

Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award **1990 Nominees**

Addie Across the Prairie by Laurie Lawlor

Nobody said pionerring would be easy. Addie's a pioneer now in the vast Dakota territory, far from her friend Eleanor and Iowa. And now she must care for her youngest brother as Ma, Pa, and the older boys and Mr. and Mrs. Fancy leave to build a home before winter comes. She's all alone with two year-old Burt when the terrifying prairie fire begins! How can she save herself and little Burt before the raging fire steals their home and their lives?

After the Rain by Norma Fox Mazer

Rachel feels she should talk more to Izzy, but every conversation with him is a trial. Then Izzy falls in the street, and the doctors discover he has cancer. He can no longer go on his beloved walks alone, and Rachel becomes his reluctant companion. The after-school visits begin as a chore, but gradually Izzy becomes the most important thing in Rachel's life--even more important than her friendship with Lewis Olswanger.

Charley Skedaddle by Patricia Beatty

During the Civil War, a twelve-year-old Bowery Boy from New York City joins the Union Army as a drummer, deserts during a battle in Virginia, and encounters a hostile old mountain woman.

Dr. Dredd's Wagon of Wonders by Bill Brittain

Folks said it seemed like a curse had fallen on Coven Tree. Wells were running dry, livestock suffered, great cracks crisscrossed farmers' fields, no crops could be planted. Rain had become more valuable than gold. Then a miracle happened: Dr. Dredd and his Wagon of Wonders came to town, and among his wonders was a young boy called Bufu the Rainmaker. At first the townspeople were skeptical — moments later they were dancing for joy, faces turned up into a driving rain. Then, as quickly as it had begun, the rain stopped. More rain! somebody yelled. Dr. Dredd's toothy smile grew wide. Yes, he could command Bufu to make more rain — but what it would cost Coven Tree, he wouldn't say. Not yet. Those who thought rain would be worth whatever it cost didn't know what Bufu knew. And when fourteen-year-old Ellen McCabe found Bufu cowering in her family's woodshed later that night, seeking sanctuary from his evil master, all of Coven Tree soon would know the terrible wrath — and frightening powers — of Dr. Hugo Dredd.

The Friendship by Mildred Taylor

Cassie Logan and her brothers have been warned never to go to the Wallace store, so they know to expect trouble there. What they don't expect is to hear Mr. Tom Bee, an elderly black man, daring to call the white storekeeper by his first name. The year is 1933, the place is Mississippi, and any child knows that some things just aren't done...

Fudge by Charlotte Graeber

It's an exciting day in Chad Abernathy's neighborhood when Biggie gives birth to eleven puppies! Biggie's owner says Chad can have one of the puppies, and Chad wants Fudge. But right away, things go wrong. Bossy Leslie calls first dibs on the puppies. Will she choose Fudge?

Halfback Tough by Thomas Dyard

New at Graham High, Joe joins the football team and begins to change his tough guy outlook as he becomes absorbed by the game and gains self-esteem and new friends.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but his clothing, a tattered windbreaker, and the hatchet his mother has given him as a present -- and the dreadful secret that has been tearing him apart ever since his parents' divorce. But now Brian has no time for anger, self-pity, or despair -- it will take all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed, to survive.

I am the Universe by Barbara Corcoran

The serious, responsible girl of the family has to contend with a number of problems, both funny and not so funny, when her mother has to have an operation.

Izzy, Willy Nilly by Cynthia Voigt

Izzy's never been one to complain. Izzy's the nice girl, from a family that believes good manners and a stiff upper lip are key to facing any situation. Even after a car accident leaves her disabled, she's determined not to show how much she's hurting. It takes Rosamunde, a girl who seems to care nothing about good manners, to forcibly disrupt Izzy's life and help her face her changed existence.

Kevin Corbett Eats Flies by Patricia Hermes

Ever since his mom died, Kevin Corbett and his dad have been on the move. Now Kevin's found a place he really likes, and his dad want to move again.

The Kid in the Red Jacket by Barbara Park

When ten-year-old Howard has to move with his family to a distant state, he is forced to live on a street named Chester Pewe, adjust to a new school, and get used to being shadowed by the little girl in a nearby house.

Magician's Apprentice by Tom McGowen

A young pickpocket becomes apprenticed to a magician who opens a whole new world for the boy, not only of magic and healing, but of kindness and adventure. Together they seek knowledge lost since the Age of Magic thousands of years before.

Mrs. Abercorn and the Bunce Boys by Liza Fosburgh

Crusty Mrs. Abercorn, a retired writer of mysteries, takes two brothers under her wing during a difficult period in their lives and teaches them an unforgettable lesson in trust and friendship.

A Murder for Her Majesty by Beth Hilgartner

Horrified at having witnessed her father's murder and fearing that the killers are agents of Queen Elizabeth I, eleven-year-old Alice Tuckfield hides in the Yorkshire cathedral by disguising herself as one of the choirboys.

Night Cry by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Ellen had never been out of the low hill country of northeastern Mississippi. Since the death of her mother many years before, and the death of her younger brother only a year or so earlier, she and her father had shared their cabin and five acres of land alone. Except for Sleet, the horse that-because he feared lightning and thunder-had thrown and killed her brother. Ellen was terrified of Sleet. It was summer. Ellen's father's newest job-he had had many-was as a calendar salesman, so he was gone a great deal of the time. Her only contact with the outside world was through the telephone and news programs on the TV. The family's nearest neighbor was Granny Bo, an old woman full of stories of days past and dark forebodings about the present and future, which she read from signs and portents she clearly accepted as true. Ellen believed and shared Granny Bo's fears even when she did not want to. Then, stirring events in the nearby town, a stranger and his wife living in a nearby abandoned house, a kidnapping, and deeper and deeper questions in Ellen's mind about everyone she knew-including her father and Granny Bo-conspired to make Ellen face her fears and find her courage, just when it was most needed.

Night of the Twisters by Ivy Ruckman

TORNADO ALERT! TORNADO ALERT! And then...nothing. The radio is dead. The lights and telephone are out of order. The only sound in the eerily quiet night is the chilling wail of the emergency siren. Alone in the house, Dan Hatch, his best friend, and Dan's baby brother hurry down to the basement for shelter. Huddled in the shower stall under a blanket, they listen to the roaring, shrieking tornado overhead. Are their families safe? Is the town still there? It seems like the world is coming to an end right on top of them.

Touch the Moon by Marion Bauer

When the china horse Jennifer receives for her birthday is magically transformed into a real horse, they share an evening of fantastic adventures.

Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story by Mary Downing Hahn

Heather is such a whiny little brat. Always getting Michael and me into trouble. But since our mother married her father, we're stuck with her...our "poor stepsister" who lost her real mother in a mysterious fire. But now something terrible has happened. Heather has found a new friend, out in the graveyard behind our home — a girl named Helen who died with her family in a mysterious fire over a hundred years ago. Now her ghost

returns to lure children into the pond...to drown! I don't want to believe in ghosts, but I've followed Heather into the graveyard and watch her talk to Helen. And I'm terrified. Not for myself, but for Heather...

Wild Timothy by Gary Blackwood

Timothy's not the outdoorsy type-he has no desire to even wander around a park, let alone a wilderness preserve. Camping is bad enough, but when Timothy gets lost in the woods, his life becomes a nightmare. Stranded in the unforgiving forest far from civilization, armed with only a hatchet and a battered copy of Lord of the Flies, it will take a determination Timothy doesn't know he has to survive alone, and somehow make it home.