

Adult Winners

2009 *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*
by Junot Diaz

Oscar Cabral is an overweight "ghetto nerd" who dreams of becoming the Dominican J. R. R. Tolkien. This rich work encompasses the heartbreaking and tragic story of Oscar's mother, Beli, from her youth in Santo Domingo in the 1940-50's during a brutal regime to adulthood living in New Jersey.

2008 *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth
What if Charles Lindbergh, national hero, described as a "rabid isolationist, Nazi sympathizer and crypto-fascist" was elected president in the 1940 election instead of FDR?

2007 *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
by Zora Neale Hurston

A novel set in the 1920s, where free-spirited Janie Crawford's search for happiness leads her through several different marriages, challenging the mores of her small town.

2006 *The Ditchdigger's Daughters*
by Yvonne S. Thornton

Donald Thornton, a ditchdigger in Fort Monmouth, NJ, has the perfect comeback for all the people that tease him about having five daughters and no sons: "You won't be laughin' when my little girls grow up to be doctors."

2005 *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
The conscience of a small Southern town seeped in prejudice and hypocrisy is rocked when Atticus Finch defends a black man accused of raping a white young woman.

2004 *The Pine Barrens* by John McPhee
Although New Jersey has the heaviest population density of any state, huge segments of the Pine Barrens remain uninhabited, and the few who dwell in the region are little known and often misunderstood.

Young Adult Winners

2009 *Life As We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer
When an asteroid hits the moon, it causes a change in the moon's orbit and unleashes a series of world-wide disasters, and 16-year-old Miranda's whole life changes.

2008 *Dr. Franklin's Island* by Ann Halam
For three teens, a trip-of-a-lifetime quickly becomes a fight for survival as they find themselves on a remote island, which happens to be the home of a mad scientist, anxious for experimental subjects.

2007 *So Yesterday* by Scott Westerfeld
It's Hunter's job to keep ahead of the latest trends and tell the world exactly what these trends are. Jennifer is a free, original thinker, what Hunter calls an Innovator, but original thoughts can be dangerous.

2006 *Swallowing Stones* by Joyce McDonald
Dual perspectives reveal the aftermath of seventeen-year-old Michael's birthday celebration during which he discharges an antique Winchester rifle and unknowingly kills the father of high school classmate Jenna.

2005 *Dunk* by David Lubar
While hoping to work as the clown in a dunk tank on the boardwalk of the NJ shore, Chad faces his best friend's serious illness, hassles with police, and the girl that got away.

2004 *The Body of Christopher Creed*
by Carol Plum-Ucci
Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast.

Middle Grade Winners

2009 *Marley: A Dog Like No Other* by John Grogan
When newlyweds John and his wife Jenny decide they want to adopt a puppy, they find a bargain Labrador Retriever, and so Marley enters their lives.

2008 *The Sisters Grimm: The Fairy Tale Detectives*
by Michael Buckley
As descendants of Wilhelm, the Grimm family must keep the fairy tale characters, the "Everafters," contained. When Granny Relda goes missing, it is up to Sabrina and Daphne to solve the mystery, which involves giants, pixies, fairies and witches.

2007 *Whales on Stilts!* by M. T. Anderson
When Lily's father refuses to believe that she overheard his boss, a mad scientist, claim that he wants to take over the world, she enlists the help of her best friends, and together they race to save the world from the mad scientist's army of whales.

2006 *Amber Brown is Not a Crayon* by Paula Danziger
Third-grader Amber Brown has just received some bad news: her best friend Justin is moving away. When Justin doesn't want to talk about how he feels, she's sure it's the end of their friendship.

2005 *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency*
by Daniel Pinkwater
When Arthur Bobowicz is sent out to bring home the family's Thanksgiving turkey, he returns instead with a 266-pound chicken named Henrietta.

2004 *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo
Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

Read to Me Winners

2009 *Art* written and illustrated by Patrick McDonnell

A young boy named Art has a passion for art, of course. He paints, he splotches, he draws, he squiggles, and he creates with abandon and verve.

2008 *Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock* retold by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Janet Stevens

When Anansi discovers a magical rock that puts animals to sleep, he decides to use the stone's magic to trick the other animals out of their food supplies.

2007 *Bear Snores On* by Karma Wilson; illustrated by Jane Chapman

A bear is snuggled in his lair for a long winter's sleep while a mouse, a hare, and others join in for a social gathering. Everyone is perfectly happy being shielded from the elements until the bear wakes up, Grumbling and grouchy because he is missing out on all the fun.

2006 *Wild About Books* by Judy Sierra; illustrated by Marc Brown

Computer savvy "Springfield Librarian, Molly McGrew by mistake drove her bookmobile into the Zoo." Taking advantage of the situation, the librarian offers each animal the appropriate book.

2005 *Piggie Pie* by Margie Palatini; illustrated by Howard Fine

Gritch the Witch (with her traditional pointy hat, broomstick and green fingernails) is all set for a delicious meal of piggie pie. But when she lands at MacDonald's farm she can't find a single pig.

2004 *How the Cat Swallowed Thunder* by Lloyd Alexander; illustrated by Judith Byron Schachner

Warned not to get into his usual mischief, Mother Holly's cat tries to tidy up all the mess he has made while she is away.



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Bergen County Cooperative Library System
[\[www.bccls.org\]](http://www.bccls.org)
Some annotations courtesy of the BCCLS catalog

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OBNJ

What if everyone
read the same book?



Past Winners

2004-2009