



2013
Jefferson Cup

AWARD

U.S. HISTORY
HISTORICAL FICTION
BIOGRAPHY

*Presented by
Youth Services Forum
of the Virginia Library Association*

JUVENILE

Unspoken: A Story from the Underground Railroad

by Henry Cole. Scholastic Book Service, 2012.
Grades 1–3.

Set during the Civil War (1861–1865), this remarkable wordless book tells the story of a young Southern farm girl, who protects a runaway slave. Brave and perceptive our young heroine lives a simple life with a devout family. After discovering a fugitive in the cornfield she not only keeps this information from bounty hunters seeking a reward, she manages to covertly get food to the unseen person in need. The power of actions over words is powerfully conveyed at the end of the story when the person who needed help rewards the young helper in a perfect manner.

With striking pencil drawings full of subtle shadings and meaning, this book can be enjoyed by the young reader who will follow the tale's linear storyline. Older students with knowledge of this historical time period will be fascinated by the combination of embedded visual clues and unstated communication that defines the Civil War and Underground Railroad. The author's endnotes reveal the inspiration for the book and invite readers to write their own story.

HONOR BOOKS

Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington

by Jabari Asim. Little, Brown and Company, 2012.
Grades 1–5.

As a young slave growing up in Virginia, Booker T. Washington (1856–1915) was prohibited from learning to read. After Emancipation he moved with his family to West Virginia, worked hard but still found time to attend school. He soon heard about Hampton Institute, a boarding school that was offering to educate black students, and he was determined to attend. With limited resources he set off on the five hundred mile journey that would involve hunger, exhaustion, and poverty. Overcoming these obstacles, he arrived at his destination with fifty cents in his pocket and his future ahead of him.

Bryan Collier's watercolor and collage illustrations are visually amazing and upon close inspection full of symbols with historical reference. The endnotes are fascinating and add perspective and insight concerning Washington's character and place in history.

Barnum's Bones: How Barnum Brown Discovered the Most Famous Dinosaur in the World

by Tracey Fern, pictures by Boris Kulikov. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2012. Grades K–5.

Quirky, eccentric, and driven, Yep! That's him. Barnum Brown's parents expected important and unusual things from their son and he did not disappoint. From his earliest days of collecting fossils behind his father's plow until his most important discoveries, the first Tyrannosaurus Rex and most of the dinosaur bones in the American Museum of Natural History, Barnum was a dedicated and single minded scientist. Tracey Fern and illustrator Boris Kulikov have created an exceptional book about an exceptional American that will bring joy as well as information and perhaps inspiration to young scientists.

YOUNG ADULT

Bomb: The Race to Build — And Steal — The World's Most Dangerous Weapon

By Steve Sheinkin. Flash Point, 2012. Grades 7–12.

Seldom will you encounter a book that explains so many facets of a major event in world history as clearly and coherently as *Bomb* explains the development of the atomic bomb. The story is told with three interwoven threads. The first thread is the attempt by the American scientists to develop an atomic weapon. Second is the same effort by the German government and the extraordinary action of a Norwegian partisan unit that sabotaged the German heavy water project. Last, but by no means least, is the Soviet Union's effort to infiltrate the American's scientific project and steal the plan for the bomb.

Sheinkin uses first person quotes and historic photographs to make the characters and places in this book come to life. And it is not just the history that is told so well, the scientific principles behind how the atomic bomb works and the different types of bombs that were developed is clearly explained. This is an exceptional book that will have young adults eager to read history.

HONOR BOOKS

Come August, Come Freedom: The Bellows, the Gallows and the Black General Gabriel

by Gigi Amateau. Candlewick, 2012. Grades 8–12.

Gabriel's mother was hopeful that when the American colonies won their freedom from England, slaves would also be set free. That did not happen. Ms. Amateau has created a fictionalized biography of Gabriel who was born a slave on the Prosser plantation in Henrico County, Virginia in 1776. Inspired by the successful slave rebellion in Haiti, Gabriel worked for months organizing hundreds of African Americans to raid Mr. Jefferson's capital in 1800. Ultimately betrayed, the rebellion ended in failure and Gabriel's execution.

The author has woven an engrossing story of one Virginian's struggle for freedom, focusing on educating the reading about slave life, culture, and beliefs. Laws, trials, official documents, and conversations are recreated in this story which weaves the reader into the past. This is an excellent read for middle school and high school students, an engaging action and adventure book that teaches a lot about the beginnings of slavery in the United States.

Impossible Rescue: the True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure

by Martin W. Sandler. Candlewick, 2012. Grades 5–9.

It's only the first of September, 1897. You are on one of eight whalers just north of Point Barrow, Alaska. There is still plenty of time before you have to start sailing south. Without warning the temperature suddenly plunges and heavy ice starts to surround the ships. Captain Tilton is able to get his ship out. His goal: to get to San Francisco to let everyone know about the ships trapped above Point Barrow and hopefully get a rescue party underway. How to do the rescue, who will finance it, and will they get there in time? President McKinley wants the sailors rescued at any cost and a few daring men take up the mission to rescue the 300 trapped sailors.

This is the amazing story of how they came to be rescued without the assistance of mass communication, means of fast travel or ice breaking vessels. Sandler weaves a remarkable tale, using the words of those that took part in the saga wherever appropriate. Archival black-and-white photographs taken during the journey help pull the whole story together and prove an excellent visual accompaniment to the unfolding drama. An epilogue answers many of the "what happened after..." questions, and extensive source notes round out the back matter. This is not a book to read in the dead of winter but rather in the middle of summer.

SERIES WORTHY OF NOTE

FOR KIDS

Published by Chicago Review Press. Ages 9 & Up.

The 2013 entries for this series include three books. *Frederick Douglass for Kids: His Life and Times with 21 Activities*. Readers will discover key facts about one of history's most famous orators. They will learn to make memorable keepsakes, while learning to "agitate" for a better tomorrow, for everyone. *Albert Einstein and Relativity for Kids: His Life and Ideas with 21 Activities and Thought Experiments* showcase how science is necessary but also fun. Readers learn about Einstein's theory of relativity, $E=mc^2$, in layman's terms. Using common objects, readers become part of the scientific community by testing their hypothesis. The third book in the series is *Rightfully Ours: How Women Won the Vote*. Journey along with key figures from the women's suffrage movement for a better understanding of the challenges they faced. Photographs that capture the essence of the time period, along with intriguing historical accounts, keep readers engaged, while also letting them learn how to keep the movement alive! As each title implies, 21 activities throughout each book encourages creativity and critical thinking skills. Additional resources include a timeline, websites to explore, places to visit, books to read and an index.

Our Jefferson Cup Overfloweth

U.S. HISTORY • HISTORICAL FICTION • BIOGRAPHY

Best Shot in the West: the Adventures of Nat Love by Frederick McKissack. Chronicle Books, 2012. (1854–1921) Grades 7–12.

Bill, the Boy Wonder: the Secret Co-Creator of Batman by Marc Nobleman. Charlesbridge, 2012. (1914–1974) Grades. 3–6.

Breathing Room by Marsha Hayles. Henry Holt, 2012. (1940) Grades 7–12.

Camping Trip that Changed America: Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and our National Parks by Barb Rosenstock. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2012. (Early 1900's) Grades K–3.

Discovering Black America: from the Age of Exploration to the Twenty-First Century by Linda Tarrant-Reid. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2012. (1492–2011) Grades 5–9.

Eight Days Gone by Linda McReynolds. Charlesbridge Publishing, 2012. (1969) Grades K–3.

Ellen's Broom by Kelly Starling Lyons. Putnam, 2012. (1866) Grades K–3.

For What it's Worth by Janet Tashjian. Henry Holt, 2012. (1971) Grades 7–12.

George: George Washington, our Founding Father by Francis Anthony Keating. Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster, 2012. (1732–1799) Grades K–3.

Giant and how he Humbugged America by Jim Murphy. Scholastic Press, 2012. (1869) Grades 4–8.

Great Molasses Flood, Boston 1919 by Deborah Kops. Charlesbridge Publishing, 2012. (1919) Grades 4–8.

Great Peshtigo Fire: Stories and Science from America's Deadliest Fire by Scott Knickelbine. Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2012. (1871) Grades 4–8.

Hanging off Jefferson's Nose: Growing up on Mount Rushmore by Tina Nichols Coury. Dial Books, 2012. (1931–1944) Grades K–3.

Hope and Tears: Ellis Island Voices by Gwenyth Swain. Calkins Creek Books, 2012. (early 20th century) Grade 3–7.

I Lay my Stitches Down: Poems of American Slavery by Cynthia Grady. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2012. (1619–1865) Grades 5–9.

Jump into the Sky by Shelley Pearsall. Alfred A. Knopf (1945) Grades 5–9.

Just as Good: how Larry Doby changed America's Game by Chris Crowe. Candlewick, 2012. (1948) Grades K–3.

Katerina's Wish by Jeannie Mobley. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2012. (1901) Grades 4–7.

Kizzy Ann Stamps by Jeri Watts. Candlewick Press, 2012. (1963) Grades 4–7.

Minette's Feast: the Delicious Story of Julia Child and her Cat by Susanna Reich. Abrams Books for Young Readers. (Post-World War II) Grades K–3.

No Crystal Stair: A Documentary Novel of the Life and Work of Lewis Michaux, Harlem Bookseller by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson. Carolrhonda Books. (1885–1976) Grades 7–12.

Quilt Walk by Sandra Dallas. Sleeping Bear Press, 2012. (1863) Grades 3–7.

Steve Jobs: the Man who Thought Different by Karen Blumenthal. Feiwel & Friends. (1955–2011) Grades 8–12.

Stolen into Slavery: The True Story of Solomon Northup, Free Black Man by Dennis and Judith Fradin. National Geographic Society, 2012. (1841–1853) Grades 5–8.

Surviving the Hindenberg by Larry Verstraete. Sleeping Bear Press. (1937) Grades 1–4.

Their Skeletons Speak: Kennewick Man and the Paleoamerican World by Sally M. Walker and Douglas W. Owsley. Carolrhoda Books, 2012. (7500 B.C.–1996 A.D.) Grades 6–9.

There Goes Ted Williams: the Greatest Hitter who Ever Lived by Matt Tavares. Candlewick Press, 2012. (1918–2002) Grades 1–5.

Titanic: Voices from Disaster by Deborah Hopkinson. Scholastic Press, 2012. (1912) Grades 3–8.

Twice as Good: The Story of William Powell and Clearview, the Only Golf Course Designed, Built, and Owned by an African American by Richard Michelson. Sleeping Bear Press, 2012. (1916–2009) Grades 1–4.

We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March by Cynthia Levinson. Peachtree, 2012. (1963). Grades 7–12.

Write on, Mercy!: The Secret Life of Mercy Otis Warren by Gretchen Woelfle. Calkins Creek, 2012. (1728–1814) Grades 2–5.

Your Life as a Private on the Lewis and Clark Expedition by Jessica Gunderson. Picture Window Books. (1804–1806) Grades 2–5.

For information about the award or to submit a nomination, please contact:

Martha J Cole, 2014 Chair

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Eligibility

- The book must be an original work published in the year prior to the selection.
- The book must be about U.S. history, an American person, or fiction that highlights the United States' past, 1492 to the present.
- The author must reside in the United States.
- The book must be published for young people.
- The book must be accurate, informative, well researched, unbiased, literate, and give a clear and interesting picture of America's past.

Selection

The Jefferson Cup Committee selects the winning book. The committee has nine members: a chairperson selected by the previous year's committee, six individuals representing the six regions in the state, the outgoing chairperson of the Youth Services Forum (YSF), and the outgoing Jefferson Cup Award Committee chairperson.

2013 Jefferson Cup Award Committee

Carol Farmer, chair

Martha Cole, vice-chair

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