

## Battle of the Books 2023-2024 Selection

1. **The Leaf Detective: how Margaret Lowman uncovered secrets in the rainforest** By Heather Lang (Picture Book)
  - a. Reading level 5.6
  - b. Audience Upper Elementary
  - c. Reviews- 3 Kirkus, Booklist, School Library Journal.
  - d. Overview- Includes bibliographical references and filmography. "Meg Lowman was determined to investigate the marvelous, undiscovered world of the rainforest treetops. Meg's perseverance and creativity allowed her to achieve this goal, but when this fantastic ecosystem started to disappear, Meg needed to act quickly"--Provided by publisher.
  
2. **King Sejong Invents an Alphabet** by Carol Kim (Picture Book)
  - a. Reading level K-3
  - b. Audience Lower Elementary
  - c. Reviews- 3 Kirkus, Booklist, School Library Journal.
  - d. Overview- Includes bibliographical references. "In 15th-century Korea, King Sejong was distressed. The complicated Chinese characters used for reading and writing meant only rich, educated people could read-and that was just the way they wanted it. But King Sejong thought all Koreans should be able to read and write, so he worked in secret for years to create a new Korean alphabet. King Sejong's strong leadership and determination to bring equality to his country make his 600-year-old story as relevant as ever"-- Provided by publisher.
  
3. **Squished** by Megan Wagner Lloyd
  - a. Reading level 2.7
  - b. Audience Upper Elementary
  - c. Reviews- 4 Kirkus, Booklist, School Library Journal, Publishers Weekly
  - d. Overview- "Eleven-year-old Avery Lee loves living in Hickory Valley, Maryland. She loves her neighborhood, school, and the end-of-summer fair she always goes to with her two best friends. But she's tired of feeling squished by her six siblings! They're noisy and chaotic and the younger kids love her a little too much. All Avery wants is her own room--her own space to be alone and make art. So she's furious when Theo, her grumpy older brother, gets his own room instead, and her wild baby brother, Max, moves into the room she already shares with her clinging sister Pearl! Avery hatches a plan to finally get her own room, all while trying to get Max to sleep at night, navigating changes in her friendships, and working on an art entry for the fair"--Provided by publisher.
  
4. **Odder** by Katherine Applegate

- a. Reading level 6.3
  - b. Audience Upper Elementary
  - c. Reviews- 2 Horn Book, Kirkus Reviews
  - d. Overview- Includes bibliographical references (pages 282-284). "Odder spends her days off the coast of central California, practicing her underwater acrobatics and spinning the quirky stories for which she's known. She's a fearless daredevil, curious to a fault. But when Odder comes face-to-face with a hungry great white shark, her life takes a dramatic turn, one that will challenge everything she believes about herself--and about the humans who hope to save her"--Provided by publisher.
- 5. Song for a Whale** by Lynne Kelly
- a. Reading level 5.3
  - b. Audience Upper Elementary
  - c. Reviews- 4 Booklist, Kirkus Review, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal
  - d. Overview- Twelve-year-old Iris and her grandmother, both deaf, drive from Texas to Alaska armed with Iris's plan to help Blue-55, a whale unable to communicate with other whales.
- 6. Dragons in a Bag** by Zetta Elliot
- a. Reading level 5.2
  - b. Audience Upper Elementary
  - c. Reviews- 6 Horn Book guide, Kirkus Reviews, Booklist, Horn Book Magazine, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal
  - d. Overview- In Brooklyn, nine-year-old Jax joins Ma, a curmudgeonly witch who lives in his building, on a quest to deliver three baby dragons to a magical world, and along the way discovers his true calling.
- 7. Klawde Evil Alien Warlord Cat** by Johnny Marciano
- a. Reading level 4.4
  - b. Audience Upper Elementary
  - c. Reviews- 3 Kirkus Reviews, Booklist, Publishers Weekly
  - d. Overview- Klawde, the exiled ruler of the planet Lyttyrboks, and Raj, who just moved from Brooklyn to tiny Elba, Oregon, forge an unlikely friendship as they find their footing in a strange new world.
- 8. The Losers Club** by Andrew Clements
- a. Reading level 5.5

- b. Audience Upper Elementary
- c. Reviews- 5 Kirkus Reviews, Booklist, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, Horn Book Magazine
- d. Overview- Alec, a sixth-grade bookworm always in trouble for reading instead of listening and participating in class, starts a book club, solely to have a place to read, and discovers that real life, although messy, can be as exciting as the stories in his favorite books.

**9. The Impossible Crime, Mac B Kid Spy Book 2** by Mac Barnett

- a. Reading level 5.5
- b. Audience Upper Elementary
- c. Reviews- 2 Kirkus Reviews, Common Sense Media
- d. Overview- In 1989 someone is threatening to steal the crown jewels, so the Queen of England summons Mac B. to England to protect them--and when they are stolen from a locked dungeon cell, where Mac and Holcroft, one of the warders, are supposed to be guarding them, it is up to Mac to figure out how they were stolen, and whether the thief is the descendant of an Irish soldier-of-fortune who tried to steal them in 1671, or someone else entirely.

**10. Me, Frida and the Secret of the Peacock Ring** by Angela Cervantes

- a. Reading level 4.7
- b. Audience Upper Elementary
- c. Reviews- 3 Kirkus Reviews, Booklist, School Library Journal.
- d. Overview- "Paloma Marquez is traveling to Mexico City, birthplace of her deceased father, for the very first time. She's hoping that spending time in Mexico will help her unlock memories of the too-brief time they spent together. While in Mexico, Paloma meets Lizzie and Gael, who present her with an irresistible challenge: The siblings want her to help them find a valuable ring that once belonged to beloved Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. Finding the ring means a big reward -- and the thanks of all Mexico. What better way to honor her father than returning a priceless piece of jewelry that once belonged to his favorite artist!"--Publisher.