

California Reading Association's Eureka! Nonfiction Children's Book Awards 2013



Eureka Gold Awards

Bones Never Lie: How Forensics Helps Solve History's Mysteries by Elizabeth MacLeod, Annick Press, 2013. Grades 5-8

A combination of science and thrilling whodunit, this fascinating book shows how forensics have helped solve some of the most perplexing mysteries of all time.

Cool World Cooking: Fun and Tasty Recipes for Kids! by Lisa Wagner, Scarletta Junior Readers, 2013. Grades 3-6

Explore the world with these 50 delicious recipes while learning about food and culture from around the globe

Face Bug by J. Patrick Lewis, photographs by Frederic B. Siskind, illustrated by Kelly Murphy, Calkins Creek, an imprint of Boyds Mills Press, 2013. Grades 2-12

Poetry, science, and fabulous photography merge as you enter the Face Bug Museum and come away amazed by what you will learn about bugs.

Girls Rebel! Amazing Tales of Women Who Broke the Mold by Heather E. Schwartz, Capstone, 2014. Grades 4-8

Through narrative stories, this collective biography explores females who fought for their beliefs, broke society's rules, and forever changed the world.

Great Bicycle Experiment: The Army's Historic Black Bicycle Corps, 1896-97 by Kay Moore, Mountain Press Publishing, 2012. Grades 5-10

The true adventures of an elite company of twenty African American soldiers who in 1897 embarked on a 1900-mile trek across the country on bicycles.

Stripes of All Types by Susan Stockdale, Peachtree Publishers, 2013. Grades K-2

A patterned parade of animals come to life in Stockdale's stunning new book which explores animals that have stripes and the reasons they have them.



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10 Plants That Shook the World by Gillian Richardson, illustrated by Kim Rosen, Annick Press, 2013. Grades 4-7

Papyrus, pepper, cotton, and rubber are just some of the plants discussed in this book that created profound changes in the world . . . good and bad.

Animals Upside Down: A Pull, Pop, Lift & Learn Book by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page, Houghton Mifflin, 2013. Grades K-4

Yes! Nonfiction books can be pop-ups! This book looks at how and why animals turn upside down with a dazzling array of paper engineering. It also contains a two-page spread of expository text on each of the featured animals.

Barbed Wire Baseball by Marissa Moss, illustrated by Yuko Shimizu, Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2013. Grades 1-5

The life of Kenichi “Zeni” Zenimura, who was later named the father of Japanese American baseball, offers an inspiring true story of hope and baseball from a little discussed segment of American history.

Becoming Ben Franklin: How a Candle-Maker's Son Helped Light the Flame of Liberty by Russell Freedman, Holiday House, 2013. Grades 5-12

This enthralling, illustrated biography of one of the most popular founding fathers, by Newbery Medal author, Russell Freedman, outlines the life of the distinguished statesman, author, and world famous scientist.

Best Foot Forward: Exploring Feet, Flippers, and Claws by Ingo Arndt, Holiday House, 2013. Grades K-3

An intriguing close-up of an animal's foot invites you to guess. Turn the page to find out if you're right. Readers will discover that feet aren't just for walking and the guessing game format makes learning about natural adaptation fun.

The Boy In the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible . . . On Schindler's List by Leon Leyson, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2013. Grades 4-9

Leon Leyson was only 10 years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. This is the only memoir published by a former Schindler's List child.

A Smart Girl's Guide to Friendship Troubles: Dealing With Frights, Being Left Out, and the Whole Popularity Thing by Patti Kelley Criswell, illustrated by Angela Martini, American Girl, 2013. Grades 3-7

When friendships are in trouble, here's a self-help book of advice that is sure to help readers get through the tough times and help deal with friendship dilemmas.

Cowboy Up! Ride the Navajo Rodeo by Nancy Bo Flood, photography by Jan Sonnenmair, Wordsong, 2013. Grades 2-7

Narrative poems give voice to the individual rodeo competitors, lively prose explains rodeo events, and photographs show off the riders, ropers, horses, and broncs in this close-up view of Navajo rodeo over the course of one action-packed day.

Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building by Christy Hale, Lee & Low Books, 2012. Grades K-4

This book pairs children building, concrete poetry, and notable structures from around the world to see how children's constructions find expression in the dreams and works of innovative architects.

Here Come the Girl Scouts! The Amazing All-true Story of Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low and Her Great Adventure by Shana Corey, illustrated by Hadley Hooper, Scholastic Press, 2012. Grades K-3

The Girl Scouts have been in existence for 100 years and it's all thanks to Juliette Gordon Low (aka Daisy) and her gumption. A picture book biography for every Girl Scout and those looking for picture book biographies on social activists.

It Can't Be True! DK Publishing, 2013. K-12

This book is sure to wow readers with impressive facts about the world that are difficult to believe . . . but true! Packed full of astounding records, mind-boggling stats, and 200 jaw-dropping visuals, this fascinating resource explores a wide range of subjects.

Jimmy the Joey: The True Story of an Amazing Koala Rescue by Deborah Lee Rose and Susan Kelly, photographs by Susan Kelly, National Geographic Kids, 2013. Grades K-3

This warm and inspirational photographic picture book is a compelling and uplifting true story, with a sweet message about coping with loss that draws attention to an important and threatened wild animal.

Lincoln's Grave Robbers by Steve Sheinkin, Scholastic Press, 2013. Grades 5-12

The action in this true crime thriller alternates among the conspirators, the Secret Service on their trail, and the undercover double agent moving back and forth between the two groups.

Nasreddine by Odile Weulersse, illustrated by Rebecca Dautremere, Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2013. Grades K-3

No matter what Nasreddine does, it always seems to meet someone's disapproval, but his wise father has some very different advice for him. This clever story introduces a new audience to this legendary character popular in stories told throughout the Middle East.

The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi by Neal Bascomb, Arthur A. Levine Books, Scholastic, 2013. Grades 7-12

Illustrated with photographs, this riveting true story is a Holocaust tale, a spy thriller, and a powerful account of justice sought and served.

Noah Webster and His Words by Jeri Chase Ferris, illustrated by Vincent X. Kirsch, Houghton Mifflin Books, 2012. Grades 1-6

We all know Noah Webster for his Dictionary, but what else did he do for our country? In this fascinating picture book biography, we learn how he helped keep our fledgling nation together—even before he wrote the first American dictionary.

Noisy Bugs Sing-Along by John Himmelman, Dawn Publications, 2013. Grades K-4

Listen to the “buggy” concert happening in your yard or in fields and woods nearby. What insects are making those sounds? Learn who is making what sounds and why. Sing along with them!

People Who Said No: Courage Against Oppression by Laura Scandiffio, Annick Press, 2012. Grades 4-8

Seven inspirational profiles feature people in history who, despite the dangers, followed their moral compass rather than obey rules made by government in power. Excellent resource for “Character Education.”

Potatoes On Rooftops: Farming in the City by Hadley Dyer, Annick Press, 2012. Grades 3-7

Informative, colorful, and kid-friendly, this book introduces kids to the how and why of small scale urban farming. It’s the perfect book to get readers thinking about ways they can grow food in the city.

Revolutionary Friends: General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette by Selene Castrovilla, illustrated by Drazen Kozjan, Calkins Creek, an imprint of Boyds Mills Press, 2012. Grades 3-5

The friendship between these two famous men helps build alliances between France and America. The author and illustrator relied on primary documents and consulted Lafayette and Washington experts to spotlight the beginning of this extraordinary bond.

Ringtail: Miner’s Cat by Joyce Markovics, Bearport Publishing, 2013. Grades 1-4

Kids will go on a real-life adventure with biology professor David Wyatt as he tracks ringtails in an area of California called Sutter Buttes.

The Animal Book: A Visual Encyclopedia of Life On Earth, by The Smithsonian and David Burnie. DK Publishing, 2013. Grades K-12

The ultimate visual encyclopedia of life on our planet, this resource presents more than 1500 photographs that introduce astonishing animals, plants, fungi, and microorganisms, all arranged according to how they are related to each other.

The Poppy Lady: Moina Belle Michael and Her Tribute to Veterans by Barbara Elizabeth Walsh, illustrated by Layne Johnson, Calkins Creek, an imprint of Boyds Mills Press, 2012. Grades 2-4

When American soldiers entered World War I, Moina Belle Michael, a teacher from Georgia, knew she had to act. She worked to establish the red poppy as the symbol to honor and remember soldiers.

The Year of Goodbyes by Debbie Levy, Disney Hyperion Books, 2010. Grades 5-12

The true story of a 12-year-old girl’s last year in Nazi Germany, 1938, told through free verse and actual entries from the girl’s autograph album.