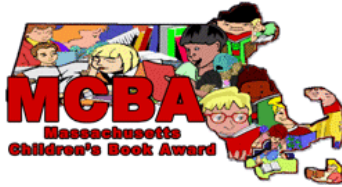


Massachusetts Children's Book Award 2009

Master List for 2008-2009



- Anderson, M.T. (2005). *Whales on Stilts: M.T. Anderson's Thrilling Tales*. (Harcourt).
- Birney, B.G. (2005). *The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs*. (Atheneum).
- Broach, E. (2006). *Shakespeare's Secret*. (Gale Group).
- Corbett, S. (2006). *Free Baseball*. (Penguin Young Readers Group).
- Dowell, F. (2005). *Chicken Boy*. (Simon & Schuster).
- Duble, K.B. (2005). *The Sacrifice*. (Simon & Schuster).
- Fan, N. (2007). *Swordbird*. (Harper Collins).
- Fleischman, S. (2006). *Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini*. (Harper Collins)
- Gardner, S. (2005). *I, Coriander*. (Dial Books for Young Readers).
- Gutman, D. (2006). *The Homework Machine*. (Simon & Schuster).
- Haddix, M. (2005). *Double Identity*. (Simon & Schuster).
- Kerrin, J.S. (2005). *Martin Bridge: Ready for Take Off!* (Kids Can Press).
- Klise, K. (2005). *Regarding the Trees: A Splintered Saga Rooted in Secrets*. (Gulliver Books).
- Lin, G. (2006). *The Year of the Dog*. (Little Brown and Company).
- Lombard, J. (2006). *Drita, My Homegirl*. (Penguin Young Readers Group).
- Lowry, L. (2006). *Gossamer*. (Walter Lorraine Books).
- Lubar, D. (2006). *Punished!* (Darby Creek).
- Lupica, M. (2006). *Miracle on 49th Street*. (Philomel).
- Pearsall, S. (2006). *All of the Above*. (Little Brown and Company).
- Pennypacker, S. (2006). *Clementine*. (Hyperion).
- Perkins, M. (2007). *Rickshaw Girl*. (Charlesbridge Publishing).
- Stewart, T. (2007). *The Mysterious Benedict Society*. (Little Brown & Company).
- Walden, M. (2007). *H.I.V.E. (Higher Institute for Villainous Education)*. (Simon & Schuster).
- Wiles, D. (2005). *Each Little Bird That Sings*. (Harcourt).
- Winthrop, E. (2006). *Counting on Grace*. (Wendy Lamb Books).

Note: Publisher references refer to the first edition. All titles are available in a paperback edition. For further information about the Massachusetts Children's Book Award program, or to register, please visit www.salemstate.edu/education/mcba/ or contact Dr. Michelle Pierce at Salem State College, Education Department, 352 Lafayette Street, Salem, MA 01970; 978-542-7903; mcba@salemstate.edu

Grade Level Guide for Teachers and Librarians

Grade levels suggested by School Library Journal are listed for each title.

Grade Level	Title	SLJ Level
Low Fourth	<i>The Year of the Dog</i>	3-5
	<i>Clementine</i>	2-4
	<i>Rickshaw Girl</i>	2-5
	<i>Punished!</i>	3-5
	<i>Martin Bridge: Ready for Take Off!</i>	2-4
Fourth	<i>The Homework Machine</i>	4-6
	<i>Drita, My Homegirl</i>	3-5
	<i>Regarding the Trees: A Splintered Saga Rooted in Secrets</i>	4-6
	<i>Whales on Stilts: M.T. Anderson's Thrilling Tales</i>	4-6
	<i>Swordbird</i>	4-6
Fifth	<i>Chicken Boy</i>	4-7
	<i>Each Little Bird That Sings</i>	4-6
	<i>Free Baseball</i>	4-7
	<i>The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs</i>	4-7
	<i>The Sacrifice</i>	4-8
Sixth	<i>H.I.V.E. (Higher Institute for Villainous Education)</i>	5-8
	<i>Counting on Grace</i>	5-8
	<i>Shakespeare's Secret</i>	4-7
	<i>Double Identity</i>	5-8
	<i>Gossamer</i>	4-7
Advanced Sixth	<i>I, Coriander</i>	6-9
	<i>Miracle on 49th Street</i>	6-9
	<i>All of the Above</i>	5-8
	<i>The Mysterious Benedict Society</i>	5-9
	<i>Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini</i>	4-8



Massachusetts Children's Book Award 2008-2009

Summaries of Nominated Books

Compiled by Joanne O'Keefe, Library Media Specialist
Collins Middle School Instructional Media Center

Looking for something fun to read? You'll find great choices among these books, nominated for the 2008-2009 Massachusetts Children's Book Award. This annotated list, including links to author web sites when available, has also been posted to the **IMC InfoShare blog**, at www.imcinfohare.blogspot.com. Happy reading!

***Whales on Stilts*, by M. T. Anderson**

Racing against the clock, shy middle-school student Lily and her best friends, Katie and Jasper, must foil the plot of her father's conniving boss to conquer the world using an army of whales.

***The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs*, by Betty Birney**

Eben McAllister searches his small town to see if he can find anything comparable to the real Seven Wonders of the World.

***Shakespeare's Secret*, by Elise Broach**

Named after a character in a Shakespeare play, misfit sixth-grader Hero becomes interested in exploring this unusual connection because of a valuable diamond supposedly hidden in her new house, an intriguing neighbor, and the unexpected attention of the most popular boy in school.

***Free Baseball*, by Sue Corbett**

Angry with his mother for having too little time for him, eleven-year-old Felix takes advantage of an opportunity to become bat boy for a minor league baseball team, hoping to someday be like his father, a famous Cuban outfielder. Includes glossaries of baseball terms and Spanish words and phrases.

***Chicken Boy*, by Frances O'Roark Dowell**

Since the death of his mother, Tobin's family and school life has been in disarray, but after he starts raising chickens with his seventh-grade classmate, Henry, everything starts to fall into place.

***The Sacrifice*, by Kathleen Benner Duble**

Two sisters, aged ten and twelve, are accused of witchcraft in Andover, Massachusetts, in 1692 and await trial in a miserable prison while their mother desperately searches for some way to obtain their freedom.

***Swordbird*, by Nancy Yi Fan**

Warring factions of blue jays and cardinals call on Swordbird, the heroic bird of peace, to rescue them from the evil machinations of Turnatt, the tyrant hawk lord who plans to enslave them.

***Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini*, by Sid Fleischman**

A biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926. Profiling his early years, personal life, and great accomplishments in show business, the story of the famous magician, Harry Houdini, comes to life through a review of his greatest tricks and most amazing feats, complete with index, photos, and author's notes.

***I, Coriander*, by Sally Gardner**

In 17th century London, Coriander, a girl who has inherited magic from her mother, must find a way to use this magic in order to save both herself and an inhabitant of the fairy world where her mother was born.

***The Homework Machine*, by Dan Gutman**

Four fifth-grade students--a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker--as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments.

***Double Identity*, by Margaret Peterson Haddix**

Thirteen-year-old Bethany's parents have always been overprotective, but when they suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt she never knew existed, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family.

***Martin Bridge: Ready for Take Off!*, by Jessica Scott Kerrin**

In three illustrated stories, Martin encounters two bus drivers with very different ways of relating, makes a tough decision about a friend's pet and takes on an extremely competitive model rocket project that almost costs him a friendship. The daily rhythms, struggles and triumphs of childhood-at home, at school and with friends-are evoked with warmth, understanding, honesty and humor.

***Regarding the Trees: A Splintered Saga Rooted in Secrets*, by Kate Klise**

In this story told primarily through letters, Principal Russ wants the middle school trees to be trimmed before his administrative evaluation, but the project is interrupted by a town gender war, dueling chefs, student tree protests, and a surprise wedding.

***The Year of the Dog: a Novel*, by Grace Lin**

Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life.

***Drita, My Homegirl*, by Jenny Lombard**

When ten-year-old Drita and her family, refugees from Kosovo, move to New York, Drita is teased about not speaking English well, but after a popular student named Maxine is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita, the two girls soon bond.

***Gossamer*, by Lois Lowry**

While learning to bestow dreams, a young dream giver tries to save an eight-year-old boy from the effects of both his abusive past and the nightmares inflicted on him by the frightening Sinisteads.

***Punished!*, by David Lubar**

Logan and his friend Benedict are playing tag in the library. Logan gets caught when he runs into a mysterious man. When Logan doesn't apologize sincerely, the mysterious gentleman punishes him by causing him to speak in puns. Only finding seven examples each of oxymorons, anagrams and palindromes within the time limits will return Logan to normal.

***Miracle on 49th Street*, by Mike Lupica**

After her mother's death, twelve-year-old Molly learns that her father is a basketball star for the Boston Celtics.

***All of the Above: a Novel*, by Shelley Pearsall**

Five urban middle school students, their teacher, and other community members relate how a school project to build the world's largest tetrahedron affects the lives of everyone involved.

Clementine, by **Sara Pennypacker**

While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles while also helping her father in his efforts to banish pigeons from the front of their apartment building.

Rickshaw Girl, by **Mitali Perkins**

In her Bangladesh village, ten-year-old Naimi excels at painting designs called alpanas, but to help her impoverished family financially she would have to be a boy--or disguise herself as one.

The Mysterious Benedict Society, by **Trenton Lee Stewart**

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

H.I.V.E.: Higher-Institute-of-Villainous-Education, by Mark Walden

Swept away to a hidden academy for training budding evil geniuses, Otto, a brilliant orphan, Wing, a sensitive warrior, Laura, a shy computer specialist, and Shelby, an infamous jewel thief, plot to beat the odds and escape the prison known as H.I.V.E.

Each Little Bird That Sings, by **Deborah Wiles**

Comfort Snowberger is well acquainted with death since her family runs the funeral parlor in their small southern town, but even so the ten-year-old is unprepared for the series of heart-wrenching events that begins on the first day of Easter vacation with the sudden death of her beloved great-uncle Edisto.

(You may also want to visit the author's blog, **One Pomegranate**, at www.deborahwiles1.blogspot.com.)

Counting on Grace, by **Elizabeth Winthrop**

It's 1910 in Pownal, Vermont. At 12, Grace and her best friend Arthur must go to work in the mill, helping their mothers work the looms. Together Grace and Arthur write a secret letter to the Child Labor Board about underage children working in the mill. A few weeks later, Lewis Hine, a famous reformer arrives undercover to gather evidence. Grace meets him and appears in some of his photographs, changing her life forever.