



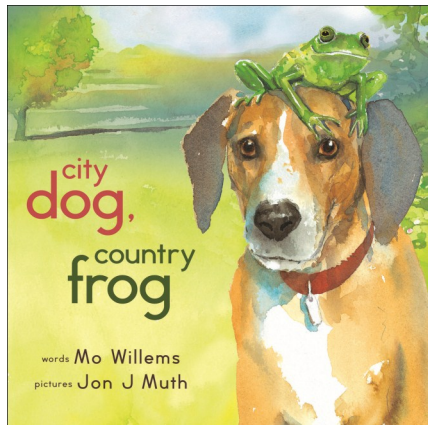
Must-Read Children's/Young Adult Literature 2011

from the Massachusetts Book Awards

Young Audiences



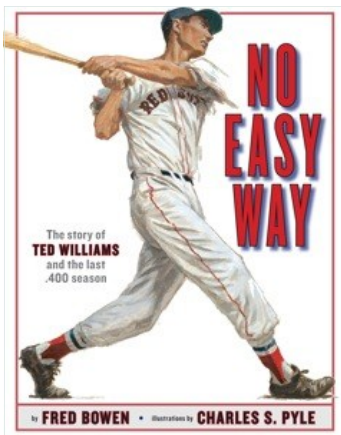
Big Night for Salamanders (Boyd's Mills), by Sarah Marwil Lamstein (Carol Bernoff, *illustrator*), beautifully illuminates the first night a child's neighborhood salamanders return to their native pool, chronicling the actions a family takes during that night to protect the animals on their perilous journey.



Follow *City Dog* and *Country Frog* through the seasons as they form a friendship based on curiosity and sharing. *City Dog, Country Frog* (Hyperion) by Mo Willems (Jon J. Muth, *illustrator*) is a poignant story, beautiful and whimsical, about change and moving forward.



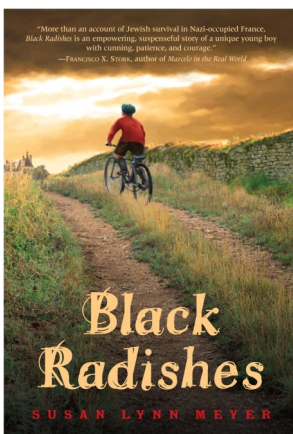
Join twins Ling and Ting on their daily adventures in this light-hearted storybook. Charming illustrations and lively action clearly depict the twins' exuberant and sweet relationship in *Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same!* by Grace Lin (Little Brown).



Here is an inspiring biography that will keep readers, especially emerging Red Sox fans, on the edge of their seats. In *No Easy Way: The Story of Ted Williams Last .400 Season* (Dutton Children's) by Fred Bowen (Charles S. Pyle, *illustrator*), compelling text and stimulating illustrations enhance a true story's timeless appeal.

Our Commonwealth Is Reading..

Middle Readers



When the Nazis take over Paris in March 1940, eleven-year-old Gustave and his parents move to a safer place and prepare to emigrate to America. As life becomes more repressive and dangerous for Jews, Gustave becomes his father's accomplice in their plot to escape. Their drama is palpable as time runs out. *Black Radishes* (Delacorte), by Susan Lynn Meyer, is a taut historical novel that makes for riveting reading.



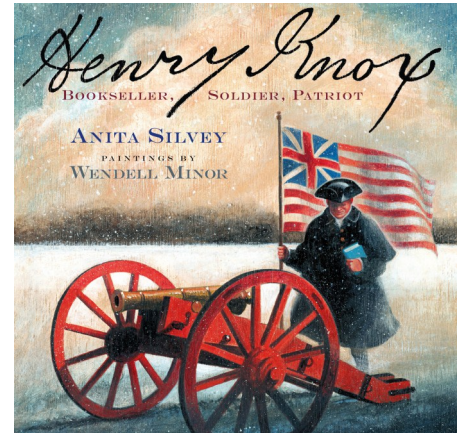
Her mother and baby brother die in the winter of 1849, and twelve-year-old Addie is left alone in the shipbuilding town of Essex, Massachusetts. Fearful that she will be taken in as a servant, this resourceful and spunky, pre-adolescent escapes into the snowy woods where she meets an elderly Wampanoag woman and discovers some astonishing truths about her family. *Daughter of Winter* (Candlewick), by Pat Lowery Collins, is sure to please.

More Middle Readers

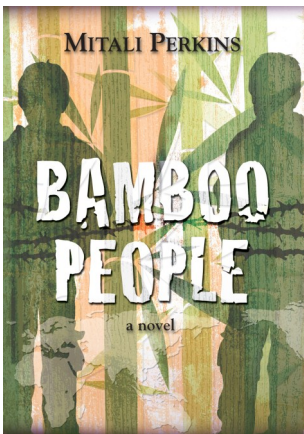
When he and his family move in with his grandfather, life becomes more complicated for Owen Jester and downright hilarious for the reader. As with her earlier *The Small Adventure of Popeye and Elvis*, Barbara O'Connor has given us in *The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester* (Farrar Straus Giroux) pure comfort food for the literary soul.



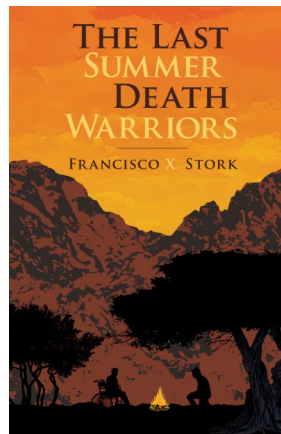
In sixteen one-page chapters, Anita Silvey manages to present a comprehensive biography of an entertaining, intelligent, Massachusetts historical figure. Embellished by the lush paintings of Wendell Minor, *Henry Knox: Bookseller, Soldier, Patriot* (Clarion) will appeal to teachers as well as students. Research-report ready: source notes and a Henry Knox chronology are included.



Young Adults

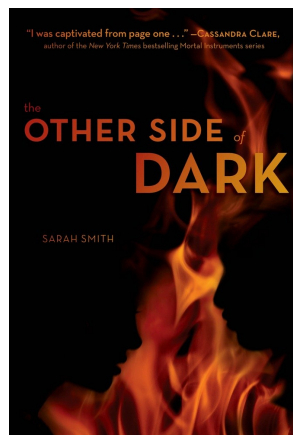


Mitali Perkins has done it again, returning to the Must-Read list with *Bamboo People* (Charlesbridge), which introduces readers to two boys, caught by circumstances beyond their control, who end up on opposite sides of the brutal civil war in Burma. This is a thoughtful exploration of the life of young soldiers and a powerful indictment of the current reality for those engulfed in the world's longest war.

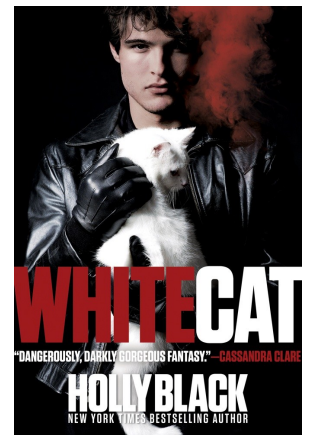


Pancho is an all-American teen stuck with a really rotten deal — both his parents are dead and even though it was ruled an accident he KNOWS someone killed his sister. He finds a new friend, but the friend has cancer and is about to die, too. Surrounded by all this death, Pancho has to figure out what it means to really LIVE. Heartfelt and totally engaging, *The Last Summer of the Death Warriors* (Scholastic), by Francisco X Stork, a returning Must-Read author, hits no false notes.

The Other Side of Dark (Simon and Schuster), by Sarah Smith, set in Boston, is an engrossing tale that follows two teens coming to terms with the legacies of race and power which built the literal foundations of our modern society. Part ghost story, part romance, part historical mystery, this expertly crafted book both absorbs and challenges us to look at familiar surroundings from a new perspective.



In a parallel universe very similar to our own, Cassel is the outsider in a family of curse workers — people who can control others just by touching them. In this world curse work is illegal and usually associated with organized crime. *White Cat* (Simon and Schuster), by Holly Black, will keep you guessing. This fast-paced book is a captivating blend of magic, crime, romance, and coming-of-age that is sure to grab you.



The Massachusetts Book Awards are a program of the Massachusetts Center for the Book, the Commonwealth Affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, on the web at www.massbook.org.

Children's/Young Adult Literature 2011 Judges: Clayton Cheever, Boston Public Library; Stephanie Legg, Kingston Public Library; Marina Salenikas, Stevens Memorial Library, North Andover