

Texas Bluebonnet Award

2016-17 Master List - Annotations



Applegate, Katherine. **Crenshaw**. Feiwel and Friends / Macmillan, 2015. hb 9781250143238

"I noticed several weird things about the surfing cat." Jackson can't believe it when his imaginary friend rides a wave back into his life after being gone for several years. With his family facing the prospect of homelessness again, Jackson feels completely in over his head with these harsh realities...but maybe the oversized Crenshaw can help right things once again.

Barnett, Mac and John, Jory. **The Terrible Two**. Illustrated by Kevin Cornell. Amulet / Abrams, 2015. hb 9781419714917, ebook 9781613127636, audio 9781481515313

What happens when two world-class pranksters end up in the same boring town of Yawnee Valley, where counting cow moos is a popular pastime? The pranks become even bigger and better than they've ever been before! This is a hilarious story about cows, pranking, being yourself, and making new friends.

Barton, Chris. **The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch**. Illustrated by Don Tate. Eerdmans, 2015. hb 9780802853790

Born into slavery and freed by the Emancipation Proclamation, John Roy Lynch overcame many obstacles to become a powerful leader in the United States government; all before the age of 26! While many in the South resisted the changes brought on by the end of the Civil War, John Roy Lynch worked and educated himself to ensure that he could help others in his position to be truly free. This beautifully illustrated biography introduces you to an amazing individual and the amazing age he lived through.

Beasley, Cassie. **Circus Mirandus**. Illustrations by Diana Sudyka. Dial / Penguin, 2015. hb 9780525428435, ebook 9780698189065

Do you believe in magic? What about a whole magical circus? Micah is convinced his grandpa's stories of the mysterious Lightbender are real. More than that, he desperately needs a miracle of magical proportions to save Grandpa Ephraim. Past and present collide in one stupendous journey that defies logic and illuminates the imagination.

Camper, Cathy. **Lowriders in Space**. Illustrated by Raúl The Third. Chronicle, 2014. hb 9781452121550, pb 9781452128696, ebook 9781452130507

What do an antelope, an octopus, and a mosquito have in common? Cars of course! Three friends from the *barrio* love working on cars. *Con muchas ganas*, they enter a contest that is out of this world. Will they be able to win the coveted Golden Steering Wheel Award and enough cash to open their own garage?

Cronin, Doreen. **The Chicken Squad**. Illustrated by Kevin Cornell. Atheneum / Simon & Schuster, 2014. pob 9781442496267, pb 9781442496774, ebook 9781442496781

Detectives come in all forms -- big, small, smart... feathery? Four sleuthing chicks, Dirt, Poppy, Sweetie and Sugar, investigate the appearance of a mysterious object that just may be a UFO. Filled with humor, heart, and a frequently fainting squirrel, join these crazy chicks for their first big adventure!

Gibbs, Stuart. **Space Case**. Simon & Schuster, 2014. hb 9781442494862, ebook 9781442494886, audio download 9781442376403, audio cd 9781442376397

Imagine you are living a nice life in Hawaii when your parents come home and tell you, "We are going to live on the Moon for three years!" Sounds like an adventure, right? Without many friends and not much to do, it's actually pretty boring. Until one emergency bathroom run, where the only other person you see ends up dead the next day. Was it an accident? Or is there a murderer on Moon Base Alpha? One thing's for sure: life has gotten a lot more interesting...

Grimes, Nikki. ***Poems in the Attic***. Illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon. Lee & Low, 2015. hb 9781620140277
In this series of paired verses, author Nikki Grimes paints a picture of a girl discovering her mother's childhood memories captured in her poetry. Mama's poems reveal her memories from Captain Grandpa's Air Force career. The poems bring the girl closer to her mother, who is also serving in the military, as she writes her own reflections as a gift to her mom.

Jamieson, Victoria. ***Roller Girl***. Dial / Penguin, 2015. hb 9780525429678, pb 9780803740167, ebook 978069819059

After one of her mom's "nights of culture" at a roller derby tournament, Astrid cannot wait to put on skates and join a junior derby camp. What she never realized was just how difficult roller derby could actually be! Lots of bruises, even more hard work, new teammates, and friends all unite in this high-adrenaline graphic novel.

Jenkins, Emily. ***A Fine Dessert***. Illustrated by Sophie Blackall. Schwartz & Wade / Random House, 2015. hb 9780375868320, glb 9780375968327, ebook 9780375987717

How can a four hundred year old dessert be fine? When it is prepared and shared by four families from four different centuries. Attentive readers will delight in the repeating phrases and illustrations; young chefs will notice changing kitchen techniques. It's a delicious romp through time down to the last lick of the bowl!

Jones, Kelly. ***Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer***. Illustrated by Katie Kath. Knopf / Random House, 2015. hb 9780385755528, glb 9780385755535, ebook 9780385755542, pb 9780385755559

Who do you turn to for advice when your dad loses his job, and you have to move to a run-down farm left to the family by Great Uncle Jim? Your dead abuelita, of course. First time author Kelly Jones weaves letters, lists, quizzes, and diagrams into an amusing look at raising a very unusual flock of chickens.

Lieb, Josh. ***Ratscalibur***. Illustrated by Tom Lintern. Razorbill / Penguin, 2015. hb 97815951429, ebook 9780698188815

You may have heard of the sword in the stone...but what about the spork in the scone? Joey hadn't either, until he is transformed from a normal boy into a rat who unlocks the mystic sword Ratscalibur. Now, tasked with saving his newfound friends and facing a foe of unspeakable evil, Joey is going to need strength, courage, wit...and a whole lot of magic.

Lord, Cynthia. ***A Handful of Stars***. Scholastic, 2015. hb 9780545700276, ebook 9780545700290
Lily and Salma would not have met if it weren't for Lucky, Lily's blind dog. Salma and her family are migrant workers in town only for blueberry season. Together the "star friends" help prepare Salma to be the first Blueberry Queen from outside the community while also raising money to help Lucky. You will eat up this heartwarming story and wish there were more!

Quinn, Spencer. ***Woof***. Scholastic, 2015. hb 9780545643313, ebook 9780545643337, audio 9780545838344 and 9780545838351

Have you ever noticed that humans have puzzling behavior? Bowser has, but he still knows his human is “off the charts.” A checkered past, street smarts, a sensitive nose, and sharp eyes are just a few of the talents that make him a first class detective. No longer living on the streets, this loveable mutt helps his newfound owner solve a mystery and find a hidden “treasure” in the swamps and bayous of Louisiana.

Robertson, Robbie. ***Hiawatha and the Peacemaker***. Illustrated by David Shannon. Abrams, 2015. hb 9781419712203

It is a dark time for Hiawatha. He has lost everything to the evil Chief Tadodaho and seeks revenge. Then the Great Peacemaker visits him with a message of peace for the 14th century Iroquois. With David Shannon's stunning illustrations, musical icon Robbie Robertson tells the story of the founding of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy and the Great Law of Peace, both milestones in American history.

Rockliff, Mara. ***Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France***. Illustrated by Iacopo Bruno. Candlewick, 2015. hb 9780763663513

Ben Franklin enthralled the world with his inventions and discoveries in America during the Revolutionary War. At the same time, Dr. Mesmer was baffling the people of Paris with his claims to magically cure illnesses with a force he streamed from the stars. Was this force too good to be true? Using the scientific method, Ben Franklin sets out to discover the truth in this mesmerizing nonfiction picture book.

Ross, Joel N. ***The Fog Diver***. HarperCollins, 2015. hb 9780062352934

Chess was born in a cage, submerged in the deadly Fog that now cloaks almost the entire earth. Because of this, he now has valuable powers that allow him to travel in places others cannot, powers which the evil Lord Kodoc wants to exploit. In order to survive, Chess and his crew must evade the evil Lord, negotiate with dangerous air pirates, and flee their old home to a safer realm they aren't even sure exists.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. ***Echo***. Scholastic, 2015. hb 978043987402, ebook 9780545576505, audio 9780545788366 & 9780545788373

It begins with a boy and a book, three princesses, a witch's curse, and a harmonica bound with magic . . . Pam Muñoz Ryan weaves a tale that begins in the Black Forest at the turn of the 20th century and journeys into the lives of three different families weaving an adventure blending history and magical realism.

Segel, Jason and Miller, Kirsten. ***Nightmares!*** Illustrated by Karl Kwasny. Delacorte / Random House, 2014. hb 9780385744256, glb 9780375991578, ebook 9780385384032, pb 9780385744263

How can living in a purple house with a stepmom and falling asleep in class teach you to face your greatest fears? Our character ends up in a strange place with big ugly bugs, scary bunnies, and close friends where nightmares abound. But can dreams also come true? You may just start sleeping with the lights on after reading this book.

Vernon, Ursula. ***Hamster Princess: Harriet the Invincible***. Dial / Penguin, 2015. hb 9780803739833, ebook 9780698403970

Harriet Hamsterborn is a hamster princess with a reputation...a reputation for being crazy. Rather than living an uneventful life of royalty, she cashes in on the invincibility bestowed upon her at birth. Until she is twelve, when she will prick her finger on a hamster wheel and lose her power, Harriet decides to live a life of adventure without fear. In this fractured fairy tale, Harriet is empowered in unexpected and very entertaining ways.