

# ***Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award 1989 Nominees***

## **Anastasia at Your Service by Lois Lowry**

A long, boring summer--that's what Anastasia has to look forward to when her best friend goes off to camp. She's thrilled when old Mrs. Bellingham answers her ad for a job as a Lady's Companion. Anastasia is sure her troubles are over--she'll be busy and earn money! But she doesn't expect to have to polish silver and serve at Mrs. Bellingham's granddaughter's birthday party as a maid! As if that isn't bad enough, she accidentally drops a piece of silverware down the garbage disposal and must use her earnings to pay for it! Is the summer destined to be a disaster?

## **Be a Perfect Person in Just Three Days by Stephen Manes**

Milo, tired of problems with his sister, parents, and classmates, finds a book in the library that promises to make him a perfect person in just three days.

## **The BFG by Roald Dahl**

Kidsnatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie concocts with him a plan to save the world from nine other man-gobbling cannybull giants.

## **The Castle in the Attic by Elizabeth Winthrop**

William has just received the best present of his life. It's an old, real-looking stone and wooden model of a castle, with a drawbridge, moat, and a finger-high knight to guard the gates. It's the mysterious castle his housekeeper has told him about, and even though William is sad she's leaving, now the castle is his! William can't wait to play with it—he's certain there's something magical about the castle. And sure enough, when he picks up the tiny silver knight, it comes alive in his hand! Sir Simon tells William a mighty story of wild sorcery, wizards, and magic. And suddenly William is off on a fantastic quest to another land and another time—where a fiery dragon and an evil wizard are waiting to do battle . . .

## **Cat Walk by Mary Stolz**

Yearning to be more than just a barnyard rat catcher, a young cat in search of a name embarks on a journey that finally leads him to a special place he can call a home.

## **Daphne's Story by Mary Downing Hahn**

Everybody in Jessica's English class makes fun of Daphne. She never says a word to anyone -- just walks around with her nose in a book, with her long straggly hair hanging over her face. Now the worst thing has happened. The teacher has assigned Jessica to be partners with Daphne in the Write-A-Book contest! But being forced to work with the class "weirdo", Jessica gets an even bigger surprise. Not only does Daphne talk to her, but she tells Jessica a terrible secret...one that Jessica knows could be very dangerous to keep.

### **Dacey's Song by Cynthia Voigt**

The four Tillerman children finally have a home at their grandmother's rundown farm on the Maryland shore. It's what Dacey has dreamed of for her three younger siblings, but after watching over the others for so long, it's hard to let go. Who is Dacey, if she's no longer the caretaker for her family? Dacey finds herself in new friends, in a growing relationship with her grandmother, and in the satisfaction of refinishing the old boat she found in the barn. Then, as Dacey experiences the trials and pleasures of making a new life, the past comes back with devastating force, and Dacey learns just how necessary -- and painful -- letting go can be.

### **The Dollhouse Murders by Betty Ren Wright**

A dollhouse filled with a ghostly light in the middle of the night and dolls that have moved from where she last left them lead Amy and her retarded sister to unravel the mystery surrounding grisly murders that took place years ago.

### **Illyrian Adventure by Lloyd Alexander**

It's 1872, and adventurous Vesper Holly and her guardian set out for the tiny country of Illyria, on a quest for its legendary treasure. But once Vesper and Brinnie arrive, they are plunged into a fierce struggle between rebel forces— and someone is out to kill the two of them! If anyone can triumph over those kind of odds, it's Vesper.

### **Judge Benjamin: Superdog Secret by Judith McInerney**

A 200-pound St. Bernard stows away in his family's camper for their three-week vacation.

### **The New Kid on the Block by Jack Prelutsky**

Open this book to any page to begin your exploration. Here are poems about things that you may never have thought about before. You'll be introduced to jellyfish stew, a bouncing mouse, a ridiculous dog, and a boneless chicken. You'll learn why you shouldn't argue with a shark, eat a dinosaur, or have an alligator for a pet. You'll meet the world's worst singer and the greatest video game player in history. You'll even find an invitation to a dragon's birthday party....Your friends are invited too.

### **The Not-Just-Anybody-Family by Betsy Byars**

When Junior Blossom wakes up in the hospital, his last memory is of crouching on the barn roof with cloth wings tied to his arms, and of Maggie and Vern in the yard below, urging him to fly. That had been just before Junior spotted a police car approaching the farm in a cloud of dust. Meanwhile Pap, the children's grandfather, sits in disgrace in the city jail. He was arrested for disturbing the peace after his pickup truck accidentally dumped 2,147 beer and soda cans (worth \$107.35) on Spring Street. With their mother away on the rodeo circuit, it's up to Maggie and Vern to find a way to rescue Pap and Junior. How will they solve their family problems?

### **Prairie Songs by Pamela Conrad**

Louisa loves the Nebraska prairie, the only home she's ever known. It's a lonely place, surrounded by miles of wild, flat grasslands, but it's the wonderful kind of loneliness that

comes of stillness and open sky and oneness with the land. A different kind of beauty enters Louisa's world when the new doctor and his wife, Emmeline, move to the prairie from New York City. Emmeline is the most beautiful person Louisa has ever seen, and she teaches Louisa to love poetry. But she is also frail and unsuited to pioneer life. Louisa wonders whether Emmeline will ever come to love the prairie as she herself does.

### **Racso and the Rats of NIMH by Jane Conly**

Timothy Frisby, a field mouse, teams up with the adventurous young rat Racso as together they try to prevent the destruction of a secret community of rats that can read and write.

### **The Return of the Indian by Lynne Reid Banks**

Omri can hardly contain his excitement when he wins first prize in a national writing contest. But he feels he must share the good news with Little Bear, his miniature Indian friend who inspired the winning entry. Omri isn't prepared for what he finds when he ventures back into the cupboard that magically transforms the plastic toy into a real life Iroquois Indian. Desperate to help Little Bear, Omri must find a way to transport himself to the world of the Native Americans. In the process he learns a lot about these amazing people, as well as about himself.

### **So Far From the Bamboo Grove by Yoko Watkins**

Though Japanese, eleven-year-old Yoko has lived with her family in northern Korea near the border with China all her life. But when the Second World War comes to an end, Japanese on the Korean peninsula are suddenly in terrible danger; the Korean people want control of their homeland and they want to punish the Japanese, who have occupied their nation for many years. Yoko, her mother and sister are forced to flee from their beautiful house with its peaceful bamboo grove. Their journey is terrifying — and remarkable. It's a true story of courage and survival.

### **Streams to the River, River to the Sea by Scott O'Dell**

A young Indian woman, accompanied by her infant and cruel husband, experiences joy and heartbreak when she joins the Lewis and Clark Expedition seeking a way to the Pacific.

### **To Space and Back by Sally Ride**

Much has been written about the vast scientific importance of space exploration, but very little about the human side of being a member of an astronaut crew. In this book, with the help of journalist Susan Okie, Sally Ride shares the personal experience of traveling into space. America's first woman astronaut answers questions most frequently asked about a journey through space.

### **The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman**

Jemmy, once a poor boy living on the streets, now lives in a castle. As the whipping boy, he bears the punishment when Prince Brat misbehaves, for it is forbidden to spank, thrash, or whack the heir to the throne. The two boys have nothing in common and even

less reason to like one another. But when they find themselves taken hostage after running away, they are left with no choice but to trust each other.

**With You and Without You by Ann Martin**

A twelve-year-old faces the fact that her father is dying, and then his death, but dealing with the emptiness afterwards is hardest of all.