

# ***Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award 1994 Nominees***

## **A Begonia for Miss Applebaum by Paul Zindel**

Henry and Zelda are stunned to discover that their favorite teacher, Miss Applebaum, won't be back at school teaching science. In fact, Miss Applebaum hasn't very long to live. When Henry and Zelda become the Saturday companions of their, beloved teacher, her exuberance for learning, having fun, and helping the homeless is contagious. Their visits to Central Park, museums, and other places around New York City open an exciting new world to Zelda and Henry. But Miss Applebaum can't escape the inevitable. Will Henry and Zelda be able to carry out her last wish?

## **Cages by Peg Kehret**

When Kit Hathaway makes a mistake, she doesn't fool around. Upset about losing the lead in the school play and problems with her obnoxious stepfather, Kit impulsively steals a gold bracelet from a fancy department store. And promptly gets caught. Suddenly her whole life changes. Kit is sure she's blown her chance at a scholarship, and even her relationship with her best friend is strained. Ironically, the only good thing is her sentence: 20 hours of volunteer work at the humane society. Kit feels just like those animals...caged in. But with the help of a special new friend, Kit comes to a startling realization: the key to her cage is right in her own hand.

## **The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen**

Hannah thinks tonight's Passover Seder will be the same as always. Little does she know that this year she will be mysteriously transported into the past where only she knows the horrors that await.

## **Gray Wolf, Red Wolf by Dorothy Patent**

Describes the physical characteristics, life cycle, and behavior of the two species of wolves found in North America and discusses efforts to save them from extinction by reintroducing them to wilderness areas.

## **I Am Regina by Sally Keehn**

The cabin door crashes open and in a few minutes ten-year-old Regina's life changes forever. Her father and brother are killed, her family's Pennsylvania home burned to the ground. And Regina has been captured by Allegheny Indians. She can only hope that her mother, away from home this fateful day, lives. Befriended by kindly Nonschetto, Regina begins her new life, learning to catch the wily fish maschilamek, to dance the Indian dance, to speak the Indian tongue, to stand up to the vicious Tiger Claw. Still, as the years go by, she does not forget the song she and her mother used to sing together. Will the two ever meet again?

## **Is Anybody There? By Eve Bunting**

For Marcus Mullen, being a latchkey kid is no big deal. Every day after school, he picks up his key from its hiding place in the oak tree in the yard, and spends the afternoon

working on his bike or cooking dinner for his mom and himself. It's been like that ever since his father died, and Marcus has never minded — until the day his key isn't there. That's only the beginning. Food disappearing. Clocks and flashlights vanish. Suddenly nothing feels safe and comfortable anymore. Is anybody really there? Marcus knows he has to find out — and soon!

### **Journey by Patricia MacLachlan**

Journey is eleven the summer his mother leaves him and his sister, Cat, with their grandparents. He is sad and angry, and spends the summer looking for the clues that will explain why she left. Journey searches photographs for answers. He hunts family resemblances in Grandma's albums. Looking for happier times, he tries to put together the torn pieces of the pictures his mother shredded before her departure. And he also searches the photographs his grandfather takes as the older man attempts to provide Journey with a past. In the process, the boy learns to look and finds that, for him, the camera is a means of finding things his naked eye has missed—things like inevitability of his mother's departure and the love that still binds his family.

### **Journey Home by Isabelle Holland**

Two orphan sisters in the late 1800s leave New York on the orphan train to seek a new home in the West.

### **Love You, Soldier by Amy Hest**

Katie, a Jewish girl living in New York City during World War II, sees many dynamic changes in her world as she ages from seven to ten waiting for her father to return from the war.

### **Mattimeo by Brian Jacques**

The third addition to the beloved Redwall series takes place during the summer of the Golden Plain. Preparation for a great feat are underway at Redwall Abbey, and the young mouse Mattimeo is contributing his share of the labors. But Mattimeo is the son of Mathias, the guardian of Redwall Abbey, and it is this fact that makes him the target of a fiendish kidnapping plot contrived by the vicious fox, Slagar the Cruel. When Mathias and his brave followers abandon their homes and face enslavement for the return of their children, the captive Mattimeo stands to prove his worth--and an unexpected hero is born.

### **Me and My Name by Mary Jane Miller**

Does a new name make a new you? Which name? Which boyfriend? Which answer? Yes or no? Erin never had to make so many decisions before! Should she be adopted by her stepfather and change her name? If you have been Erin Mitchell all your life how can you turn into Erin Zanin? Mitchell has always sounded fine. Plus it connects her to her dad. But Leo is a great step-dad and now that her mother is expecting, having the same last name would really make them all a family. Mitchell or Zanin? What do you do? Then there's Richard and Ryan. How do you choose between two cute guys? Should it be Richard, the popular jock or smart and funny Ryan? Erin even has to choose between yes and no. Can she say no to Kim Adams, the most popular girl in 6th

grade when Kim gives her a dare? How many choices should one kid have to make, anyway? And how do you make them?

### **Mississippi Bridge by Mildred Taylor**

During a heavy rainstorm in 1930s rural Mississippi, a ten-year-old white boy sees a bus driver order all the black passengers off a crowded bus to make room for late-arriving white passengers and then set off across the raging Rosa Lee River.

### **Nothing But the Truth by Avi**

Ninth-grade student Philip Malloy was suspended from school for singing along to The Star-Spangled Banner in his homeroom, causing what his teacher, Margaret Narwin, called "a disturbance." But was he standing up for his patriotic ideals, only to be squelched by the school system? Was Ms. Narwin simply trying to be a good teacher? Or could it all be just a misunderstanding gone bad — very bad? What is the truth here? Can it ever be known? Heroism, hoax, or mistake, what happened at Harrison High changes everything for everyone in ways no one — least of all Philip — could have ever predicted.

### **Searching for Dragons by Patricia Wrede**

Those wicked wizards are at it again! This time they are draining power from the Enchanted Forest. And that does not sit well with Mendanbar the King. On the advice of the witch Morwen, Mendanbar decides to consult with Kazul, the King of Dragons. When he arrives at Kazul's cave, he meets Princess Cimorene and learns that Kazul has been captured by those horrible wizards. Mendanbar and Cimorene will have to search for her, traveling over mountains and past man-eating giants, terrifying rock snakes, and an assortment of magic-wielders.

### **Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor**

Eleven-year-old Marty Preston loves to spend time up in the hills behind his home near Friendly, West Virginia. Sometimes he takes his .22 rifle to see what he can shoot, like some cans lined up on a rail fence. Other times he goes up early in the morning just to sit and watch the fox and deer. But one summer Sunday, Marty comes across something different on the road just past the old Shiloh schoolhouses -- a young beagle -- and the trouble begins. What do you do when a dog you suspect is being mistreated runs away and comes to you? When it is someone else's dog? When the man who owns him has a gun? This is Marty's problem, and he finds it is one he has to face alone. When his solution gets too big for him to handle, things become more frightening still. Marty puts his courage on the line, and discovers in the process that it is not always easy to separate right from wrong. Sometimes, however, you do almost anything to save a dog.

### **Voices After Midnight by Richard Peck**

Why is Chad so uneasy when his California family rents a town house in New York City? Once there he hears voices—late at night, after midnight in this strange house that's at least one hundred years old. Then he finds that his younger brother, Luke, hears them, too, and even their older sister Heidi's afraid to stay in the house alone. As

Chad and Luke explore the house, they begin to slip in and out of their own time, back to the winter of 1888. Are the voices they hear crying out for help? Will Chad ignore the voices or plunge into the unknown danger of one hundred years before?

### **Waiting for Anya by Michael Morpurgo**

A village high in the mountains on the French-Spanish border seems relatively untouched by the Second World War. But Jo, falling asleep one day when he should be guarding the sheep on the mountainside, meets a stranger who brings the reality and danger of the war much closer.

### **Whispers from the Dead by Joan Lowery Nixon**

Only Sarah senses the horror. The minute she steps through the doorway of her family's new home, Sarah feels a smothering cold mist, and hears the echo of a scream and a heartbreaking whisper in Spanish, "Help me!" Sarah feels compelled to find out who is trying to reach her. But can she uncover the mysteries of the past before terror strikes again?

### **The Year of the Panda by Miriam Schlein**

Strange things are happening on Lu Yi's farm. First, some men from the Chinese government ask Lu Yi's father to sell the property that has belonged to the family for generations. Then a giant panda appears in a neighbor's field, A rare occurrence, given the farm's distance from the high-mountain bamboo forests that pandas inhabit. Lu Yi has a feeling that the two mysteries are somehow connected. And before long, an orphaned baby panda he finds in the woods provides an answer. As the boy nurses the helpless animal back to health, he begins an adventure that may, well change his entire future.