

# Volunteer State Book Award



*Sponsored by*

**Tennessee Library Association**

*and*

**Tennessee Association of School Librarians**

## **History of the Volunteer State Book Award**

The Tennessee Library Association, in cooperation with the Tennessee Association of School Librarians, sponsors the Volunteer State Book Award (VSBA) annually. Each year, children read books from a list of nominated titles. In the spring, students vote for their favorite. These votes are tabulated and sent to the state organization. The book with the most votes statewide wins the award. The author of the book receives a plaque and is invited to Tennessee to receive the award.

From 1978-1988, this award was named the Tennessee Children's Choice Book Award and was made available only to students in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. The first winner was Thomas Rockwell for **How to Eat Fried Worms**. In 1988, the award was expanded to include all grade levels and four awards were announced: for grades K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Beginning in 1992, three awards were announced: one for primary grades, one for intermediate grades, and one for young adult (YA) readers. Finally, in 2012, the structure was modified to reflect what it is today, four divisions: one for primary grades, one for intermediate grades, one for Middle School, and one for High School.

### [Purpose of the Award](#)

The purpose of the VSBA is to promote awareness, interest, and enjoyment of good new children's and young adult literature. The award also hopes to promote literacy and life-long reading habits by encouraging students to read quality contemporary literature that broadens understanding of the

human experience and provides accurate, factual information. This award honors outstanding books chosen annually by Tennessee students.

### Its Unique Feature

The VSBA differs from awards such as the Newbery Medal in that only students choose the book that receives the award. Students from Kindergarten through 12th Grade read or have read to them at least three books is eligible to vote.

### Who May Participate?

Any public or private school or public library in Tennessee is eligible to participate. It is not required that the entire school be involved. Each participating school must have available a minimum of twelve of the nominated titles per division.

### How Books Are Chosen

Professional librarians and educators who work continuously with students in grades K-12 select twenty books that appeal to students in each grade category. Four separate lists are compiled each year. All books on the final list will have been read by a minimum of two members of the committee.

## Criteria for Selection

- Books may be fiction or nonfiction.
- Only one title of any one author will be included on that year's list.
- Only titles published in the five years prior to the year of voting are eligible.
- Only books by authors residing in the United States are eligible.
- Textbooks, anthologies, translations, and books from foreign publishers are not eligible.

### How to Vote

- Any student who has read or has listened to a minimum of three of the nominated books will be allowed to vote.
- The library media specialist will conduct the voting.
- Votes are cast in the spring of each school year..

**For More Information**  
**<http://www.tasltn.org/vsba>**

## CHILDREN'S CHOICE BOOK AWARD 1978-1988

*(Intermediate Level Only)*

### 1978-1979

Rockwell, Thomas. **How to Eat Fried Worms.**

### 1979-1980

Cleary, Beverly. **Ramona And Her Father.**

### 1980-1981

Hall, Lynn. **Shadows.**

### 1981-1982

Blume, Judy. **Superfudge.**

### 1982-1983

Byars, Betsy. **The Cybil War.**

### 1983-1984

Howe, James. **Howliday Inn.**

### 1984-1985

Carris, Joan. **When The Boys Ran The House.**

### 1985-1986

Park, Barbara. **Operation: Dump The Chump.**

### 1986-1987

Park, Barbara. **Skinnybones.**

### 1987-1988

Smith, Robert Kimmel. **The War With Grandpa.**

## VOLUNTEER STATE BOOK AWARD

### 1988-1989

*Grades K-3:* Schwartz, Alvin. **In A Dark, Dark Room.**

*Grades 4-6:* Hahn, Mary Downing. **Wait Till Helen Comes, A Ghost Story.**

*Grades 7-9:* Paulsen, Gary. **Dogsong.**

*Grades 10-12:* Voigt, Cynthia. **Izzy, Willy-Nilly.**

### 1989-1990

*Grades K-3:* Seeger, Pete. **Abiyoyo.**

*Grades 4-6:* Wright, Betty Ren. **Christina's Ghost.**

*Grades 7-9:* Killien, Christi. **Putting On An Act.**

*Grades 10-12:* Duncan, Lois. **Locked In Time.**

### **1990-1991**

*Grades K-3:* Cole, Joanna. **Magic Schoolbus At The Waterworks.**

*Grades 4-6:* Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **Beetles, Lightly Toasted.**

*Grades 7-9:* Shusterman, Neal. **The Shadow Club.**

*Grades 10-12:* Deaver, Julie. **Say Goodnight, Gracie.**

### **1991-1992**

*Grades K-3:* Arnold, Tedd. **No Jumping On The Bed!**

*Grades 4-6:* Sachar, Louis. **There's A Boy In The Girls' Bathroom.**

*Grades 7-9:* Bunting, Eve. **A Sudden Silence.**

*Grades 10-12:* Duncan, Lois. **Don't Look Behind You.**

### **1992-1993**

*Grades K-3:* Carle, Eric. **The Very Quiet Cricket.**

*Grades 4-6:* Sachar, Louis. **Wayside School Is Falling Down.**

*Young Adult:* Hall, Lynn. **The Killing Freeze.**

### **1993-1994**

*Grades K-3:* Wahl, Jan. **Taily Po.**

*Grades 4-6:* Bunting, Eve. **Our Sixth Grade Sugar Babies.**

*Young Adult:* Duncan, Lois. **Don't Look Behind You.**

### **1994-1995**

*Grades K-3:* Locker, Thomas. **Land Of Gray Wolf.**

*Grades 4-6:* Blume, Judy. **Fudge-A-Mania.**

*Young Adult:* Cooney, Caroline. **The Face on The Milk Carton.**

### **1995-1996**

*Grades K-3:* Trivizas, Eugene. **The Three Little Wolves & the Big Bad Pig.**

*Grades 4-6:* Wright, Betty Ren. **The Ghosts Of Mercy Manor.**

*Young Adult:* Deuker, Carl. **Heart of a Champion.**

### **1996-1997**

*Grades K-3:* Pilkey, Dav. **Dogzilla.**

*Grades 4-6:* Robinson, Barbara. **The Best/Worst School Year Ever.**

*Young Adult:* Haynes, Betsy. **Deadly Deception.**

### **1997-1998**

*Grades K-3:* Pilkey, Dav. **Hallo-Wiener.**

*Grades 4-6:* Strasser, Todd. **Help! I'm Trapped In My Teacher's Body.**

*Young Adult:* Cooney, Caroline. **Driver's Ed.**

### **1998-1999**

*Grades K-3:* Meddaugh, Susan. **Martha Calling.**

*Grades 4-6:* Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **Shiloh Season.**

*Young Adult:* Draper, Sharon. **Tears of a Tiger.**

### **1999-2000**

*Grades K-3:* Arnold, Tedd. **Parts.**

*Grades 4-6:* Gutman, Dan. **Million Dollar Shot.**

*Young Adult:* Paulsen, Gary. **Brian's Winter.**

### **2000-2001**

*Grades K-3:* MacDonald, Margaret. **Pickin' Peas.**

*Grades 4-6:* Sachar, Louis. **Holes.**

*Young Adult:* Duncan, Lois. **Gallow's Hill.**

### **2001-2002**

*Grades K-3:* Lester, Helen. **Hooway for Wodney Wat.**

*Grades 4-6:* Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Bud, Not Buddy.**

*Young Adult:* Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Speak.**

Vande Velde, Vivian. **Smart Dog.**

### **2002-2003**

*Grades K-3:* Howard, Arthur. **Cosmo Zooms.**

*Grades 4-6:* DiCamillo, Kate. **Because of Winn-Dixie.**

*Young Adult:* Cabot, Meg. **The Princess Diaries.**

### **2003-2004**

*Grades K-3:* Massie, Diane. **Baby Bee Bee Bird.**

*Grades 4-6:* Creech, Sharon. **Love That Dog.**

*Young Adult:* Brashares, Ann. **The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants.**

### **2004-2005**

*Grades K-3:* Salley, Colleen. **Epossumondas.**

*Grades 4-6:* Creech, Sharon. **Ruby Holler.**

*Young Adult:* Farmer, Nancy. **The House of the Scorpion.**

### **2005-2006**

*Grades K-3:* Palatini, Margie. **Bad Boys.**

*Grades 4-6:* DiCamillo, Kate. **The Tale of Despereaux.**

*Young Adult:* Paolini, Christopher. **Eragon.**

### **2006-2007**

*Grades K-3:* Flowers, Pam. **Big-Enough Anna.**

*Grades 4-6:* Hahn, Mary Downing. **The Old Willis Place: A Ghost Story.**

*Young Adult:* Sones, Sonya. **One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies.**

### **2007-2008**

*Grades K-3:* Bruel, Nick. **Bad Kitty.**

*Grades 4-6:* Kehret, Peg. **The Ghost's Grave.**

*Young Adult:* Meyer, Stephenie. **Twilight.**

### **2008-2009**

*Grades K-3:* Beaumont, Karen. **I Ain't Gonna Paint No More.**

*Grades 4-6:* Martin, Ann M. **A Dog's Life: Autobiography of a Stray.**

*Young Adult:* Riordan, Rick. **The Lightning Thief.**

### **2009-2010**

*Grades K-3:* Himmelman, John. **Chickens to the Rescue.**

*Grades 4-6:* Mull, Brandon. **Fablehaven.**

*Young Adult:* Pfeffer, Susan Beth. **Life as We Knew It.**

### **2010-2011**

*Grades K-3:* Jackson, Emma. **A Home for Dixie.**

*Grades 4-6:* Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Found. (The Missing, Book 1)**

*Young Adult:* Collins, Suzanne. **The Hunger Games.**

### **2011-2012**

*Grades K-3:* Buckley, Carol. **Tarra and Bella : The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends.**

*Grades 4-6:* Mass, Wendy. **11 Birthdays.**

*Young Adult:* Dashner, James. **The Maze Runner.**

### **2012-2013**

*Primary Division:* Lawson, Kirby and Mary Nethery. **Nubs : The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle.**

*Intermediate Division:* Draper, Sharon. **Out of My Mind.**

*Middle School Division:* Riordan, Rick. **The Lost Hero.**

*High School Division:* Condie, Ally. **Matched.**

### **2013-2014**

*Primary Division:* Chabon, Michael. **Astonishing Secret of Awesome Man.**

*Intermediate Division:* Weeks, Sarah. **Pie.**

*Middle School Division:* Sepetys, Ruta. **Between Shades of Gray.**

*High School Division:* Roth, Veronica. **Divergent.**

### **2014-2015**

*Primary Division:* Reynolds, Peter. **Creepy Carrots!**

*Intermediate Division:* Palacio, R.J. **Wonder.**

*Middle School Division:* Cass, Kiera. **The Selection.**

*High School Division:* Cass, Kiera. **The Selection.**

### **2015-2016**

*Primary Division:* Daywalt, Drew. **The Day The Crayons Quit.**

*Intermediate Division:* Grabenstein, Chris. **Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library.**

*Middle School Division:* Gratz, Alan. **Prisoner B-3017.**

*High School Division:* Yancey, Rick. **The 5<sup>th</sup> Wave.**

### **2016-2017**

*Primary Division:* Novak, B.J. **The Book with No Pictures.**

*Intermediate Division:* Barnett, Mac. **The Terrible Two.**

*Middle School Division:* Telgemeier, Raina. **Sisters.**

*High School Division:* Lockhart, E. **We Were Liars.**