

# ***Rebecca Caudill young Readers' Book Award 1997 Nominees***

## **Beardance by Will Hobbs**

Riding into the mountains with his friend Walter in search of a lost gold mine, Cloyd hears a report that a mother grizzly with cubs has been sighted. With the help of a grizzly expert, Cloyd finds the bears, but when the cubs are orphaned it's up to Cloyd, staying up in the mountains alone, to keep them alive.

## **The Best School Year Ever by Barbara Robinson**

When anything goes wrong at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School, from the hexing of Bus Six to the mysterious disappearance of the kindergarten gerbil, it's sure to have a Herdman behind it. The Herdmans are more than famous-they're outlaws. They smoke cigars, lie, and set fire to things, and that's only when they bother to come to school! Then a school project forces the students to think of compliments for all their classmates-including the Herdmans. Is it possible that behind their outrageous pranks there may be something good about this crazy clan after all?

## **Bigger by Patricia Calvert**

When his father disappears near the Mexican border at the end of the Civil War, twelve-year-old Tyler decides to go after him and bring him home, acquiring on the journey a strange dog which he names Bigger.

## **Cat Running by Zilpha Keatley Snyder**

When eleven-year-old Cat Kinsey builds a secret hideout to escape her unhappy homelife, she slowly gets to know a poor family who have come to California after losing their Texas home to the dust storms of the 1930s.

## **Catherine, Called Birdy by Karen Cushman**

The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

## **Daniel's Story by Carol Matas**

Daniel barely remembers leading a normal life before the Nazis came to power in 1933. He can still picture once being happy and safe, but memories of those days are fading as he and his family face the dangers threatening Jews in Hitler's Germany in the late 1930s. No longer able to practice their religion, vote, own property, or even work, Daniel's family is forced from their home in Frankfurt and sent on a long and dangerous journey, first to the Lodz ghetto in Poland, and then to Auschwitz - the Nazi death camp. Though many around him lose hope in the face of such terror, Daniel, supported by his courageous family, struggles for survival. He finds hope, life, and even love in the midst of despair.

**Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick**

Dumb, stupid, and slow. All Max's life, he'd been called these names, and it didn't help that people were afraid of him. So Max learned to be alone--at least until Freak came along. Together, they were Freak the Mighty.

**George Washington's Socks by Elvira Woodruff**

In the midst of a backyard campout, ten-year-old Matt and four other children find themselves transported back into the time of George Washington and the American Revolution, where they begin to live out American history firsthand and learn the sober realities of war.

**Jericho's Journey by G. Clifton Wisler**

As his family makes the long and difficult journey from Tennessee to their new home in Texas in 1852, twelve-year-old Jericho Wetherby, teased by his sister and brothers about his size, learns there are many ways to grow.

**Jim-Dandy by Hadley Irwin**

Living after the Civil War on a Kansas homestead with his stern stepfather, thirteen-year-old Caleb raises a beloved colt and becomes involved in General Custer's raids on the Cheyenne.

**Julie by Jean Craighead George**

While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack.

**The Man Who Loved Clowns by June Rae Wood**

Delrita has perfected the art of being invisible. She doesn't have any friends, and that's the way she likes it. If no one notices her, then no one will notice her uncle Punky either. Punky is a grown man with a child's mind. Delrita loves him dearly, and she can't stand to have people making fun of his Down's syndrome. As long as she keeps him a secret, she can stay home and work on her wood carvings without worrying about Punky getting hurt. But when a horrible tragedy strikes, Delrita's quiet life-and Punky's-are changed forever.

**The Mystery of the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks**

After the family moves to the country to a house recently inherited by his mother, Omri finds many secrets revealed to him when he accidentally discovers the link between the house and the magic cupboard.

**Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco**

Say Curtis describes his meeting with Pinkus Aylee, a black soldier, during the Civil War, and their capture by Southern troops. Based on a true story about the author's great-great-grandfather.

**Quake! By Joe Cottonwood**

With their parents away at the 1989 World Series, fourteen-year-old Franny, her younger brother, and their cousin try to cope with the frightening events following an earthquake that destroys their home on Loma Prieta mountain.

**Seven Spiders Spinning by Gregory Maguire**

Seven prehistoric spiders that had been trapped in ice for thousands of years bring excitement to rural Vermont and briefly unite two rival clubs at a local elementary school.

**Time Windows by Kathryn Reiss**

When Miranda moves with her family to a new house in a small Massachusetts town, she discovers a mysterious antique--a dollhouse. Through the windows, she is shocked to find what seem to be living people in the tiny rooms, and gradually she realizes that scenes from the lives of the big house's past inhabitants are being replayed there.

**The Toilet-Paper Tigers by Gordon Korman**

When his Little League team gets a coach who knows nothing about baseball, seventh grader Corey is dismayed to see the team taken over by the coach's pushy twelve-year-old granddaughter.

**Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech**

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

**Wanted: Mud Blossom by Betsy Byars**

Convinced that Mud is responsible for the disappearance of the school hamster that was his responsibility for the weekend, Junior Blossom is determined that the dog should be tried for his "crime."

**Who's There? By Stephanie Tolan**

Two orphans are taken in by family they never knew existed. The old mansion Drew and Evan's father grew up in quickly feels like home. But soon Drew senses a chilling ghostly presence. Dad never told Drew about the tragic events that drove him from home, and her aunt and grandfather are just as secretive. But if Drew can't discover why Rose Hill is haunted, her own life may be in jeopardy.