

Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award **1996 Nominees**

All About Sam by Lois Lowry

The adventures of Sam, Anastasia Krupnik's younger brother, from his first day as a newborn through his mischievous times as a toddler.

Baby by Patricia MacLachlan

Larkin's family welcomes Sophie into their home, caring for her and teaching her games and new words. They come to love this baby as their own, all the while knowing that eventually Sophie's mother will return one day to take her from them.

Backyard Dragon by Betsy Sterman

When Owen discovers that a 15th-century Welsh dragon has been magically transported to his 20th-century New Jersey backyard, he and his grandfather, along with some newfound friends, have a huge—and very appealing—problem on their hands.

Bull Run by Paul Fleischman

Northerners, Southerners, generals, couriers, dreaming boys, and worried sisters describe the glory, the horror, the thrill, and the disillusionment of the first battle of the Civil War.

Buried in Ice by Owen Beattie

Probes the tragic and mysterious fate of Sir John Franklin's failed expedition to find the Northwest Passage in 1845.

Canyons by Gary Paulsen

Two boys, separated by the canyons of time and two vastly different cultures, face the challenges by which they become men. Coyote Runs, an Apache boy, takes part in his first raid—the one that will usher him into manhood. He is to be a man for but a short time... More than a hundred years later, while camping near Dog Canyon, fifteen-year-old Brennan Cole becomes obsessed with a skull that he finds, pierced by a bullet. He learns that it was the skull of an Apache boy executed by soldiers in 1864. A mystical link joins Brennan and Coyote Runs, and Brennan knows that neither boy will find any peace until Coyote Runs' skull is returned to an ancient sacred place. In a grueling run through the canyon to return the skull, Brennan faces the challenge of his life.

Crazy Lady! by Jane Conly

Maxine, short and stocky, with her dark glasses and strange hat and weaving walk, was called the "crazy lady." Ronald, with his eyes open wide and his mouth always parted as if he were about to speak, was her son with special needs. Vernon and his friends would agitate them until they put on a kind of show. But then Vernon gets to know them and see what their life is really like. He spends an afternoon helping them straighten out their ramshackle house, picking up their littered yard; and sits with Ronald while he

watches Lassie and Mickey Mouse Club. And he begins to understand this mother's fierce love for her son, his own loss, and the unexpected strength he finds within this odd little family.

The Dark Thirty by Patricia McKissack

A collection of original stories rooted in African-American history and the oral storytelling tradition, The Dark Thirty are stories that should be told at that special time when it is neither day nor night and when shapes and shadows play tricks on the mind.

The Day Elvis Came to Town by Jan Marino

Wanda feels betrayed when her parents' glamorous boarder doesn't introduce her to Elvis Presley, and it takes a near-tragedy to reunite them and to help her face the truth about her family and herself.

Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery by Russell Freedman

The intriguing story of Eleanor Roosevelt traces the life of the former First Lady from her early childhood through the tumultuous years in the White House to her active role in the founding of the United Nations after World War II.

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Twelve-year-old Jonas lives in a seemingly ideal world. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver does he begin to understand the dark secrets behind this fragile community.

Heart of a Champion by Carl Deuker

Seth and Jimmy have the kind of friendship you can't put into words-the kind you think only happens in books and movies. They both live and breathe baseball, but while Seth struggles to be good enough to make the varsity yteam, Jimmy, a natural, looks like he's on is way to becoming a major league star some day. On and off the field, their passion for a the game gets them through some of life's bitterest struggles and unites them in a once in a lifetime friendship that is meant to last forever...

Horror at the Haunted House by Peg Kehret

It was a job any kid would kill for: to play a role in the Historical Society's Haunted House Halloween fundraising event. Ellen Streater was thrilled to play Joan of Arc, burning at the stake. It was for a good cause -- to benefit the eerie old Clayton House, soon to reopen as a museum. They said the house was haunted. Ellen didn't believe it - until she felt a strange, icy feeling when she touched the beautiful Fairylustre bowl. Then she saw the ghost in the mirror -- a beautiful phantom who beckoned her into a nightmare beyond her wildest dreams.

Jennifer Murdley's Toad by Bruce Coville

Jennifer Murdley would give anything to be beautiful. But then she buys a particularly ugly toad--one who can talk and, in fact, won't shut up--who shows her a thing or two about the meaning of true beauty.

Little House on Rocky Ridge by Roger Lea MacBride

Meet Rose Wilder, Laura Ingalls Wilder's daughter, and the last of the Little House girls. Rose and her parents, Laura and Almanzo, say good-bye to Ma and Pa Ingalls and Laura's sisters. In a covered wagon containing all their possessions, they make their way across the drought-stricken Midwest to the lush green valleys of southern Missouri. The journey is long and not always easy, but at the end is the promise of a new home and a new life for the Wilders.

The Place of Lions by Eric Campbell

A plane crash strands thirteen-year-old Chris on the immense Serengeti Plain, and only he can save the two injured men whose lives depend on him.

Someone Was Watching by David Patneude

When his baby sister disappears from the river near their summer home, eighth grader Chris fights the assumption that she has drowned and uncovers evidence that something entirely different has happened to her.

Squashed by Joan Bauer

As sixteen-year-old Ellie pursues her two goals--growing the biggest pumpkin in Iowa and losing twenty pounds herself--she strengthens her relationship with her father and meets a young man with interests similar to her own.

Time for Andrew by Mary Downing Hahn

When he goes to spend the summer with his great-aunt in the family's old house, eleven-year-old Drew is drawn eighty years into the past to trade places with his great-great-uncle who is dying of diphtheria.

Timothy of the Cay by Theodore Taylor

Having survived being blinded and shipwrecked on a tiny Caribbean island with the old black man Timothy, twelve-year-old white Phillip is rescued and hopes to regain his sight with an operation. Alternate chapters follow the life of Timothy from his days as a young cabin boy.

Where the Broken Heart Still Beats by Carolyn Meyer

At the age of nine, Cynthia Ann Parker was captured in an Indian raid and taken to live as a slave with the Comanche. Twenty-four years later, she is the wife of a chief and the mother of a young warrior destined to become the great chief Quanah Parker. But in 1861 Cynthia Ann Parker and her infant daughter are recaptured, and returned against their will to a white settlement. ?A skillful examination of how individual identity is determined by cultural and social structures, and of what happens when these are drastically altered?