



MASSBOOKS OF THE YEAR

CHILDREN'S/YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

Recommended Reading from the 8th Annual Massachusetts Book Awards

The Award Books

Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies (Houghton Mifflin). Davies' book authentically captures the voice of two siblings, Evan and Jessie Treski, engaged in a battle of wills through the competitive spirit of free trade. The characters are lively, realistic and well defined.

Bravo Zulu, Samantha! by Kathleen Benner Duple (Peachtree Publishers). Packed with fast-moving dialogue and suspense, Duple's novel touches upon the themes of validation, respect and self-worth by allowing readers to view an intergenerational relationship between the characters.

Whale Port by Mark Foster (Houghton Mifflin). By using the personal accounts of early Americans, *Whale Port's* strength lies in its use of layered text, offering many levels of entry for readers in this wonderful look at the changing relationship to whales and whaling undergone in one village.

Highly Recommended

Sarah's Daughter by Ruth Bass (Gadd & Co. Publishers). After the death of her mother, Rose, a teenager in a small New England farm community in the late 1800s, is left to grieve and grow up in the care of her alcoholic father.

The Great Doughnut Parade by Rebecca Bond (Houghton Mifflin). When Billy ties a doughnut to his belt, he rouses the curiosity of all the animals and people in town, a story Bond tells with whimsical watercolor illustrations.

The House Takes A Vacation by Jacqueline Davies and Lee White (Marshall Cavendish Children). While a family is away on vacation, their house decides it would like to get away, too, and goes on a great adventure!

Hiroshima Dreams by Kelly Easton (Dutton Children's Books). Lin, a young girl with an inherited psychic ability, is haunted by visions of the bombing of Hiroshima and has only her grandmother's help to piece her visions together.

Luck of the Loch Ness Monster: A Tale of Picky Eating by Alice Weaver Flaherty and Scott Magoon (Houghton Mifflin). A take on the Scottish legend, this picture book tells the story of a girl who hates oatmeal, a sea worm who loves oatmeal, and the journey across the ocean that joins them together.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney (Amulet Books). Through a combination of text and drawings in a diary, Jeff Kinney tells a story about awkward dealings with girls, face-offs with bullies, and the growing pains of the 7th grade.

Catie Copley by Deborah Kovacs and Jared T. Williams (David R. Godine). Catie, a black Labrador once trained as a guide dog, welcomes guests to the Fairmont Copley Plaza hotel in Boston as part of their guest services team. Based on a true story.

Silver Cup by Constance Leeds (Viking Children's Books). In medieval Germany Anna's life goes through drastic and unfortunate changes until she convinces her father to take in the orphaned and persecuted Leah, a Jewish girl with whom Anna forms a close friendship.

Tuttle's Red Barn by Richard Michelson and Mary Azarian (G.P. Putnam's Sons). *Tuttle's Red Barn* tells the story of 12 generations of Tuttle's and their farm in Dover, New Hampshire. Each generation's story incorporates glimpses of American history, farm life, and the legacy of America's oldest continuously running family farm.

We by Alice Schertle and Kenneth Addison (Lee & Low Books). Tracing the history of human culture and society, Schertle and Addison takes readers around the world and across time, exploring and celebrating human diversity.

Judges for the 8th MassBooks in Children's/Young Adult Literature were Vickie Beene-Beyers (Youth Services, SE Massachusetts Regional Library System), Lorraine Dagostino, (Education Department, UMass Lowell), and Mimi Powell (Bakers Books, Dartmouth).