

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

And the nominees for the 2012-2013 Golden Sower Award are...

As many Children's Librarians and school media specialists will tell you, the world of Children's Literature is filled with various honors and recognitions like the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award, which is named after the renowned children's author Dr. Suess, and the Pura Belpré Award, which is named for the first Latina librarian who worked at the New York Public Library. But to Nebraskans, one recognition outshines them all...the Cornhusker State's very own "Golden Sower Award."

The Golden Sower Award is presented annually at the fall NLA (Nebraska Library Association)/NEMA(Nebraska Educational Media Association) Conference and is bestowed to the authors of books that are thought to "stimulate children's thinking, encourage independent reading, and foster an appreciation for excellence in writing and illustration."

Two main categories make up the Golden Sower Nominees: Primary Titles and Intermediate Titles. The primary titles consist mostly of picture books and are written for students in grades kindergarten-third. The nominees in this year's primary category are "Bridget's Beret" by Tom Lichtenheld, "Clever Jack Takes the Cake" by Candace Fleming, "Elsie's Bird" by Jane Yolen, "How Rocket Learned to Read" by Tad Hills, "The Little King and His Marshmallow Kingdom" by Louis Rotella, "Memoirs of a Goldfish" by Devin Scillian, "Miss Brooks Loves Book!" by Barbara Bottner, "Nubs" by Brian Dennis, "That Cat Can't Stay!" by Thad Krasnesky, and "Ugly Pie" by Lisa Wheeler

All of the above titles are great for young children and make ideal read-alouds for classroom and bedtime settings because they draw in readers and keep their attention throughout the stories.

Books found in the intermediate group are chapter texts that are more suited for students reading at the fourth-sixth grade levels. The nominees featured in the 2012-2013 category are "Because of Mr. Terupt" by Rod Buyea, "Everything for a Dog" by Ann Martin, "The Familiars" by Adam Epstein, "The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester" by Barbara O'Connor, "Love, Aubrey" by Suzanne LaFleur, "Lucky" by Wes Tooke, "Out of My Mind" by Sharon Draper, "Storm Mountain" by Tom Birdseye, "Walls within Walls" by Maureen Sherry, and "Wildfire Run" by Dee Garretson.

These juvenile texts are perfect for upper-level readers because they incorporate effective literary elements like characterization, theme, and point of view while still keeping readers' interests with enticing, dramatic plots.

If you are in search of a quality books for the children in your life, be sure stop by the Columbus Public Library and check out the many titles found on this year's Golden Sower Nominees lists. Whether individuals are seeking quality books for information purposes or for reading pleasure, the lists presented by the Nebraska Golden Sower Award committee are guaranteed to entertain Heartland youth.

If you have any questions regarding the Golden Sower or would like to know about other great Children's Literature awards, feel free to contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.