-2013 Intermediate Nominees (con't)

Garretson, Dee. *Wildfire Run*.

HarperCollins, 2010. ISBN 9780061953477 [paperback: HarperCollins, 2011. ISBN 9780061953507]

A relaxing trip to Camp David turns deadly after a faraway earthquake sets off a chain of disastrous events that traps the president's twelve-year-old son and his two friends within the compound.

LaFleur, Suzanne. *Love, Aubrey*.

Wendy Lamb Books, 2009. ISBN 9780385737746 [paperback: Yearling, 2011. ISBN 9780375851599]

While living with her Gram in Vermont, eleven-year-old Aubrey writes letters as a way of dealing with losing her father and sister in a car accident, and then being abandoned by her grief-stricken mother.

Martin, Ann M. *Everything for a Dog*.

Feiwel and Friends, 2009. ISBN 9780312386511 [paperback: Square Fish, 2011. ISBN 9780312674847]

In parallel stories, Bone, an orphaned dog, finds and loses a series of homes, Sunny, a family pet, helps Charlie through the grief and other after-effects of his brother's death, and lonely Henry pleads for a dog of his own.

O'Connor, Barbara. *The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester*.

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010. ISBN 9780374368500 [paperback: Square Fish, Oct 2011. ISBN 9780312674304]

After Owen captures an enormous bullfrog, names it Tooley Graham, then has to release it, he and two friends try to use a small submarine that fell from a passing train to search for Tooley in the pond, while avoiding nosy neighbor Viola.

Sherry, Maureen. *Walls Within Walls*.

Illustrated by Adam Stower. Katherine Tegen Books, 2010. ISBN 9780061767005

When the Smithfork family moves into a lavish Manhattan apartment building, they discover clues to a decades-old mystery hidden behind the walls of their new home.

Tooke, Wes. *Lucky: Maris, Mantle, and My Best Summer Ever*.

Simon & Schuster, 2010. ISBN 9781416986638 [paperback: Simon & Schuster, 2011. ISBN 9781416986645]

Louis, who loves baseball despite being the worst stickball player in White Plains, New York, sees his opportunity to be bat boy for the 1961 New York Yankees team as the perfect way to escape the problems of his father's remarriage and moving to the suburbs.



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### 2012-2013 Young Adult Nominees

Auch, M.J. *Guitar Boy*.

Henry Holt & Co., 2010. ISBN 9780805091120

After his mother is severely injured in an accident and his father kicks him out of the house, thirteen-year-old Travis attempts to survive on his own until he meets a guitar maker and some musicians who take him in and help him regain his confidence so that he can try to patch his family back together.

Burg, Ann E. *All the Broken Pieces*.

Scholastic Press, 2009. ISBN 9780545080927 [paperback: Scholastic, March 2012. ISBN 9780545080934]

Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind. Now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past.

Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. *The Red Umbrella*.

Knopf, 2010. ISBN 9780375861901 [paperback: Yearling, Dec 2011. ISBN 9780375854897]

In 1961 after Castro has come to power in Cuba, fourteen-year-old Lucia and her seven-year-old brother are sent to the United States when her parents, who are not in favor of the new regime, fear that the children will be taken away from them as others have been.

## 2012-2013 Young Adult Nominees (con't)

Henry, April. *Girl, Stolen*.

Henry Holt, 2010. ISBN 9780805090055 [paperback: Square Fish, March 2012. ISBN 9780312674755]

When an impulsive carjacking turns into a kidnapping, Griffin, a high school dropout, finds himself more in sympathy with his wealthy, blind victim, sixteen-year-old Cheyenne, than with his greedy father.

Hiaasen, Carl. *Scat*.

Knopf, 2009. ISBN 9780375834868 [paperback: Knopf, 2010. ISBN 9780375834875]

Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.

Park, Linda Sue. *A Long Walk to Water*.

Clarion Books, 2010. ISBN 9780547251271 [paperback: Sandpiper, Oct 2011. ISBN 9780547577319]

When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven.

Sachar, Louis. *The Cardturner: A Novel About a King, a Queen, and a Joker*.

Delacorte Press, 2010. ISBN 9780385736626 [paperback: Ember, Oct 2011. ISBN 9780385736633]

When his wealthy uncle, a champion bridge player who has lost his vision, asks seventeen-year-old Alton to be a cardturner for him, Alton has no idea how much he will ultimately learn from his eccentric relative.

Shusterman, Neal. *Bruiser*.

HarperTeen, 2010. ISBN 9780061134081 [paperback: HarperTeen, Oct 2011. ISBN 9780061134104]

Inexplicable events start to occur when sixteen-year-old twins Tennyson and Bronte befriend a troubled and misunderstood outcast, aptly nicknamed Bruiser, and his little brother Cody.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *The Running Dream*.

Knopf, 2011. ISBN 9780375866678

When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.

Woods, Brenda. *A Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame*.

Putnam, 2010. ISBN 9780399246838

Nine Los Angeles high school students use a creative writing class assignment to shed light on their own lives.