



Thumbs Up! Book Award 2009

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE!

***Chains* by Laurie R. King**

Isabel is a slave in Rhode Island at the beginning of the American Revolution. When her kindly mistress dies she and her sister get sold to a cruel woman in New York with ties to the British. Isabel makes decisions about where her loyalties lie based on which side is more likely to grant her freedom.

***Compound* by S.A. Bodeen**

Fifteen-year-old Eli, his parents and sisters have spent six years in a lavish underground compound created by his wealthy father to protect them from a nuclear disaster. His grandmother and twin brother were left behind and presumed perished, until Eli discovers the awful truth.

***Debbie Harry Sings in French* by Meagan Brothers**

After a stint in rehab where the music of Blondie becomes his recovery touchstone, 16-year-old former alcoholic Johnny is sent to live with his uncle to start anew. School bullies call him "faggot," but eyeliner-wearing Johnny knows he's not gay because he's smitten with Maria, a Goth chick who shares his love of '80s punk.

***Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins**

Katniss lives in a future in which one boy and one girl from each of 12 districts must compete in a competition to the death for reality TV. Her younger sister is chosen to compete but Katniss, who has been hunting to survive, goes in her place.

***Waiting for Normal* by Leslie Connor**

Following the divorce of her mom and stepfather, Addie copes with a new school and missing her little sisters while trying to keep her mom under control.

***Mexican Whiteboy* by Matt de la Pena**

No matter where he lives, half white, half Mexican 16-year-old Danny Lopez is an outsider. But baseball is the great equalizer.

***Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow**

When he ditches school one Friday morning, 17-year-old Marcus is hoping to get a head start on the Harajuku Fun Madness clue. But after a terrorist attack in San Francisco, he and his friends are swept up in the extralegal world of the Department of Homeland Security.

***Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman**

An orphaned boy is raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.

***Patron Saint of Butterflies* by Cecilia Gallante**

Secluded at the Mount Blessing compound under the rule of the manipulative Emmanuel, 14-year-old Agnes strives for sainthood. Her best friend, Honey, however, questions Emmanuel's tactics and authority, and secretly longs for a normal life with TV, fashionable clothes and fast food.

***Sun and Moon, Ice and Snow* by Jessica Day George**

A girl travels east of the sun and west of the moon to free her beloved prince from a magic spell.

***Two Parties, One Tux, and a Very Short Film about the Grapes of Wrath* by Steven Goldman**

It's junior year and Mitchell goes from having no dates to two dates to the prom, his best friend tells him he is gay, and his usually strong academic record is in jeopardy thanks to a rather inappropriate claymation film he submitted in lieu of an English paper.

***Playing with Matches* by Brian Katcher**

Ten billion women in the world and the universe can't spare one for Leon Sanders, until he makes Melody laugh. Then the fun begins.

***Venomous* by Chris Krovatin**

Locke is a teenager with a huge anger problem which he calls "Venom". While trying to get the better of his venom, Locke makes some friends, falls in love, beats somebody up, gets a tattoo, and basically lives his teenaged life.

***Paper Towns* by John Green**

One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.

***Last Exit to Normal* by Michael B. Harmon**

Ben's father announces he's gay when Ben is 14 so his mom walks out. Three years and a whole lot of trouble later, Dad and his partner Edward take Ben to Rough Butte, Montana so Ben can grow up in a different environment.

***Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks* by E. Lockhart**

Frankie Landau-Banks at age 14: Debate Club. A mildly geeky girl attending a highly competitive boarding school. Frankie Landau-Banks at age 15: A knockout figure. A sharp tongue. A chip on her shoulder. And a gorgeous new senior boyfriend: the supremely goofy, word-obsessed Matthew Livingston. Frankie Landau-Banks. No longer the kind of girl to take "no" for an answer.

***Living Dead Girl* by Elizabeth Scott**

Kidnapped at 10 from a school field trip, and held captive by a psycho child molester until age 15, "Alice" has to choose her replacement, knowing she would rather be dead than alive.

***Stealing Heaven* by Elizabeth Scott**

In Heaven, Danielle decides she doesn't want to steal anymore even though it's all her mom has taught her to do well.

***Chanda's War* by Allan Stratton**

Chandra Kabelo, a teenaged African girl, must save her younger siblings after they are kidnapped and forced to serve as child soldiers in General Mandiki's rebel army.

***Sweethearts* by Sara Zarr**

After losing her soul mate, Cameron, when they were nine, Jennifer, now seventeen, transforms herself from the unpopular fat girl into the beautiful and popular Jenna, but Cameron's unexpected return dredges up memories that cause both social and emotional turmoil.

TEENS

Read all the books (or as many as you want) and select the ONE that you think is best. After you make your choice, return your ballot to:

- ☀ Your school or public librarian
- ☀ Email to: pgoonis@livonia.lib.mi.us
- ☀ Fold this ballot and mail using \$.44 postage

Librarians

You are free to make as many copies of this ballot as you need. Mail the TOTAL number of votes for EACH title to the address below OR email to: pgoonis@livonia.lib.mi.us

**ALL VOTES MUST BE RECEIVED BY
MAY 30, 2009**

The **Thumbs Up!** Award was established in 1986 to recognize the excellence in, and to celebrate the uniqueness of, Young Adult Literature. A committee, consisting of Young Adult and Teen Librarians, meets several times during the year to determine the winner. Winners are selected from books published in the U.S. during the previous year.

Beginning in 2001, the **Thumbs Up!** Committee has included a teen vote. Teens that are 12 to 18 years old are asked to help select the 2009 **Thumbs Up!** winner. The list of titles has been narrowed to twenty.

Michigan Library Association
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(517)394-2774

PAST WINNERS

2008 EVOLUTION, ME & OTHER FREAKS OF NATURE—Robin Brande

2007 RASH — Pete Hautman

2006 SLEEPING FRESHMEN NEVER LIE — David Lubar

2005 AIRBORN — Kenneth Oppel

2004 PIRATES! — Celia Rees

2003 AMERICA — E. R. Frank

2002 YOU DON'T KNOW ME — David Klass

2001 HOPE WAS HERE — Joan Bauer

2000 HARD LOVE — Ellen Wittlinger

1999 A DOOR NEAR HERE — Heather Quarles

1998 DOING TIME — Rob Thomas

1997 MR. WAS — Pete Hautman

1996 ONLY ALIEN ON THE PLANET — Kristen Randle

1995 THE RAMSAY SCALLOP — Frances Temple

1994 MAKE LEMONADE — Virginia Euwer Wolff

1993 SOMEWHERE IN THE DARKNESS — Walter Dean Myers

1992 ATHLETIC SHORTS — Chris Crutcher

1991 ROAD TO MEMPHIS — Mildred Taylor

1990 PHOENIX RISING — Cynthia Grant

1989 SEX EDUCATION — Jenny Davis

1988 YEAR OF THE GOPHER — Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

1987 FLIGHT OF THE CASSOWARY — John LaVert

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