

2014-2015

## Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) Grades 3rd-5th

Annotated Booklist developed by Karen Fischer, Youth Services Manager at Salem Public Library

These titles are selected with the reading level and maturity of fourth and fifth graders in mind. You may feel that the content and/or theme of one or two of these titles is inappropriate for your child. The OBOB committee recommends that you read and discuss these books with your child. A book that stretches a child's thinking is a great opportunity to discuss world events and your family's values.

**The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester** by Barbara O'Connor AR 4.7, 770L, 168 pages

Staying in Carter, Georgia at his grandfather's house, Owen captures an enormous bullfrog he names Tooley, evades his neighbor, Violet, and makes a fantastic summer discovery.

**Gaby, Lost and Found** by Angela Cervantes AR 4.1, 640L, 220 pages

While volunteering at the local animal shelter, Gaby identifies with the lost and abandoned animals after her mother is deported to Honduras, a situation complicated when her favorite cat is claimed by its original owners.

**Kizzy Ann Stamps** by Jeri Watts AR 6.4, Lexile 920L, 183 pages

In 1963, Kizzy Ann prepares for her first year at an integrated school, worrying about the color of her skin, her facial scar, and whether anyone at the white school will like her. With Shag, her border collie, at her side, she sets out to live a life as sweet as syrup on cornbread.

**The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane** by Kate DiCamillo AR 4.4, 700L, 198 pages

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud porcelain rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him. Hard times open Edward's heart as he journeys through a series of owners and listens to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

**A Nest for Celeste: A Story About Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home** by Henry Cole

AR 4.5, 730L, 342 pages

Celeste, a New Orleans area mouse longing for a real home, is befriended by and is an inspiration to teenaged Joseph, assistant to the artist and naturalist John James Audubon, at the Oakley plantation in 1821. Celeste also makes friends with a thrush named Cornelius, a groundhog named Ellis, and an osprey named Lafayette.

**Night of the Twisters** by Ivy Ruckman AR 4.7, 790L, 153 pages

After a devastating tornado destroys his neighborhood and much of Grand Island, Nebraska, survivor Dan Hatch, along with his baby brother and best friend, fears for the safety of the rest of his family.

**The One and Only Ivan** by Katherine Applegate AR 3.6, 570L, 305 pages

Ivan, a gorilla, has lived for years in a circus-themed mall and seldom thinks about his life in the jungle. When Ivan meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he decides that he must find her a better life. (2013 Newbery Medal winner).

**Rules** by Cynthia Lord AR 3.9, 780L, 200 pages

Twelve-year-old Catherine develops rules to keep her autistic brother from embarrassing her in public, but her life becomes more complicated when she befriends a young paraplegic. (2007 Newbery Honor Book).

**Sasquatch** by Roland Smith AR 4.5, 680L, 188 pages

As Mount St. Helens is on the brink of another eruption, thirteen-year-old Dylan joins an aging field biologist as they follow Dylan's father in an attempt to protect the resident Sasquatch from ruthless hunters.

**Starry River of the Sky** by Grace Lin AR 5.4, 810L, 288 pages

Rendi, a runaway working in a Chinese village, finds that a mysterious visitor's stories hold the key to returning the missing moon to the Starry River of the Sky.

**Swindle** by Gordon Korman                      AR 4.9, 710L, 252 pages

After a heartless collector named Swindle cons him out of his most valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin pulls together a group of misfits to break into Swindle's compound and reclaim the card.

**Tales from the Odyssey, Part 1** by Mary Pope Osborne                      AR 4.6, 760L, 273 pages

In this part of the story of Odysseus' voyage back to Ithaca after the Trojan War, brave Odysseus faces an angry one-eyed giant, must outwit a beautiful witch, and sail past a six-headed serpent.

**Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing** by Judy Blume                      AR 3.3, 470L, 120 pages

Peter is tired of trying to keep his mischievous two-year-old brother, Fudge, out of trouble. Peter can't take it anymore when his pet turtle, Dribble, goes missing. (Book #1 of the "Fudge books).

**The Trouble with Chickens** by Doreen Cronin                      AR 3.8, 570L, 119 pages

A tough former search-and-rescue dog reluctantly comes out of retirement for the promise of a cheeseburger and helps solve a complicated missing chicken case. (J .J. Tully mystery series 02).

**The World According to Humphrey** by Betty G. Birney                      AR 4.2, 670L, 124 pages

Humphrey, pet hamster at Longfellow School, learns to read, write and more as he helps his classmates and their teacher. (Humphrey adventures 01).

**The Year of the Book** by Andrea Cheng                      AR 3.6, 590L, 146 pages

Chinese-American fourth-grader, Anna Wang, knows relationships are complicated, so turns to her books for companionship. Will this be the year she finds a true best friend?