

YOUNG ADULT NOT QUITE SEQUOYAH FOR 2009

Sponsored by the Sequoyah Young Adult Reading Team
Wednesday April 23, 2008, 7:30a.m.-8:30a.m.

What is “Not Quite Sequoyah”?

Each year the Young Adult reading team reads numerous books in order to pick the final ones for the masterlist. For the 2009 list, we had 331 books under consideration. These were Young Adult books, both fiction and non-fiction, published in 2006 by authors whose primary residence was in the United States. Also, each of these 331 books had at least two positive reviews in the major book review journals.

In order to get these 331 books down to the 15 which finally made our 2009 masterlist, we realized that dozens of very good books were going to get left out. We feel that many of these books deserved some sort of recognition, which leads to our annual “Not Quite Sequoyah” list.

The reasons these following books did not make the final masterlist, are numerous. For instance, it could be the book was more ideal for Senior High School students rather than the target Ages 11-14 that the Sequoyah YA list strives for. But more times than not, it was simply that there was so many good books, and something had to go.

We hope you find this program and the list of books helpful.

This list, like the official masterlists, is not intended to be an automatic recommendation of the books. Because selection policies vary, please apply your specific selection criteria to each title and purchase those titles that best meet the needs of your library or school.

It is not the intention of the committees that every student must read every book on this list or the official masterlists.

Young Adult Not Quite Sequoyah 2008-2009

Abbott, Tony. *Firegirl*. Little Brown. 145p. (Ages 8-12). A middle school boy's life is changed when Jessica, a girl disfigured by burns, starts attending his Catholic school while receiving treatment at a local hospital.

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn. *Golden*. Delacorte. 247p. (Ages 12-17) When her family moves to Oklahoma from California, high school sophomore Lissy uses her ability to see other people's auras to try to uncover and stop the sinister activities of a teacher at her new school.

Bell, Hilari. *The Prophecy*. Eos. 194p. (Ages 10-14) Guided by the words of a prophecy, Prince Perryndon, who loves books more than swords, sets out to slay the black dragon that is destroying his kingdom.

Bloor, Edward. *London Calling*. Knopf. 289p. (Ages 10-14) Seventh-grader Martin Conway believes that his life is monotonous and dull until the night the antique radio he uses as a night-light transports him to the bombing of London in 1940.

Brown, Don. *The Notorious Izzy Fink*. Roaring Brook. 150p. (Ages 10-14) In the 1890's, thirteen-year-old Sam copes with poverty and violence on the streets of New York's Lower East Side.

Bryant, Jen. *Pieces of Georgia*. Knopf. 166p. (Ages 11-14) In journal entries to her mother, a gifted artist who died suddenly, thirteen-year-old Georgia McCoy reveals how her life changes after she receives an anonymous gift membership to a nearby art museum.

Budhos, Marina. *Ask Me No Questions*. Anthenium. 162p. (Ages 12-17) Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family.

Carey, Janet Lee. *The Beast of Noor*. Anthenium. 497p. (Ages 10-14) Fifteen-year-old Miles Ferrell uses the rare and special gift he is given to break the curse of the Shriker, a murderous creature reportedly brought to Shalem Wood by his family's clan centuries before.

Carter, Ally. *I'd Tell You I Love You But Then I'd Have To Kill You*. Hyperion. 284p. (Ages 13-17) As a sophomore at a secret spy school and the daughter of a former CIA operative, Cammie is sheltered from "normal teenage life" until she meets a local boy while on a class surveillance mission.

Cooney, Caroline B. *A Friend at Midnight*. Delacorte. 183p. (Ages 12-17) After rescuing her younger brother abandoned at a busy airport by their divorced father, fifteen-year-old Lily finds her faith in God sorely tested as she struggles to rescue herself from the bitterness and anger she feels.

Cooney, Caroline B. *Hit the Road*. Delacorte. 176p. (Ages 12-17) Sixteen-year-old Brittany acts as chauffeur for her grandmother and three other eighty-plus-year-old women going to what is supposedly their college reunion, on a long drive that involves lies, theft, and kidnappings.

Darrow, Sharon. *Trash*. Candlewick Press. 148p. (Ages 12-17) Graffiti artists Sissy Lexie and younger brother Boy try to maintain a sense of family while living in a series of foster homes and staying with their older sister, until a tragic accident forces Sissy to make decisions about her future.

Dessen, Sarah. *Just Listen*. Viking. 371p. (Ages 13-17) Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life.

Ferguson, Alane. *The Christopher Killer: a Forensic Mystery*. Viking. 274p. (Ages 12-17) On the payroll as an assistant to her coroner father, seventeen-year-old Cameryn Mahoney uses her knowledge of forensic medicine to catch the killer of a friend while putting herself in terrible danger.

Fiedler, Lisa. *Romeo's Ex: Rosalind's Story*. Henry Holt. 246p. (Ages 12-17) In a story based on the Shakespeare play, sixteen-year-old Roseline, who is studying to be a healer, becomes romantically entangled with the Montague family even as her beloved young cousin, Juliet Capulet, defies the family feud to secretly marry Romeo.

**Fleischman, Sid. *Escape: the Story of the Great Houdini*. Greenwillow Books. 210p. (Ages 9-13). A biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926. Profiling his early years, personal life, and great accomplishments in show business, the story of the famous magician, Harry Houdini, comes to life through a review of his greatest tricks and most amazing feats, complete with index, photos, and author's notes.

**Fradin, Judith Bloom. *5,000 Miles to Freedom: Ellen and William Craft's Flight from Slavery*. National Geographic. 96p. (Ages 10-14). Ellen and William Craft were two of the few slaves to ever escape from the Deep South. Their first

escape took them to Philadelphia, then on to Boston pursued by slave hunters, and finally 5000 miles across the ocean to England, where they were able to settle peacefully.

**Freedman, Russell. *Freedom Walkers: the Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott*. Holiday House. 114p. (Ages 10-15) Covers the events surrounding and including the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the end of segregation on buses.

Garden, Nancy. *Endgame*. Harcourt. 304p. (Ages 14-17) Fifteen-year-old Gray Wilton, bullied at school and ridiculed by an unfeeling father for preferring drums to hunting, goes on a shooting rampage at his high school.

Gratz, Alan. *Samurai Shortstop*. Dial. 280p. (Ages 13-17) While obtaining a Western education at a prestigious Japanese boarding school in 1890, sixteen-year-old Toyo also receives traditional samurai training which has profound effects on both his baseball game and his relationship with his father.

Griffis, Molly Levite. *Paradise on the Prairie*. Eakin Press. 237p. (Ages 10-14) Orphaned boys from New York City are taken to Oklahoma Territory to be adopted by families. An official Oklahoma Centennial book.

Grimes, Nikki. *The Road to Paris*. Putnam. 153p. (Ages 8-12) Inconsolable at being separated from her older brother, eight-year-old Paris is apprehensive about her new foster family but just as she learns to trust them, she faces a life-changing decision.

Hautman, Pete. *Rash*. Simon & Schuster. 249p. (Ages 12-17) In a future society that has decided it would "rather be safe than free," sixteen-year-old Bo's anger control problems land him in a tundra jail where he survives with the help of his running skills and an artificial intelligence program named Bork.

Hobbs, Will. *Crossing the Wire*. HarperCollins. 216p. (Ages 10-14) Fifteen-year-old Victor Flores journeys north in a desperate attempt to cross the Arizona border and find work in the United States to support his family in central Mexico.

Hoffman, Alice. *Incantation*. Little, Brown. 166p. (Ages 13-17) During the Spanish Inquisition, sixteen-year-old Estrella, brought up a Catholic, discovers her family's true Jewish identity, and when their secret is betrayed by Estrella's best friend, the consequences are tragic.

Hokenson, Terry. *The Winter Road*. Front Street. 175p. (Ages 9-12) Seventeen-year-old Willa, still grieving over the death of her older brother and the neglect

of her father, decides to fly a small plane to fetch her mother from Northern Ontario, but when the plane crashes she is all alone in the snowy wilderness.

Jaffe, Michele. *Bad Kitty*. HarperCollins. 268p. (Ages 12-17) While vacationing with her family in Las Vegas, seventeen-year-old Jasmine stumbles upon a murder mystery that she attempts to solve with the help of her friends, recently arrived from California.

Key, Watt. *Alabama Moon*. Farrar Straus Giroux. 294p. (Ages 10-14) After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon leaves their forest shelter home and is sent to an Alabama institution, becoming entangled in the outside world he has never known and making good friends, a relentless enemy, and finally a new life.

Kladstrup, Kristin. *The Book of Story Beginnings*. Candlewick Press. 360p. (Ages 10-13) After moving with her parents to Iowa, twelve-year-old Lucy discovers a mysterious notebook that can bring stories to life and which has a link to the 1914 disappearance of her great uncle.

Klein, Lisa. *Ophelia*. Bloomsbury. 328p. (Ages 12-17) In a story based on Shakespeare's Hamlet, Ophelia tells of her life in the court at Elsinore, her love for Prince Hamlet, and her escape from the violence in Denmark.

Krisher, Trudy. *Fallout*. Holiday House. 315p. (Ages 8-12) The move of an unconventional Hollywood family to a coastal North Carolina town in the early 1950s results not only in an unlikely friendship between high school age Genevieve and newcomer Brenda but also in a challenge to traditional ways of thinking.

Kudlinski, Kathleen V. *My Lady Pocahontas*. Marshall Cavendish. 273p. (Ages 8-12) Nuttagwon, daughter of a minor Pamunkey chief, is still a girl when Pocahontas's vision of peace between their people and the newly-arrived English colonists bonds the two in a lifelong friendship as they work together to make the vision a reality.

Larson, Kirby. *Hattie Big Sky*. Delacorte. 289p. (Ages 12-17) After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe.

McCormick, Patricia. *Sold*. Hyperion. 263p. (Ages 12-17) Thirteen-year-old Lakshmi leaves her poor mountain home in Nepal thinking that she is to work in the city as a maid only to find that she has been sold into the sex slave trade in India and that there is no hope of escape.

Miller, Kristen. *Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City*. Bloomsbury. 387p. (Ages 10-13) Life becomes more interesting for Ananka Fishbein when, at the age of twelve, she discovers an underground room in the park across from her New York City apartment and meets a mysterious girl called Kiki Strike who claims that she, too, wants to explore the subterranean world.

Pearsall, Shelley. *All of the Above*. Little, Brown. 234p. (Ages 8-12) Five urban middle school students, their teacher, and other community members relate how a school project to build the world's largest tetrahedron affects the lives of everyone involved.

Reinhardt, Dana. *A Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life*. Wendy Lamb. 224p. (Ages 12-17) Sixteen-year-old atheist Simone Turner-Bloom's life changes in unexpected ways when her parents convince her to make contact with her biological mother, an agnostic from a Jewish family who is losing her battle with cancer.

Reasu, Laura. *What the Moon Saw*. Delacorte. 258p. (Ages 10-14) Fourteen-year-old Clara Luna spends the summer with her grandparents in the tiny, remote village of Yucuyoo, Mexico, learning about her grandmother's life as a healer, her father's decision to leave home for the United States, and her own place in the world.

Ritter, John H. *Under the Baseball Moon*. Philomel. 283p. (Ages 10-14) Andy and Glory, two fifteen-year-olds from Ocean Beach, California, pursue their respective dreams of becoming a famous musician and a professional softball player.

Roberts, Judson. *Viking Warrior: Denmark A.D. 845*. HarperCollins. 360p. (Ages 12-17) Despite being the son of a chieftain and a princess, fourteen-year-old Halfdan lives as a slave in Denmark in A.D. 845 but through a tragic bargain he gains his freedom and sets out to claim his birthright.

Sachar, Louis. *Small Steps*. Delacorte. 257p. (Ages 12-17) Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along.

Shusterman, Neil. *Duckling Ugly (Dark Fusion #3)*. Dutton. 211p. (Ages 12-17) When sixteen-year-old Cara, a girl ugly enough to break mirrors, is drawn to a place where everyone can be beautiful, her deepest desire is to return home to say goodbye--and get revenge.

Smith, Sherri L. *Sparrow*. Delacorte. 184p. (Ages 12-17) After the death of the beloved grandmother who raised her, high-school student Kendall Washington travels to New Orleans expecting to be taken in by her only living relative, an aunt, but the reunion does not go as planned.

Tharp, Tim. *Knights of the Hill Country*. Knopf. 233p. (Ages 12-17) In his senior year, high school star linebacker Hampton Greene finally begins to think for himself and discovers that he might be interested in more than just football.

Torrey, Michelle. *Voyage of Midnight*. Knopf. 232p. (Ages 10-14) In the early nineteenth century, when his sea-captain uncle invites him to assist the ship's surgeon on his next voyage, orphaned, fourteen-and-a-half-year-old Phillip, eager to be with family, accepts only to find out that his uncle is a slave trader.

Turner, Megan Whalen. *The King of Attolia*. Greenwillow Books. 387p. (Ages 10-14) Eugenides, still known as a Thief of Eddis, faces palace intrigue and assassins as he strives to prove himself both to the people of Attolia and to his new bride, their queen.

Vaught, Susan. *Trigger*. Bloomsbury. 304p. (Ages 12-17) Teenager Jersey Hatch must work through his extensive brain damage to figure out why he decided to shoot himself.

Weeks, Sarah. *Jumping the Scratch*. Laura Geringer. 167p. (Ages 10-14) After moving with his mother to a trailer park to care for an injured aunt, eleven-year-old Jamie Reardon struggles to cope with a deeply buried secret.

Yang, Gene Luen. *American Born Chinese*. First Second. 233p. (Ages 12-17) Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture.

**=Nonfiction title