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RDNG 645  
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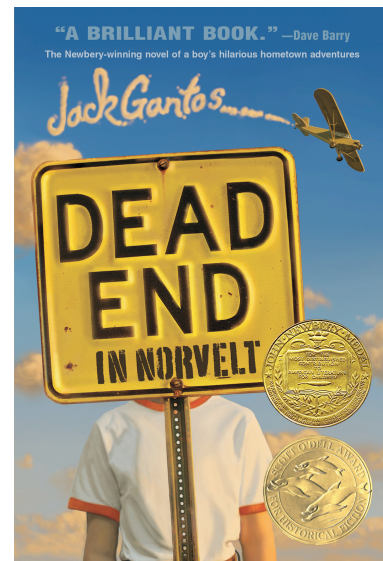
## Children's and Adolescent's Expository Text Bibliography

### **Dead End in Norvelt**

Gantos, J. (2011). *Dead End in Norvelt*. New York, NY : Farrar Straus Giroux

Humorous autobiography of the author Jack Gantos' summer of 1962. Grounded for the summer in the small town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania Jack's only reprieve is to assist his elderly neighbor Miss Volker. Together the two team up to write obituaries for the original members of Norvelt and through this Jack has many adventures and vicariously learns snippets of American history through the wisdom of Miss Volker.

Concepts / Perspectives: Norvelt is a dying town built via Roosevelt's New Deal. Small town values, dominant culture vs traditional values, old age, effects of war, death, and American History are common themes and perspectives woven throughout this book.



Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction: 2012 Winner

First awarded in 1984 the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction awards authors of children and young adult books who focus is on historical fiction. Each year the foundation choses the most outstanding example of historical fiction published the previous year by a U.S. publisher.

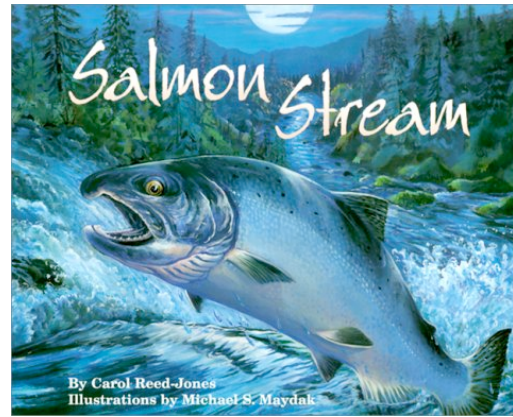
### **Salmon Stream**

Reed-Jones, C. (2001). *Salmon Stream*. Nevada City, CA : Dawn Publications. (Illus. M. Maydak)

Poetic and accurate description of the complete life cycle of a Pacific Salmon. Through examining each stage of the life cycle the author adds valuable information about clean water, predators, fish and ocean animals. The vivid illustrations along with the text show how

interconnected salmon are with their habitat. The book ends with a section of salmon facts and information on what makes a good habitat for salmon.

Concepts: Complete life cycle of the Pacific Salmon, types of salmon, predators, different habitats of the Pacific Salmon, what constitutes a good salmon stream.



### CBC/NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book: 2002

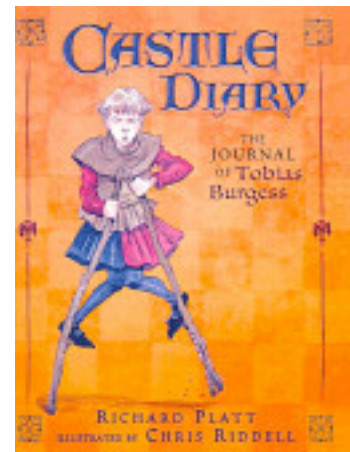
Children’s Book Council (CBC) and National Science Teacher Association (NSTA) appoint a panel to create a list of the year’s outstanding science trade books. When the award started it was limited to grades K-8 but since 2002 the list has been expanded to high school. According to the NSTA, “Reading science trade books is the perfect way for students to build literacy skills while learning science content.”

### **Castle Diary: The Journal of Tobias Burgess**

Platt, R. (1999). *Castle Diary: The Journal of Tobias Burgess*. Somerville, MA : Candlewick Press. (Illus. C. Riddell)

This book is supposed to be the 13th century journal of Tobias Burgess, an 11 year old boy who is sent to be a page at the castle of his uncle, John Burgess, Baron of Strandborough. Written in diary form the book depicts life within the castle and medieval life in general. Vivid illustrations help to bring day-to-day life within the castle alive.

Concepts / Perspectives: Perspective of medieval castle life from the viewpoint of a servant. Concepts covered range from castle-building, armour, weapons, hierarchy and the feudal system.



### Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People: 2000

The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) in collaboration with the Children’s Book Council (CBC) evaluate and select “books that emphasize human relations, represent a diversity

of groups that are sensitive to a broad range of cultural experiences, present an original theme or a fresh slant on a traditional topic, are easily readable and of high literary quality.”

## **Sneeze!**

Siy, A. (2007). *Sneeze!*. Watertown, MA : Charlesbridge (Illus. D. Kunkel)

Nine different reasons for sneezing are examined with enhanced images taken from both scanning electron microscopes (SEM) and transmission electron microscopes (TEM). Micrographs magnify not only the common irritants that cause a sneeze but human neurons and nerves as well. Then a detailed explanation of the process of the sneeze is demonstrated through descriptive text, vivid diagrams and micrographs. The book ends with interesting facts about sneezing and micrographs.



Concepts: What causes a sneeze, the physics behind a sneeze, nine common allergens and irritants.

API Science Communication Awards Winners: 2008

Each year the American Institute of Physics (API) awards books for excellence in “Science Communication in Physics and Astronomy for the non-specialist” in children’s writing for ages 15 years old or younger.

CBC/NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book: 2008

Children’s Book Council (CBC) and National Science Teacher Association (NSTA) appoint a panel to create a list of the year’s outstanding science trade books. When the award started it was limited to grades K-8 but since 2002 the list has been expanded to high school. According to the NSTA, “Reading science trade books is the perfect way for students to build literacy skills while learning science content.”

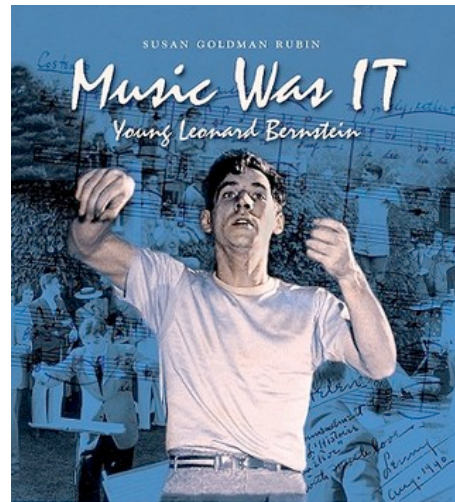
## **Music Was It: Young Leonard Bernstein**

Goldman Rubin, S. (2011). *Music Was It: Young Leonard Bernstein*. Watertown, MA : Charlesbridge

Well researched biography of Leonard Bernstein from a toddler to his conducting debut with the New York Philharmonic at the age of 25. The biography follows Lenny’s education, musical

influences and friendships. Information is gathered from interviews, family memoirs, photos, concert programs, early doodles and letters, and excerpts from musical scores which all help enhance the text. This book does a wonderful job of celebrating a unique American musical genius.

Perspectives / Concepts: The perspective the adolescent life of Leonard Bernstein becoming one of the first conductors born and educated in the United States to receive worldwide acclaim. Concepts include Jewish roots and the coming of age during the persecution of Jews in Europe, musical theory.



### Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People: 2012

The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) in collaboration with the Children's Book Council (CBC) evaluate and select "books that emphasize human relations, represent a diversity of groups that are sensitive to a broad range of cultural experiences, present an original theme or a fresh slant on a traditional topic, are easily readable and of high literary quality."

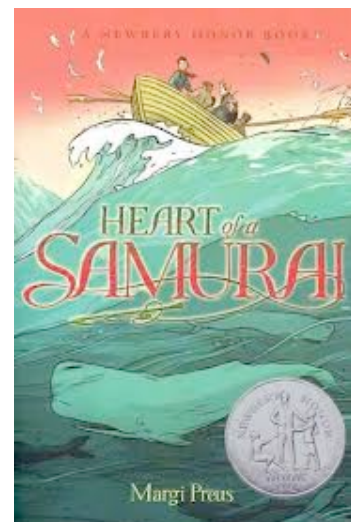
### YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults Finalist: 2012

Young Adult Library Services Association honors the best nonfiction books published for young adults.

## **Heart of a Samurai**

Preus, M. (2010). *Heart of a Samurai*. New York, NY : Amulet Books (Illus. Manjiro)

Based on the real events of a fourteen year old boy named Manjiro who was shipwrecked on the island of Torishima. Along with four friends they were rescued by an American whaling ship, eventually bringing him to the United States. Manjiro is believed to be the first Japanese person to set foot in America and has been called "the boy who discovered America." After spending time living and fishing in the United States he is able to finance a trip back to Japan. Initially jailed upon his return the real events of the arrival of Commodore Perry to Japan thrusts Manjiro into into a unique position in the negotiation between the Emperor of Japan and Perry regarding Japan opening its doors to the West.





Perspective / Concepts: Japanese and U.S. history, Japanese isolationism, the whaling industry, prejudice and racism in both the U.S. and Japan in the early 1800's

Newbery Honor Book: 2011

Award given to the author of “the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. Considered one of the most prestigious awards for children’s literature in the United States. Newbery Honor was started in 1971 to honor the runners-up to the Newbery Medal, “which must be a subset of the runners-up on the final ballot, either the leading runners-up on that ballot or the leaders on one further ballot that excludes the winner.”

### **Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down**

Davis Pinkney, A. (2010). *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down*. New York, NY : Little, Brown and Company (Illus. B. Pinkney)

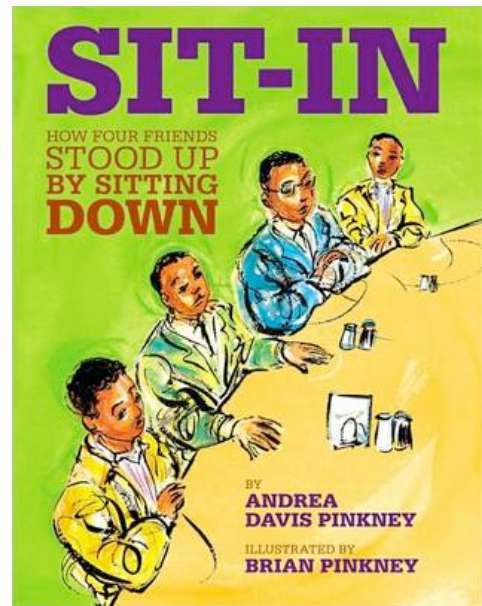
This book was written to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Woolworth’s lunch counter sit-in. February 1, 1960 four college students staged a peaceful protest that became a “defining moment in the struggle for racial equality in the civil rights movement.” Following Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s words of peaceful protest and nonviolent resistance the boys served as a catalyst that sparked other peaceful protests throughout the south.

Perspective / Concepts: Civil Rights Movement, racism, nonviolent protest, segregation, Jim Crow Laws, Civil Rights Act of 1964

Flora Stieglitz Straus Award: 2011 Winner

Annual award for a “distinguished work of nonfiction which serves as an inspiration to young people.” The award honors Flora Straus who believed that “books about varying cultures enrich and help all children in their growth and championed diverse opinions and points of view.”

Carter G. Woodson Award: 2011 Winner

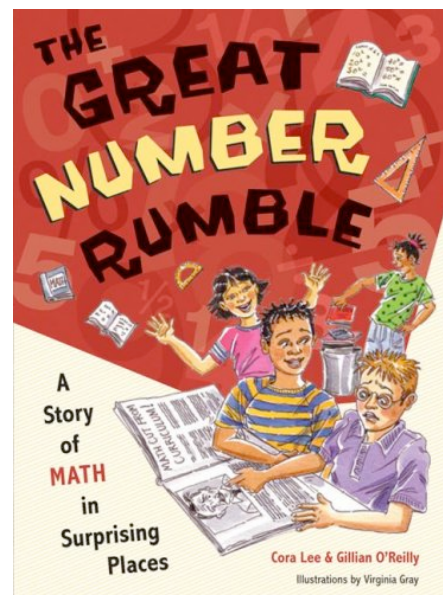


The National Council for the Social Studies established the Carter G Woodson Book Award “for the most distinguished social science books appropriate for young readers that depict ethnicity in the United States ... sensitively and accurately.”

## **The Great Number Rumble**

Lee, C. & O’Reilly, G. (2007). *The Great Number Rumble: A Story of Math in Surprising Places*. Richmond Hill, ON Canada : Firefly Books Ltd. (Illus. V. Gray)

The Director of Education, Lawrence Lake, declares that all math curriculum will be removed from the school curriculum, effective immediately. Two best friends, Sam and Jeremy, have differing views on the usefulness of math. Sam challenges the director’s view that math has very little use, value and meaning in student’s lives beyond basic arithmetic. The book is packed with Sam showing the town surprising places where mathematical ideas and concepts can be found but are often unrecognized as such. The book also contains “featurettes” that extend the mathematical topic covered in the chapter. Along the same lines the book highlights brief historical bios of famous mathematicians.



Concepts: geometry, tessellations, fractions, 3D animation, mathematics in nature, architecture, exponential growth, famous mathematicians

American Institute of Physics Science Writing Award: Winner 2009

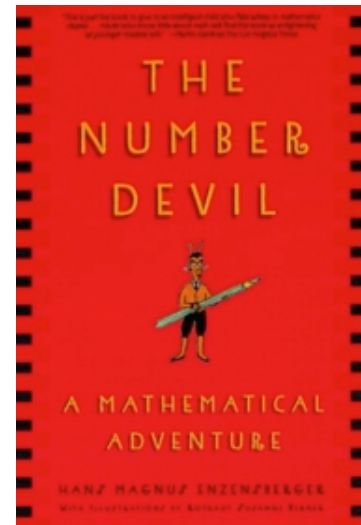
Each year the American Institute of Physics (API) awards books for excellence in “Science Writing in Physics and Astronomy for the non-specialist” in children’s writing for ages 15 years old or younger.

## **The Number Devil**

Enzensberger, H. (1997). *The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure*. New York, NY : Picador. (Illus. M Heim)

Robert is a boy who suffers from math anxiety. His recurring dreams have recently been interrupted by the Number Devil (Teplotaxl). Over the course of twelve nights/dreams the Number Devil teaches Robert basic mathematical concepts. Through full page illustrations and various graphs the author and illustrator teach basic math in an innovative way.

Concepts: Zero, negative numbers, exponentiation, prime numbers, square roots, triangular numbers, Fibonacci numbers, Pascal's triangle, triangular array, factorials, natural numbers, infinite, irrational numbers, Euclidian geometry, proofs, imaginary numbers.



ALSC Notable Children's Books: 1999

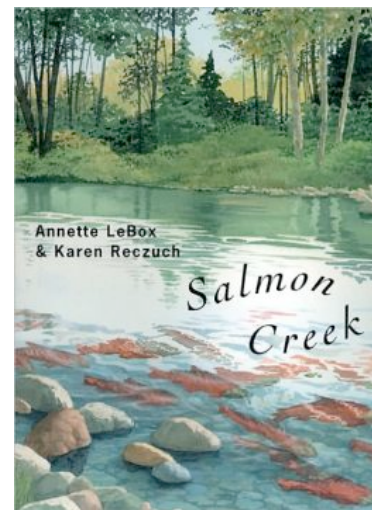
The Association for Library Service to Children “identifies the best of the best in children’s books. According to the Notables Criteria, “notable” is defined as: Worth of notice, important, distinguished, outstanding. As applied to children’s books, notable should be thought to include books of especially commendable quality, books that exhibit venturesome creativity (birth through age 14) ... that reflect and encourage children’s interests in exemplary ways.”

## Salmon Creek

Lebox, A & Reczuch, K. (2002). *Salmon Creek*. Toronto, Ontario Canada : Groundwood Books. (Illus. K. Reczuch)

A lyrical picture book chronicles the complete life cycle of Sumi the coho salmon. The book begins and ends in a stream in the Pacific Northwest. Throughout the book the reader is introduced to scientific terms that are brought to life by the vivid watercolor paintings. The book concludes with a detailed timeline/life cycle of salmon of the Pacific Northwest and a warning of threats to Pacific Salmon.

Concepts: alliteration, onomatopoeia, slant rhyme, life cycle, coho salmon, ecology, predators



Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize: 2003 Winner

The Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize is awarded annually as the British Columbia Book Prize for Illustrated Children's Literature. Both author and illustrator are awarded for the year's best picture books, picture story books and illustrated non-fiction books.

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