

Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award 1995 Nominees

Bearstone by Will Hobbs

Fourteen-year-old Cloyd was trouble. Trouble to himself and everyone else. He'd grown up without his parents, without schooling, half-wild and alone in remote Utah canyons. Sent by his tribe to a group home for Indian boys, his feeling of isolation turns to desperation - and even more trouble. But high in the majestic mountains of Colorado where Cloyd is taken to live with an old rancher, he finds a small carved turquoise bear in an Indian burial cave. Secretly renaming himself Lone Bear, Cloyd calls upon the strength of his ancient ancestors - first to do battle with his own hostilities, but finally to discover the magic power of an old man's love, and the secrets of living in a world he has just begun to understand.

The Boggart by Susan Cooper

After visiting the castle in Scotland which her family has inherited and returning home to Canada, twelve-year-old Emily finds that she has accidentally brought back with her a boggart, an invisible and mischievous spirit with a fondness for practical jokes.

Colt by Nancy Springer

A young boy with a crippling disease learns, through a horseback riding program, to overcome his own anxieties and to help others in dealing with their own problems.

Don't Look Behind You by Lois Duncan

How can April give up her name, her friends, her boyfriend Steve, and everything she's ever known? April Corrigan feels like her life is over when she learns that her father has been working undercover for the FBI and the family must relocate under the Federal Witness Security Program. No one can reach them now... or can they?

Finding Buck McHenry by Alfred Slote

Eleven-year-old Jason, believing the school custodian Mack Henry to be Buck McHenry, a famous pitcher from the old Negro League, tries to enlist him as a coach for his Little League team by revealing his identity to the world.

Flight #116 is Down by Caroline B. Cooney

When a 747 jumbo jet crashes in the back of her parents' sprawling Connecticut estate, the quietness of 16-year-old Heidi Landseth's insulated existence is transformed forever. With both her parents away for the weekend, she alone must make decisions that will affect the lives of hundreds of injured passengers. Her call to 911 gives Patrick Farquhar, a 17-year-old Emergency Medical Technician, the two things he has always wanted; excitement that a small rural community lacks and the opportunity to prove himself as an adult. This catastrophe, however, is beyond even his wildest imaginings. Will these two be able to help the victims until more rescuers arrive?

The Haymeadow by Gary Paulsen

Fourteen-year-old John Barron is asked, like his father and grandfather before him, to spend the summer taking care of their sheep in the haymeadow. Six thousand sheep. John will be alone, except for two horses, four dogs, and all those sheep. John doesn't feel up to the task, but he hopes that if he can accomplish it, he will finally please his father. But John finds that the adage "things just to sheep" is true when the river floods, coyotes attack, and one dog's feet get cut. Through it all he must rely on his own resourcefulness, ingenuity, and talents to survive this summer in the haymeadow.

Ice Warrior by Ruth Riddell

When his mother's remarriage moves him from sunny California to snowy Minnesota, twelve-year-old Rob feels totally out of place until he discovers iceboating, which he hopes will be the means to prove himself to his highly competitive father.

Invitation to the Game by Monica Hughes

It's the future, and most jobs are done by machines. Now that school is over, Lisse and her friends are consigned to a bleak neighborhood for the permanently unemployed. Then they receive an invitation to the Game, which transports them to a paradise. Is it a dream or a computer simulation? Each time they play the Game, the new world seems more and more real...

Jacob's Rescue: A Holocaust Story by Malka Drucker

Once Jacob Gutgeld lived with his family in a beautiful house in Warsaw, Poland. He went to school and played hide-and-seek in the woods with his friends. But everything changed the day the Nazi soldiers invaded in 1939. Suddenly it wasn't safe to be Jewish anymore. One afternoon, eight-year-old Jacob slipped through a hole in the ghetto wall to meet Alex Roslan, a kind Christian man who agreed to be his new "uncle." The Roslan family, at the risk of their own lives, kept Jacob's identity as a Jew hidden. Every day of hiding meant a new danger and a threat of discovery. Jacob worried about his real family and longed to go to school and play outside like the Roslan children. The fear, the hunger, and the hardships brought Jacob closer to the Roslan family — until at last they were able to begin a new chapter in their lives.

Judy Scuppernong by Brenda Seabrooke

Poems describe the daily experiences of four girls growing up in a small town in Georgia in the early 1950s.

Letters From Rifka by Karen Hesse

Rifka knows nothing about America when she flees from Russia with her family in 1919. But she dreams that in the new country she will at last be safe from the Russian soldiers and their harsh treatment of the Jews.

Lyddie by Katherine Paterson

When Lyddie and her younger brother are hired out as servants to help pay off their family farm's debts, Lyddie is determined to find a way to reunite her family once again. Hearing about all the money a girl can make working in the textile mills in Lowell,

Massachusetts, she makes her way there, only to find that her dreams of returning home may never come true.

The Night the Whole Class Slept Over by Stella Pevsner

Eleven-year-old Dan, whose artist parents have kept him moving around all his life, fears he will lose the friends he has made at his new school, until the class sleepover coincides with a bad winter storm.

Randall's Wall by Carol Fenner

It was Randall's sister who first told him about the invisible wall that protected her from the cruelty of her classmates. By the time Randall is in fifth grade, he's had his own wall for years. Inside his wall, he doesn't have to think about his abusive father, gone for several months, or his thin, suffering mother, who never leaves the house -- the house with no running water for laundry or baths. Inside his wall, he can dream about picnics, about riding on his Uncle Luke's motorcycle, and, always, he can lose himself in his drawing. But one day Randall makes a friend, and slowly, frighteningly, his wall begins to crumble. And miraculously, the gift that comforted Randall within his wall opens up a new world outside it.

Red Cap by G. Clifton Wisler

A young Yankee drummer boy displays great courage when he's captured and sent to Andersonville Prison.

Song of the Gargoyle by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

A strange sound awakens thirteen-year-old Tymmon in the dead of night. In a blink of an eye his father, the court jester of Austerneve, is mysteriously kidnapped and the terrified boy must slip away secretly to avoid capture himself. Hiding in the dreaded forest nearby, Tymmon is adopted by a huge, furry, dog-like creature—a gargoyle—who has the loyalty of a dog and the fearsome powers of an enchanted being. Together, hungry, the two make their way to town, where Tymmon earns a living by playing his flute and learns to be happy. At least as happy as he can be without his father. Will he ever find a way to rescue him and be with him again?

Stepping on the Cracks by Mary Downing Hahn

Margaret and her best friend Elizabeth both have brothers fighting the war against Hitler and, like everyone else they know, they are filled with feelings of patriotism. But the girls are also involved in their own personal war at home. Gordy Smith, the worst bully in sixth grade, teases and torments them, and Margaret is scared to death of him. But when Gordy and his pals Toad and Doug grow bolder than ever, Margaret and Elizabeth come up with a daring plan to get even. That's when the girls discover a shocking secret about Gordy that turns their lives upside-down and draws them into a startling confrontation with family, friends...and their own strongly held ideas.

There's a Girl in My Hammerlock by Jerry Spinelli

Thirteen-year-old Maisie joins her school's formerly all-male wrestling team and tries to last through the season, despite opposition from other students, her best friend, and her own teammates.

Year of Impossible Goodbyes by Sook Nyul Choi

A young Korean girl survives the oppressive Japanese and Russian occupation of North Korea during the 1940s, to later escape to freedom in South Korea.