

# Texas Bluebonnet Award

## Annotated 2013-2014 Master List

THE TEXAS BLUEBONNET COMMITTEE AND THE TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SPONSOR  
THE TEXAS BLUEBONNET AWARD READING LIST FOR GRADES 3-6  
SOLELY TO ENCOURAGE FREE VOLUNTARY READING.



Aguirre, Jorge. 2012. **Giants Beware!** Illustrated by Rafael Rosado. New York: First Second. Paperback: 978-1-59643-582-7.

Beware, the baby feet eating giant! Our spunky heroine Claudette takes her baking-loving brother and best friend Marie on a journey to slay the giant. Will the villagers get to them in time? Find out in this action-packed graphic novel debut!

Applegate, Katherine. 2012. **The One and Only Ivan.** Illustrated by Patricia Castelao. New York: Harper. Trade: 978-0-06-199225-4, Library Binding: 978-0-06-1992261.

The Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade is home to a mangy group of performing animals which includes friends Ivan the gorilla, Stella the elephant and a stray dog, Bob. They are soon joined by Ruby, a baby elephant who is frightened and confused, after being torn away from her elephant family. Ivan is philosophical and expresses his view of life through art, which is sold by the owner of the mall. The financial situation causes both fame and the changes which accompany notoriety.

Burg, Shana. 2012. **Laugh with the Moon.** New York: Random House. Trade: 978-0-385-73471-4, Library Binding: 978-0-385-90469-8, E-book: 978-0-375-98568-3.

Clare's father has dragged her to Malawi where he is working as a doctor in a hospital. She soon learns the reality of life in the rural village, and it is nothing like her teenage existence in the United States. Texan Shana Burg chronicles Clare's mindset, as she navigates the ups and downs of being a kid in this African nation.

Chin, Jason. 2011. **Coral Reefs.** New York: Roaring Brook Press. Trade: 978-1-59643-563-6.

Imagine opening a book and suddenly finding the room filled with water and animals from the ocean. Take a journey to the coral reefs in this informative story that mixes reality with fantasy.

Clifton, Lutricia. 2012. **Freaky Fast Frankie Joe.** New York: Holiday House. Trade: 978-0-82342367-5.

Frankie Joe and his mom live a laid back life in Texas, but a string of bad choices lands his mom in jail, and Frankie Joe finds himself living in Illinois with the dad and stepfamily he never knew he had. Trying to make the best of a difficult situation, he uses his bicycle to deliver pizza in the hopes of earning enough money to bike back home to Texas. Through an unusual group of characters, Frankie Joe learns the meaning of responsibility, family and the joy of finding a place where you belong.

Fern, Tracey. 2012. **Barnum's Bones.** Illustrated by Boris Kulikov. New York: Margaret Ferguson Books / Farrar Straus Giroux. Trade: 978-0-374-30516-1.

Even as a young boy, Barnum Brown collected rocks and fossils; as he grew so did his passion, which eventually led to the discovery of the infamous dinosaur, Tyrannosaurus Rex. With larger-than-life illustrations, readers will follow Barnum's expeditions through this lively biography.

Grandits, John. 2011. **10 Rules You Absolutely Must Not Break If You Want to Survive the School Bus.** Illustrated by Michael Allen Austin. Boston: Clarion Books. Trade: 978-0-618-78822-4.

Kyle's older brother is quite eager to share his "advice" about the rules of conduct for survival on the school bus. Problem is, the advice about seat location, bullies, girls, and driver, terrifies Kyle! The twists and turns of his school bus adventure will delight all!

Harris, R.P. 2012. **Tua and the Elephant.** Illustrated by Taeun Yoo. San Francisco: Chronicle Books. Trade: 978-0-8118-7781-7.

First-time author R.P. Harris introduces the reader to Tua, a ten-year-old girl who lives in Chiang Mai, Thailand. On a visit to the town's colorful night market, she encounters a beautiful elephant. Unfortunately, two scurrilous mahouts own the mistreated animal. So begins Tua's adventurous journey through the Thai countryside in hopes of getting the animal to the elephant refuge!

Kalman, Maira. 2012. **Looking at Lincoln.** New York: Nancy Paulsen Books. Trade: 978-0-399-24039-3.

Maira Kalman's bright illustrations and intriguing story create a unique portrait of our 16<sup>th</sup> president. This fresh perspective on Abraham Lincoln is filled with unusual facts as well as personal musings.

Lorenzi, Natalie Dias. 2012. **Flying the Dragon.** Watertown MA: Charlesbridge. Reinforced Library Binding: 978-1-58089-434-0, Ebook: 978-1-60734-449-0.

When Sky's relatives from Japan suddenly move to the United States, Skye and her cousin Hiroshi question where they belong. Can they find common ground by learning each other's languages and sharing their grandfather's passion for kite flying battles? First-time author, Natalie Dias Lorenzi will leave readers feeling satisfied and anxiously awaiting her next novel.

MacLachlan, Patricia. 2011. **Waiting for the Magic**. Illustrated by Amy June Bates. New York: Atheneum Books. Trade: 978-1-4169-2745-7, Ebook: 978-1-4424-3125-6.

On the morning Papa left, Mama decided to take Elinor and Will to get the dog Papa had never wanted. At the animal shelter, they found four very compatible canines, and to avoid deciding on just one, Mama declared they would adopt all four, plus a cat. Surprisingly, all five animals talk, and four-year-old Elinor can hear them. So, starts the magic!

Mlynowski, Sarah. 2012. **Whatever After: Fairest of All**. New York: Scholastic. Trade: 978-0-545-40330-6.

Once upon a time, life for a brother and sister gets turned upside down when the magic mirror in their basement transports them to a magical land filled with strangely familiar characters. A girl with fair skin and red lips, a poisoned apple and evil stepmother stand in their way to make things right. After that, will they ever get home?

Neri, G. 2011. **Ghetto Cowboy**. Illustrated by Jesse Joshua Watson. Summerville, MA: Candlewick. Trade: 978-0-7636-4922-7, Ebook: 978-0-7636-5449-8, Audiobook: Brilliance, unabridged 978-1-4558-2150-1 (CD), 978-1-4558-2152-5 (MP3-CD), 978-1-4558-4470-8, (Pre-loaded Digital Player - Playaway).

Frustrated by his bad choices, Cole's mom drives through the night from Detroit to Philadelphia, to relinquish the parenting of Cole to Harper, the father Cole has never known. Harper is the legendary hero of the historic Philadelphia stables! This story mixes modern urban life with traditional cowboy values of hard work and doing the right thing.

Palacio, R.J. 2012. **Wonder**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. Trade: 978-0-375-86902-0, Library: 978-0-375-96902-7, Ebook: 978-0-375-89988-1, Audiobook Brilliance, unabridged: 978-1-4558-4420-3 (CD), 978-1-4558-4422-7 (MP3 CD), 978-1-4558-7065-3 (Playaway).

Born with a severe facial deformity, Auggie's life has consisted of an endless series of surgeries, while being home schooled by his mother. For the first time in his life, he is going to attend the local school as a fifth grader. Author R.J. Palacio's first novel is an uplifting, powerful, realistic read, and you will be cheering for Auggie all the way!

Potter, Ellen. 2012. **The Humming Room**. New York: Feiwel and Friends. Trade: 978-0-312-64438-3.

Mystery, ghosts, gardens, oh my! Twelve year old Roo Fanshaw's specialty is hiding. After being sent to live with an eccentric uncle she never knew in an uninhabited mansion on Cough Rock Island. What does she discover in the mansion and what are the strange noises she hears? This new mystery is loosely-based on the classic book *The Secret Garden*.

Scattergood, Augusta. 2012. **Glory Be**. New York: Scholastic. Hardcover: 978-0-545-33180-7.

What if you couldn't go to the neighborhood pool because of the color of your skin? Augusta Scattergood's debut novel is a Southern-inspired story set in 1964. In this moving story we follow Glory through a memorable summer of friendships, sisterly love, racial tension, and her fight for equality.

Shannon, David. 2012. **Jangles: a BIG Fish Story**. New York: The Blue Sky Press. Hardcover: 978-0-545-14312-7.

"I am more than a fish. I am a storyteller and a story." –Jangles. Tall tales of the biggest fish ever caught are centuries old. David Shannon has created a colorful tale from the fish's point of view. Readers will be hooked by Shannon's lively illustrations and exaggerated text.

Sherry, Maureen. 2010. **Walls Within Walls**. Illustrated by Adam Stower. New York: Katherine Tegen. Trade: 978-06-176700-5.

In her debut novel, Maureen Sherry takes us on an adventure through Manhattan. The Smithfork family moves into an old apartment and find themselves solving a mystery with clues all around them. Who can they trust? How do they read the clues built into their apartment to find the treasure before it's too late?

Sweet, Melissa. 2011. **Balloons Over Broadway: the True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade**. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Trade: 978-0-547-19945-0.

As a child, Tony Sarg loved working with things that moved, like marionettes. He used this passion to design incredible window displays and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. His invention, air-filled rubber floats, part puppet and part balloon, are now known the world over, delighting children and adults alike. Masterful collage and found object illustrations make this a book to remember.

Varon, Sara. 2011. **Bake Sale**. New York: First Second. Hardcover: 978-1-59643-740-1, Paperback: 978-1-59643-419-6.

Cupcake happens to be an actual cupcake who plays drums and owns a bakery. He also is saving for his dream vacation to Turkey, to meet his idol, Turkish Delight, the chef. This fun graphic novel includes recipes to bake your own desserts. Kids will eat up this delectable treat!