



**1993**



*The Jefferson Cup honors a distinguished biography, historical fiction, or American history book for young people. The Virginia Library Association's Children's and Young Adult Round Table (CYART) has presented the award annually since 1983. Through the award, CYART seeks to promote reading about America's past; encourage writing of U.S. history, biography and historical fiction for young people; and recognize authors in these disciplines.*

## **1993 JEFFERSON CUP AWARD**

### **CHILDREN OF THE DUST BOWL: THE TRUE STORY OF THE SCHOOL AT WEEDPATCH CAMP**

*by Jerry Stanley*

*Crown Publishers, 1992. Grades 4-8.*

A highly readable account that makes abundant use of period photos and first person accounts, Children of the Dust Bowl follows the "Okies" from the drought-stricken Oklahoma Panhandle of the 1930's to what they hoped was a better life in California. Instead they found hardship and prejudice.

In 1937 the federal government built several farm-labor camps in the San Joaquin Valley, where the Okies could stay until getting work. At the Arvin Federal Camp, known as Weedpatch Camp because of its location on Weedpatch Highway, children went without education until they built their own school under the guidance of educator Leo Hart. Both photos and text portray the development of this remarkable school, which taught not only traditional subjects, but also such courses as shoe cobbling, animal husbandry and aircraft mechanics. (Students maintaining a 90 percent or better average in mathematics could drive a C-46 airplane, bought from military surplus, down a makeshift runway and back.) Once hostile local residents clamored to enroll their children, and the school eventually became part of the local school district.



## HONOR BOOKS

### GOOD-BYE, BILLY RADISH

by *Gloria Skurzynski*. Bradbury Press, 1992. Grades 5-9.

A coming-of-age novel, Good-bye, Billy Radish details the friendship between Hank Kerner and the Ukrainian Bazyli Radichevich, dubbed "Billy Radish" by Hank. It is set in World War I Pittsburgh, a time and place when the steel mills were a part of everyone's sensory existence, each and every moment of the day. The boys must deal with losses caused by steel mill accidents and the war, but it is the Spanish influenza that brings about their final, painful separation.

### DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S A WAR ON?

by *James Stevenson*. Greenwillow, 1992. Grades K-3.

To a ten-year-old boy left at home, World War II is victory gardens and kale, rationing, blackouts, Spam, spies and saboteurs, men going off to war and some not returning. Impressionistic watercolor illustrations complement this spare account from the homefront, which is by turns funny and sad.

## WORTHY OF SPECIAL NOTE

### MY GREAT-AUNT ARIZONA

by *Gloria Houston*. Illustrated by *Susan Condie Lamb*. HarperCollins, 1992. Grades 1-4.

Houston draws on her Appalachian roots to tell the story of her great-aunt Arizona, who taught generation after generation of students for fifty-seven years. Arizona inspired her students to learn of faraway places that she only visited in her imagination. A beautiful blending of text and illustrations, this picture book biography celebrates the inspiration a special teacher has on the lives of the students she touches.

### LETTERS FROM A SLAVE GIRL: THE STORY OF HARRIET JACOBS

by *Mary E. Lyons*. Scribner, 1992. Grades 5-9.

Based on the autobiography of Harriet Jacobs, this fictionalized version describes what life was like for a female slave in the mid-1800's in North Carolina. Enduring many years hidden in her grandmother's tiny attic, Harriet shares through letters her fears, hardships and hopes for freedom. Concluding the work is a factual account of her accomplishments after her escape to the North.

### THE LONG ROAD TO GETTYSBURG

by *Jim Murphy*. Clarion, 1992. Grades 5-8.

The glory and excitement of battle as well as its tedium and horror are vividly portrayed in this account of the Battle of Gettysburg, based on the journals of two young participants. Lieutenant John Dooley, C.S.A., is a nineteen-year-old son of a slave-holding Richmond family. Corporal Thomas Galway, U.S.A., is a seventeen-year-old who had experienced discrimination against the Irish at home in Cleveland. Both would be wounded during Pickett's Charge. Abundant photographs and drawings, clear maps, and the moving words of the two young officers bring this pivotal Civil War battle to life.

### GOING WEST

by *Jean Van Leeuwen*. Pictures by *Thomas B. Allen*. Dial, 1992. Grades K-3.

Muted, dreamlike illustrations accompany the quiet text which describes the difficult and lonely life of a pioneer family traveling and settling out west. Men, women, children and babies fought hard to survive and thrive as they struggled to turn the rugged land into their home.

### AN INDIAN WINTER

by *Russell Freedman*. Holiday House, 1992. Grades 4 up.

Freedman relates the experiences and observations of a German prince, Maximilian, and a young Swiss artist, Karl Bodmer, who traveled together in 1833 to the area of North Dakota to study the Mandan and Hidatsa people. Quoting extensively from Maximilian's accounts and using the numerous sketches and paintings by Bodmer, he presents a fascinating and compelling portrait of Native America.

### RACHEL CARSON

by *Ginger Wadsworth*. Lerner Publications, 1992. Grades 4-9.

From coast to coast Rachel Carson shared her love of nature and her belief that it should be protected from harm. This biography is notable both for its illustrations and superb text.

### JOHN MUIR

by *Ginger Wadsworth*. Lerner Publications, 1992. Grades 4-9.

John Muir shared his love of the land both as a photographer and as a conservationist. Our national parks are his legacy. Wadsworth has captured both his words and pictures in this excellent and accessible biography.



## Previous Jefferson Cup Award Winners

- 1992 THE WRIGHT BROTHERS, by Russell Freedman
- 1991 FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, by Russell Freedman
- 1990 SHADES OF GRAY, by Carolyn Reeder
- 1989 ANTHONY BURNS: THE DEFEAT AND TRIUMPH OF A FUGITIVE SLAVE, by Virginia Hamilton
- 1988 LINCOLN: A PHOTOBIOGRAPHY, by Russell Freedman
- 1987 AFTER THE DANCING DAYS, by Margaret Rostkowski
- 1986 SARAH, PLAIN AND TALL, by Patricia MacLachlan
- 1985 IN THE YEAR OF THE BOAR AND JACKIE ROBINSON, by Bette Bao Lord
- 1984 WHO SPEAKS FOR WOLF? by Paula Underwood Spencer
- 1983 THE JEWISH AMERICANS: A HISTORY IN THEIR OWN WORDS, by Milton Meltzer

## Nomination Form

My nomination for the 1994 Jefferson Cup Award is:

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_

Publication Date: 1993

Category (circle one): History Biography Historical Fiction

Please send completed form to:

Penny Garris  
Chair, 1994 Jefferson Cup Committee  
Pamunkey Regional Library  
P.O. Box 119  
Rts. 54 and 301  
Hanover, VA 23069

## Children's and Young Adult Round Table of the Virginia Library Association

## JEFFERSON CUP AWARD

### Purpose:

The Jefferson Cup honors a distinguished biography, historical fiction or American history book for young people. The Virginia Library Association's Children's and Young Adult Round Table (CYART) has presented the award annually since 1983. Through the award, CYART seeks to promote reading about America's past, encourage writing of U.S. history, biography and historical fiction for young people, and recognize authors in these disciplines.

### Eligibility:

1. The book must be an original work published in the year prior to selection.
2. The book must be about U.S. history or an American person, 1492 to present, or fiction that highlights the U.S. past.
3. Author must reside in the U.S.
4. The book must be especially published for young people.
5. The book must be accurate, informative, well researched, unbiased, literate and give a clear and interesting picture of the past.

### Selection:

The Jefferson Cup Committee selects the winning book. The committee has 8 members: a chairperson, selected by the previous year's committee; six individuals from throughout the state, selected by the current chair; and the outgoing chairperson of CYART.

### 1993 Jefferson Cup Award Committee

Diane S. Marton, Chair  
Sara Logan, Region 1  
Katherine Edwards, Region 2  
Sherry Inabinet, Region 3

Jenny Owens, Region 4  
Frances Millhouser, Region 5  
Diantha McCauley, Region 6  
Penny Garris, ex-officio