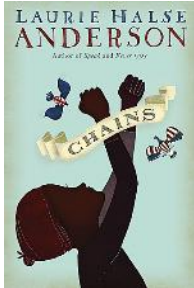




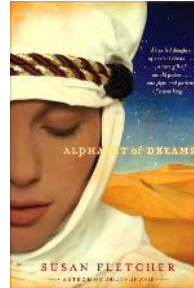
2011 NUTMEG NOMINEES

7th & 8th Grade



Chains
Laurie Halse Anderson

Isabel and her sister Ruth were supposed to be granted freedom upon the death of their master. Instead they become the property of a powerful Loyalist family in New York City at the beginning of the American Revolution. A fellow slave encourages Isabel to spy on her master in exchange for her freedom. But who has her best interests at heart?



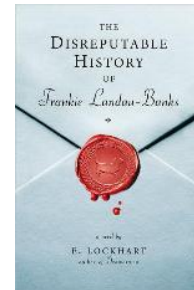
Alphabet of Dreams
Susan Fletcher

Mitra and her little brother, Babak, are beggars in the city of Rhagae, but they are not what they seem. They are of royal blood, exiled in poverty. Babak's prophetic visions attract the attention of Melchior the wizard who kidnaps the boy so Babak can dream exclusively for him. Can Mitra save her little brother as they cross the Persian desert?



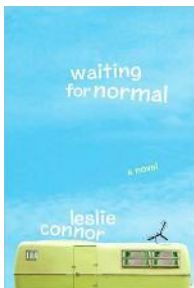
Home of the Brave
Katherine Applegate

Kek has traveled from his family home in Africa to a new life in the U.S. As Kek awaits word of his mother's fate, he weathers the tough Minnesota winter by finding warmth in friendships, strength in his memories, and belief in his new country - America.



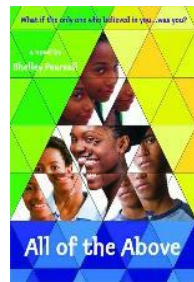
The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks
E. Lockhart

Spunky boarding school sophomore Frances "Frankie" Landau-Banks is tired of being underestimated by the men in her life, including her boyfriend Matthew and his wittier-than-thou friends. She discovers Matthews secret male club, and, unbeknownst to them, begins orchestrating their elaborate pranks.



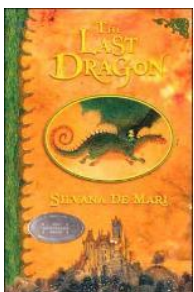
Waiting for Normal
Leslie Connor

Addie wants a normal life. But living in a trailer while her mom disappears for days at a time is anything but normal. Addie dreams of living with her half sisters as a disaster alters her future.



All of the Above
Shelley Pearsall

James, Rhondell, Sharice, and Marcel attend the same inner-city school. Their teacher Mr. Collins challenges these diverse students to build the world's biggest Sierpinski tetrahedron in an after-school club. Based on a true story.



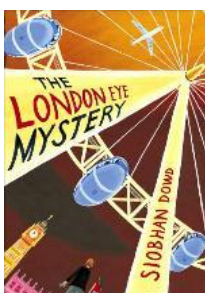
The Last Dragon
Silvana de Mari

Imagine being sent into the unknown where magic, elves, dragons, trolls, and humans co-exist. Imagine if you were the last of your kind. Imagine if your name was Yorshkrunsquarkljolnerstrink. Get ready for hardships, unlikely friendships, humor, and love as Yorsh the elf tries to find the last dragon.



The Wednesday Wars
Gary D. Schmidt

Holling Hoodhood is sure his 7th grade teacher, Mrs. Baker, hates him. After all, she is forced to supervise him while his Catholic and Jewish classmates attend religious education. Worse yet, she makes him read Shakespeare's plays. Holling realistically and sensitively depicts the confusion of adolescence during the turbulent 1960s.



The London Eye Mystery
Siobhan Dowd

When his cousin Salim rides the London Eye observation wheel and disappears, a perplexed Ted partners with his crabby teenage sister, Kat, to investigate the mystery. With his uniquely brilliant mind, can Ted convince his parents and aunt Gloria that he can find Salim before it is too late?



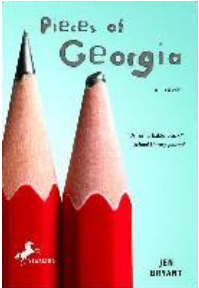
Unwind
Neal Shusterman

In this futuristic novel, set after the Second Civil War (Between the Pro-Life and Pro-Choice armies), three teens are trying to escape the Harvest Camp in which teens can be "unwound" and used for transplants and plastic surgery upgrades.



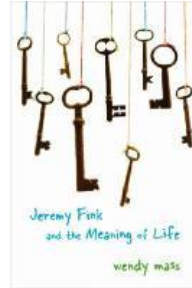
2010 NUTMEG NOMINEES

7th & 8th Grade



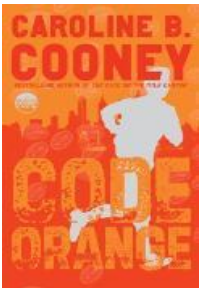
Pieces of Georgia
Jen Bryant

Artistic loner Georgia McCoy writes a series of letters to her dead mother in the hope of understanding her father's sadness, her friend's curiosity about drugs, and her own feelings of loneliness. When she receives an anonymous membership to the local art museum, Georgia's life changes dramatically.



Jeremy Fink and The Meaning of Life
Wendy Maas

If before your 13th birthday, you received a quadrupled-locked, mysterious box engraved "The Meaning of Life", lovingly handcrafted by your dead father, what do you do? You run around all of Manhattan with your best friend, trying to find the missing four keys.



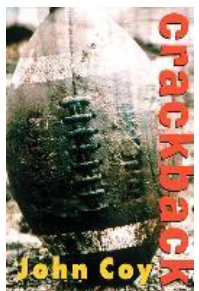
Code Orange
Caroline Cooney

While completing his infectious disease report for science class, Mitty fears he may have contracted smallpox. When he searches the internet for information about this disease, he alerts a terrorist group who plans to kidnap him and use him as a biological weapon against the people of New York City.



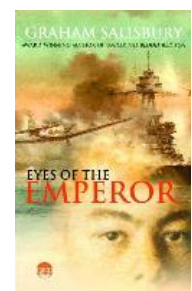
Life As We Knew It
Susan Beth Pfeffer

Miranda, a sixteen year old high school sophomore, is looking forward to getting her license, junior year, and just being a teenager. She doesn't give a second thought to the news of a meteor speeding towards the moon, until it hits. Life as she knew it will never return.



Crackback
John Coy

Miles can't remember why football was fun after being sidelined by a new coach, criticized by his father, and shunned by his best friend for avoiding performance enhancing drugs.



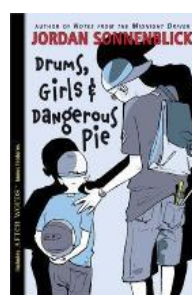
Eyes of the Emperor
Graham Salisbury

It is 1941. Eddy Okubo is 16 years old, a Japanese American, and enlists in the US Army to protect the country he loves. The Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, and suddenly Eddy is the enemy. He and 24 other Japanese American soldiers are sent on a terrifying secret mission that will test their loyalty and courage.



Epic
Conor Kostick

Epic is a fantasy role-playing game that is more than just a game—it's New Earth's government and economy. Everyone has always played Epic the same way, by slowly accumulating wealth, but no one can rival the Committee, the world's tyrannical ruling group. But Erik, a risk taker, thinks he and his friends may be able to change all that.



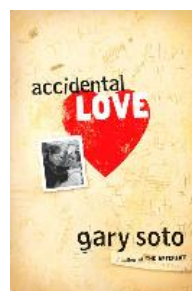
Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie
Jordan Sonnenblick

What is the most annoying thing in the world? For Steven, the answer is obvious; his little brother Jeffrey. When Steven finds out that Jeffrey is sick, however, he must use all of his skills as a drum-playing, girl-crushing, friend-finding, parent-manipulating teenager to help his family keep laughing through this heartbreaking year.



Skulduggery Pleasant
Derek Landy

When Stephenie's uncle dies and includes her in his will, she meets Skulduggery Pleasant and quickly enters a world of secrets, magic, and danger. Can Stephenie and Skulduggery work together to defeat the evil powers of Serpene?



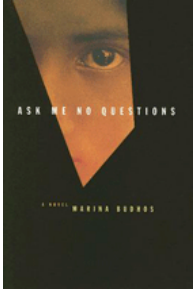
Accidental Love
Gary Soto

Boy meets girl (accidentally), girl falls for boy (love). But they're from two different schools, two different neighborhoods, and truly two different worlds. The odds of them making it are slim to none in this well-crafted story of young love.



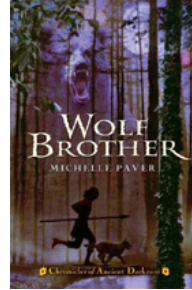
2009 NUTMEG NOMINEES

7th & 8th Grade



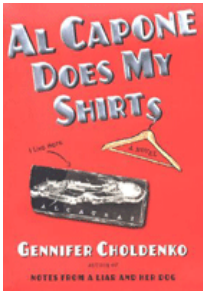
Ask Me No Questions
Marina Budhos

After Nadira's father, an illegal immigrant from Bangladesh, is arrested, her older sister grows more sorrowful with each passing day. Nadira, no longer living in her sophisticated sister's shadow, must cope with the difficulties of being a Muslim in post-9/11 America.



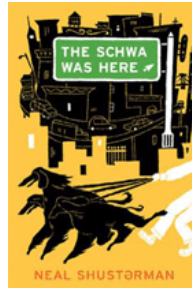
Wolf Brother
Michelle Paver

A demonic bear has killed Torak's father, and Torak, a stone-age boy, must destroy the beast. On his journey he finds an orphan wolf cub and learns they can communicate with each other. Now both orphans are on a perilous journey to defeat evil.



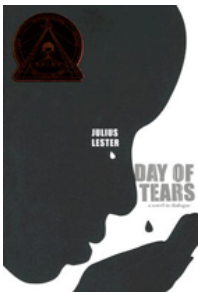
Al Capone Does My Shirts
Gennifer Choldenko

Moose struggles with troublemaking, providing care for his needy sister, and handling family life on the island prison of Alcatraz.



The Schwa Was Here
Neal Shusterman

When Antsy Bonano and his friends discover that fellow 8th grade classmate Calvin Schwa can become invisible, they use the knowledge to hatch a money making plot. What begins as a surefire scheme turns into something else, as you weave through this funny, yet thought provoking journey with Cal, Antsy, and Lexie.



Day of Tears
Julius Lester

Husbands and wives are torn apart, young children are separated from their parents, and life long friendships are instantly ended. Over the course of three days in 1859, more than 400 slaves.



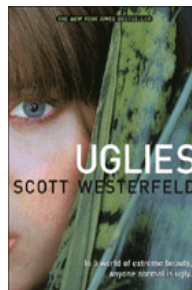
The Case of the Missing Marquess
Nancy Springer

For Enola Holmes, investigating mysteries runs in the family, including her own mother's disappearance. When her elder brother Sherlock determines she should attend a prim boarding school, she resolves to escape and solve the mystery herself.



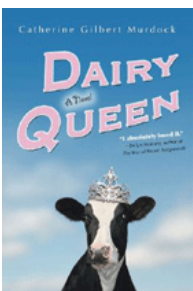
Heat
Mike Lupica

What can a 12 year-old Cuban immigrant do when he dreams of pitching in the Little League World Series, only to be benched? Michael Arroyo relies on his best friend, Manny Cabrera, his neighbor Mrs. Cora, and the mysterious new girl pitcher he meets practicing in the shadow of Yankee Stadium.



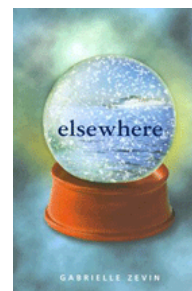
Uglies
Scott Westerfeld

When Tally turns sixteen, she will transition from an Ugly to a Pretty, receiving society's mandated plastic surgery to look like everyone else; model beautiful. But before her birthday, she meets some Uglies who have never had the surgery. And they have a secret to share with her ...



Dairy Queen
Catherine Gilbert Murdock

Since her father's injury, DJ Schwenk has been doggedly running her family's dairy farm. But the summer before 11th grade, the rival school's football coach sends his stuck-up, lazy quarterback, Brian, to help DJ out on the farm. DJ finds herself coaching Brian, and she starts to wonder if there is more out there for her than farm work .



Elsewhere
Gabrielle Zevin

This novel asks the question: what happens to us when we die? When Liz Hall dies at fifteen, she discovers Elsewhere, an afterlife where people and animals age backwards until they are reborn again. But Liz desperately wants to grow up, fall in love, and get her driver's license, not rewind to fourteen!



2008 NUTMEG NOMINEES

7th & 8th Grade



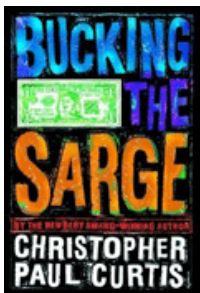
Down the Rabbit Hole **Peter Abrahams**

Trying to avoid being implicated in a local murder, Ingrid attempts to investigate the mysterious death herself, disturbing her usual routine of soccer practice and drama rehearsals.



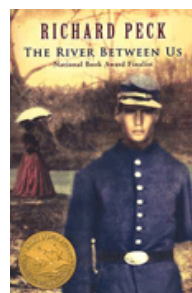
Shackleton's Stowaway **Victoria McKernan.**

Perce Blackborow stows away on Ernest Shackleton's ship, the Endurance, hoping for an adventure. However, when the ship is crushed by ice, and the crew is forced to abandon her in Antarctica, survival becomes everyone's main occupation.



Bucking the Sarge **Christopher Paul Curtis**

Fourteen-year-old Luther wants to go to college, but he is pressured to oversee his mom's dishonest business empire in Flint, Michigan, and he struggles with ethical questions as he runs the Happy Neighbor Group Home for Men.



The River Between Us **Richard Peck**

In April 1861, Tilly's mama opens her home to two young ladies, Delphine and Calinda, after they are forced to flee New Orleans, and soon the family is caught up, not only in the mystery of these two young women, but also in the war when Tilly's twin brother Noah runs away to join the fight.



Revenge of the Witch **Joseph Delaney**

The seventh son of a seventh son, possessing powers he doesn't understand, Tom is apprenticed to the village "spook," defeating witches, ghosts, goblins, and other creatures that walk in the darkness, but soon he is caught up in the plotting of the darkest witch around, and he alone must destroy her.



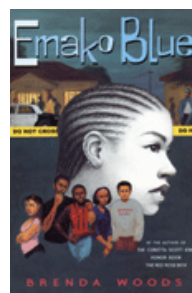
The Lightning Thief **Rick Riordan**

21st century kid Percy Jackson discovers he is the secret son of one of the mythical Greek gods of Mount Olympus. After this discovery, Percy is sent to a summer camp for children of the gods, where he learns to fight monsters and survive against unnatural odds, handy skills for his first quest.



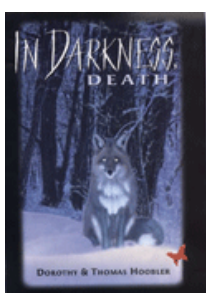
The Sea of Trolls **Nancy Farmer**

To free his younger sister from a shape-shifting troll, 11-year-old Jack takes a journey with Viking berserkers, encountering a variety of helpful and dangerous mythological creatures along the way.



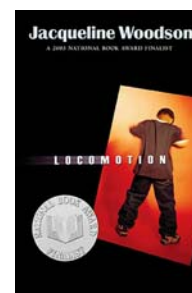
Emako Blue **Brenda Woods**

Emako Blue is beautiful and talented, making friends quickly at her new school, but just as things begin to come together for her, the violence of her neighborhood interrupts her plans.



In Darkness, Death **Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler**

Seikei, apprentice to the powerful Shogun detective Judge Ooka, tracks down a mysterious samurai, uncovering the identity of a powerful lord's killer.



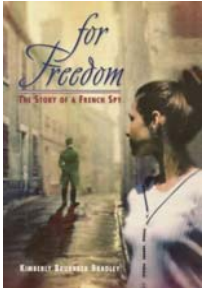
Locomotion **Jacqueline Woodson**

As part of a fifth grade assignment, Lonnie Collins writes poems to express his feelings after the death of his parents and separation from his beloved younger sister.



2007 NUTMEG NOMINEES

7th & 8th Grade



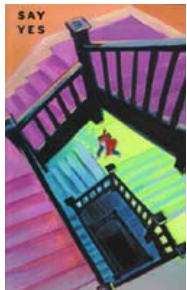
For Freedom:
The Story of a French Spy
Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Suzanne dreams of becoming an opera star, but when Nazi troops invade, she decides to become a spy for the Allies.



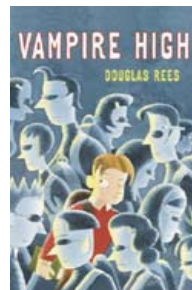
Airborn
Kenneth Oppel

Matt and Kate embark on a quest to prove "cloud cats" exist, but evil pirates attack their airship. Can they survive the battle?



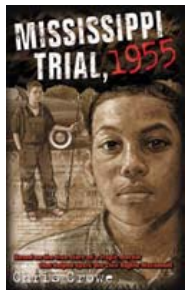
Say Yes
Audrey Couloubis

Casey comes home one day to find her stepmother gone. How will she survive? Whom can she trust?



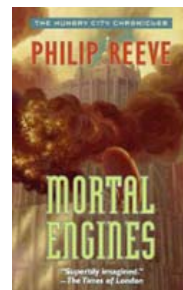
Vampire High
by Douglas Rees

Cody's dreary, new high school is a drag. His grades are bad, and he has trouble making friends. Everything becomes more interesting when Cody realizes he is in a school full of vampires!



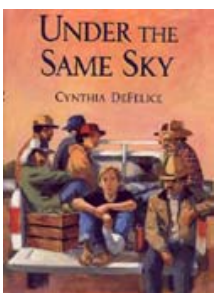
Mississippi Trial, 1955
Chris Crowe

When Emmett Till is murdered, Hiram begins to look at his grandfather and Mississippi differently as bigotry and violence are revealed.



Mortal Engines
Philip Reeve

Welcome to a distant future where cities search out and consume smaller towns. Tom and Hester try to stop the carnage...and stay alive.



Under the Same Sky
Cynthia DeFelice

Joe is wealthy and full of attitude. He wants a new motorbike, but his father insists Joe earns the money for it. Suddenly Joe finds himself working alongside Mexican migrant laborers. Can he keep up with the grueling work? What will he do when the farm is raided?



Milkweed
Jerry Spinelli

An inspirational tale about Misha's survival in a Warsaw ghetto.



Inventing Elliot
Graham Gardner

Life at the new high school has to be better for Elliot. He is going to do his best not to become a victim of bullies. Ironically, Elliot does attract attention from a sinister gang, but they want Elliot to become one of them.



JumpMan Rule #1: Don't Touch Anything
James Valentine

When Theodore, a teen from the 51st century, drops into the lives of Jules and Gen, life gets a lot more complicated.



2006 NUTMEG NOMINEES

7th & 8th Grade



The Goblin Wood
Hilari Bell

Goblins are evil and cannot be controlled, everybody knows that. But good and evil are not always clearly defined, and friendship can cross all races.



Hoot
Carl Hiaasen

Burrowing owls, pancake restaurants, truants with no shoes and moving across the county; how can Roy deal with it all?



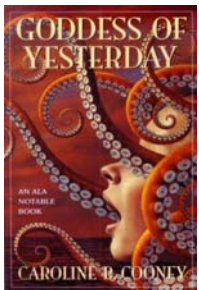
Things Not Seen
Andrew Clements

Sometimes, as you make your way through life, you feel invisible. Poor Bobby, one day he wakes up and he literally IS invisible.



Soldier Boys
Dean Hughes

Spencer and Dieter are both teenagers, both love their country, and both want to show what they are made of. But World War II is going on and Dieter and Spencer are NOT on the same side.



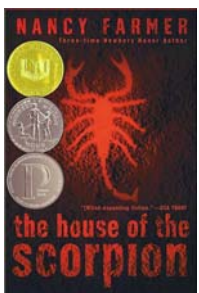
Goddess of Yesterday
Caroline Cooney

The Trojan war, as seen through the eyes of young Anaxandra, daughter of kings, slave, hostage, royal impersonator and clever survivor.



Touching Spirit Bear
Ben Mikaelson

Cole is a teenage criminal offender who has beaten a classmate almost to death. His punishment? To be banished to a remote Alaskan island for one year. Will the giant spirit bear that inhabits the island help Cole straighten up?



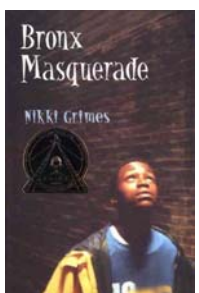
The House of the Scorpion
Nancy Farmer

Matteo Alacran knows he is a clone; no one lets him forget for even a moment. "You were harvested," Tam Lin reminds him. "You were grown in that poor cow for nine months and then you were cut out of her."



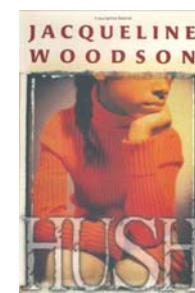
Full Tilt
Neal Shusterman

In order to save his daredevil younger brother Quinn, (and save himself) sensible, steady Blake must survive seven carnival rides before dawn. The catch is this is a carnival of the mind and each ride preys upon one of Blake's greatest fears.



Bronx Masquerade
Nikki Grimes

The kids in Mr. Ward's English class have come to love Fridays. They are Open Mike Days, when all the students can speak from the heart in poetry and not be mocked, or judged. Instead, they draw closer together.



Hush
Jacqueline Woodson

Toswiah Green has just become a teenager when her father witnesses a murder. Now Toswiah and her family have to go into the witness protection program. It is hard enough as a teen to figure out who you are without being told to become someone else!