

## **Classroom Loan Bags 2016-2017**

**\*Absolutely Almost (2016-2017 Golden Sower Nominee)** by Lisa Graff (gr. 4-6) Ten-year-old Albie has never been the smartest, tallest, best at gym, greatest artist, or most musical in his class, as his parents keep reminding him, but new nanny Calista helps him uncover his strengths and take pride in himself.

**Adventures of Beanboy** by Lisa Harkrader (gr. 4-6) Wheaton, Kansas seventh-grader Tucker MacBean loves comic books, so when his favorite comic has a contest to create a sidekick, he is hopeful that he can win, thereby fixing his struggling family.

**Anna's Blizzard** by Alison Hart (gr. 4-6) Twelve-year-old Anna discovers that she knows a few things about survival when the 1888 Children's Blizzard traps her and her classmates in their Nebraska schoolhouse.

**Balto and the Great Race** by Elizabeth Kimmel (gr. 2-4) Recounts how the sled dog Balto saved Nome, Alaska, in 1925 from a diphtheria epidemic by delivering medicine through a raging snowstorm.

**Because of Mr. Terupt** by Rob Buyea (gr. 4-6) Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by "rookie teacher" Mr. Terupt.

**Because of Winn-Dixie** by Kate DiCamillo (gr. 4-6) Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all of the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog, Winn-Dixie.

**The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond** by Brenda Woods (gr. 4-6) Violet is smart, funny and biracial. Her African American father died before she was born, and she has grown up with just her white mother and white older sister. Now that she is eleven, she feels it is time to learn about her African American heritage, so she seeks out her paternal grandmother.

**Bunnicula** by Deborah and James Howe (gr. 3-5). A dog named Harold tells the story of a rabbit many believe to be a vampire.

**The Candymakers** by Wendy Mass (gr. 4-6) When four twelve-year-olds, including Logan, who has grown up never leaving his parents' Life Is Sweet candy factory, compete in the Confectionary Association's annual contest, they unexpectedly become friends and uncover secrets about themselves during the process.

**Charlie Bumpers vs the Teacher of the Year** by Bill Harley (gr. 2-5) Charlie Bumpers is sure he does not stand a chance of getting along with his fourth grade teacher and despite his best efforts to be neat and well-behaved, he always seems to be in trouble until he discovers her secret.

**Chocolate Fever** by Robert Kimmel Smith (gr. 2-5) Wacky adventures arise when Henry comes down with the only reported case of "chocolate fever."

**Chocolate Touch** by Patrick Skene Catling (gr. 3-5) A boy acquires a magical gift that turns everything his lips touch into chocolate.

**The Clockwork Three** by Matthew J. Kirby (gr. 4-6) As mysterious circumstances bring Giuseppe, Frederick, and Hannah together, their lives soon interlock like the turning gears in a clock and they realize that each one holds a key to solving the others' mysteries

**Darling: Mercy Dog of World War I** by Alison Hart (gr. 2-5) In Cosham, England, in 1917, Darling, a mischievous collie, must leave the children who love her when she is chosen for training as a mercy dog, seeking out injured soldiers on the battlefield and leading medics to them.

**\*Dash (2016-2017 Golden Sower Nominee)** by Kirby Larson (gr. 2-5) When her family is forced into an internment camp, Mitsi Kashino is separated from her home, her classmates, and her beloved dog Dash. As her family begins to come apart around her, Mitsi clings to her one connection to the outer world--the letters from the kindly neighbor who is caring for Dash.

**Diamond in the Desert** by Kathryn Fitzmaurice (gr. 2-5) After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, thirteen-year old Tetsu and his family are sent to the Gila River Relocation Center in Arizona where a fellow prisoner starts a baseball team, but when Tetsu's sister becomes ill and he feels responsible, he stops playing.

**A Dog Called Kitty** by Bill Wallace (gr. 2-5) Afraid of dogs since he was attacked by a mad one, Ricky resists taking in a homeless pup that shows up at the farm.

**Donovan's Word Jar** by Monalisa DeGross (gr. 2-4) His friends collect coins or comics, Donovan collects interesting words and puts them in a jar. **(AF\*)**

**Earthquake Terror** by Peg Kehret (gr. 4-6) When an earthquake hits the isolated island in northern California where his family has been camping, twelve-year-old Jonathan Palmer must find a way to keep himself, his partially paralyzed younger sister and their dog alive until help arrives.

**Eight Keys** by Suzanne LaFleur (gr. 2-5) When twelve-year-old Elise, orphaned since age three, becomes disheartened by middle school, with its bullies, changing relationships, and higher expectations, keys to long-locked rooms and messages from her late father help her cope.

**\*El Deafo (2016-2017 Golden Sower Nominee)** by Cece Bell (gr. 4-6) The author recounts in graphic novel format her experiences with hearing loss at a young age, including using a bulky hearing aid, learning how to lip read, and determining her "superpower."

**Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library** by Chris Grabenstein (gr. 4-6) "Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape"--Provided by publisher.

**Extra Credit** by Andrew Clements (gr. 4-6) As letters flow back and forth--between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of Afghanistan, across cultural and religious divides--sixth-grader Abby, ten-year-old Amira, and eleven-year-old Sadeed begin to speak and listen to each other.

**The False Prince** by Jennifer A. Nielsen (gr. 4-6) In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.

**The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester** by Barbara O'Connor (gr. 4-6) After Owen captures an enormous bullfrog, names it Tooley Graham, then has to release it, he and two friends try to use a small submarine that fell from a passing train to search for Tooley in the pond, while avoiding nosy neighbor Viola.

**\*Fish in a Tree (2016-2017 Golden Sower Nominee)** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (gr. 4-6) Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still doesn't know how to read.

**\*The Fourteenth Goldfish (2016-2017 Golden Sower Nominee)** by Jennifer L. Holm (gr. 4-6) Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging, and consequently has turned into a teenager--which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter.

**Freaky Fast Frankie Joe** by Lutricia Clifton (gr. 4-6) Twelve-year-old Frankie Joe Huckaby, forced to live with the father he never knew, a stepmother, and four half-brothers in Illinois, starts a delivery service to finance his escape back to his mother in Texas, not realizing he is making a better life for himself than he ever had with her.

**Freedom's Wings: Corey's Diary** by Sharon Dennis Wyeth (gr. 2-4) A nine-year-old slave keeps a diary of his journey to freedom along the Underground Railroad in 1857. (AF\*)

**Frindle** by Andrew Clements (gr. 4-6) When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love for the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

**\*Frostborn (2016-2017 Golden Sower Nominee)** by Lou Anders (gr. 4-6) Destined to take over his family farm in Norrongard, Karn would rather play the board game, Thrones and Bones, until half-human, half frost giantess Thianna appears and they set out on an adventure, chased by a dragon, undead warriors, an evil uncle, wyverns, trolls and giants.

**The Girl from Felony Bay** by John Thompson (gr. 4-6) "When Abbey's father falls into a coma and is accused of a crime he didn't commit, Abbey sets out to prove his innocence--and repay a century-old debt"-- Provided by publisher.

**The Giver** by Lois Lowry (grade 5-7) At the annual Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas is chosen for something special as his life assignment. This leads him to The Giver, a man who holds all the memories of the past. Through this man, Jonas learns the terrible truth about the society in which he lives. Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

**Half a Chance** by Cynthia Lord (gr. 4-6) Lucy, with her mother and her photographer father, has just moved to a small rural community in New Hampshire, and with her new friend Nate she plans to spend the summer taking photos for a contest, but pictures sometimes reveal more than people are willing to see.

**Hold Fast** by Blue Balliett (gr. 4-7) On a cold winter day in Chicago, Early's father disappeared, and now she, her mother and her brother have been forced to flee their apartment and join the ranks of the homeless--and it is up to Early to hold her family together and solve the mystery surrounding her father.

**Holes** by Louis Sachar (gr. 4-6) **1999 Newbery Medal Winner** As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

**Joyful Noise** by Paul Fleischman (gr. 3-6) **1989 Newbery Medal Winner.** Written to be read aloud by two voices--sometimes alternating, sometimes simultaneous--here are irresistible poems that celebrate the insect world.

**Kenny and the Dragon** by Tony DiTerlizzi (gr. 4-6) Book-loving Kenny the rabbit has few friends in his farming community, so when one, bookstore owner George, is sent to kill another, gentle dragon Grahame, Kenny must find a way to prevent their battle while satisfying the dragon-crazed townspeople.

**Kindred Souls** by Patricia MacLachlan (gr. 4-6) Ten-year-old Jake shares a special bond with his grandfather, Billy, but when Billy asks Jake to build him a sod house, Jake is not sure he wants to do it.

**The Lemonade War** by Jacqueline Davies (gr. 4-6) Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade and they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars. Includes mathematical calculations and tips for running a successful lemonade stand.

**\*Life on Mars (2016-2017 Golden Sower Nominee)** by Jennifer Brown (gr. 4-6) Twelve-year-old Arcturus Betelgeuse Chambers' quest to find life on other planets seems at an end when his parents decide to move to Las Vegas, but while they look for a house he stays with his neighbor, an astronaut who soon becomes a friend.

**\*Loot: How to Steal a Fortune (2016-2017 Golden Sower Nominee)** by Jude Watson (gr. 4-6) When Alfie McQuinn, the notorious jewel thief, is killed on a job, his last words to his son, March, are to "find jewels." This instruction leads the boy to Jules, the twin sister he never knew he had--and the perfect partner to carry on the family business.

**Malcolm at Midnight** by W. H. Beck (gr. 4-6) Malcolm, a smaller than average rat, loves life at McKenna School and the secret society of classroom pets that keep children out of trouble, but when Aggy the iguana disappears Malcolm must use all of his ratty persistence to prove his innocence and save her.

**Martin Bridge Ready for Takeoff** by Jessica Scott Kerrin (gr. 2-4) Meet Martin Bridge, a most special and ordinary boy whose well-meant plans sometimes go awry.

**Mary on Horseback: Three Mountain Stories** by Rosemary Wells. (gr. 4-6) True-to-life stories of families who were helped by the work of Mary Breckinridge, the first nurse to go into the Appalachian Mountains to care for the isolated inhabitants.

**May B.** by Caroline Starr Rose (gr. 4-6) When a failed wheat crop nearly bankrupts the Betterly family, Pa pulls twelve-year-old May from school and hires her out to a couple new to the Kansas frontier.

**Mr. Popper's Penguins** by Richard Atwater (gr. 3-6) The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions.

**Night of the Twisters** by Ivy Ruckman (gr. 4-6) A fictional account of the night freakish and devastating tornadoes hit Grand Island, Nebraska, as experienced by a twelve-year-old, his family and friends.

**Number the Stars** by Lois Lowry (gr. 4-7) **1990 Newbery Medal Winner.** In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

**Out of My Mind** by Sharon M. Draper (gr. 4-6) Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

**Pioneer Girl: Growing Up on the Prairie** by Andrea Warren (gr. 4-6) Tells about the daily life and activities of a pioneer girl growing up on the prairies of Nebraska.

**Rump : The true story of Rumpelstiltskin** by Liesl Shurtliff (gr. 4-6) Relates the tale of Rumpelstiltskin's childhood and youth, explaining why his name is so important, how he is able to spin straw into gold, and why a first-born child is his reward for helping the miller's daughter-turned-queen.

**Runt** by Marion Dane Bauer (gr. 4-6) Runt, the smallest wolf cub in the litter, seeks to prove himself to his father, King, and the rest of the pack and to earn a new name.

**Shiloh** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (gr. 3-6) **1992 Newbery Medal Winner.** When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

**Sky Jumpers** by Peggy Eddleman (gr. 4-6) "Twelve-year-old Hope lives in a post-World War III town called White Rock where everyone must participate in Inventions Day, though Hope's inventions always fail. Her unique skill set comes in handy when a group of bandits invades the town."-- Provided by publisher.

**Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio** by Peg Kehret (gr. 4-6) The author describes her battle against polio at age thirteen and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects.

**A Snicker of Magic** by Natalie Lloyd (gr. 4-6) The Pickles are new to Midnight Gulch, Tennessee, a town which legend says was once magic--but Felicity is convinced the magic is still there, and with the help of her new friend Jonah the Beetle she hopes to bring the magic back.

**\*Stella by Starlight (2016-2017 Golden Sower Nominee)** by Sharon M. Draper (gr. 4-6) When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town. (AF\*)

**Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Kid** by Megan McDonald (gr. 2-4) The shortest kid in second grade, James Moody, also known as Stink, learns about the shortest president of the United States, James Madison. Every morning, Judy Moody measures Stink; every day it's the same: three feet, eight inches, until one day....is Stink shrinking?

**The SOS File** by Betsy Byars (gr. 4-6) The students in Mr. Magro's class submit stories for the SOS file about their biggest emergencies, and then they read them aloud for extra credit.

**Stone Fox** by John Reynolds Gardiner (gr. 2-4) Little Willie hopes to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm with the prize money from a dog sled race he enters.

**Three Times Lucky** by Sheila Turnage (gr. 4-6) Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.

**The Underdogs** by Mike Lupica (gr. 4-6) Small but fast twelve-year-old Will Tyler, an avid football player in the down-and-out town of Forbes, Pennsylvania, takes matters into his own hands to try and finance the city's football team, giving the whole community hope in the process.

**The Unwanted** by Lisa McMann (gr. 4-6) In a society that purges thirteen-year-olds who are creative, identical twins Aaron and Alex are separated, one to attend University while the other, supposedly eliminated, finds himself in a wondrous place where youths hone their abilities and learn magic.

**Walls Within Walls** by Maureen Sherry; illustrated by Adam Stower (gr. 4-6) When the Smithfork family moves into a lavish Manhattan apartment building, they discover clues to a decades-old mystery hidden behind the walls of their new home.

**\*The War that Saved My Life (2016-2017 Golden Sower Nominee)** by Kimberly B Bradley (gr. 4-6) A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

**Where the Red Fern Grows** by Wilson Rawls (gr. 4-6) A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.

**Wild Life** by Cynthia DeFelice (gr. 4-6) When twelve-year-old Eric's parents are deployed to Iraq, he goes to live with grandparents he hardly knows in a small town in North Dakota, but his grandfather's hostility and the threat of losing the dog he has rescued are too much and Eric runs away.

**Wonder** by R.J. Palacio (gr. 4-6) Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

**The World According to Humphrey** by Betty G. Birney (gr. 4-6) Sent to live in Room 26, Humphrey, the class hamster, begins to learn a lot about humans through simple observation from his cage, in an amusing tale about a curious creature who takes full advantage of his educational opportunities.

**The Year of the Panda** by Miriam Schlein (gr. 2-5) A Chinese boy rescues a starving baby panda, and, in the process, learns why pandas are endangered, and what the government is doing to save them. (AS\*)

**AF\***= African-American characters or themes

**NA\***= Native-American characters or themes

**AS\***=Asian or Asian-American characters or themes

**HIS\***=Hispanic or Hispanic-American characters or themes

**\*Denotes titles new for 2012-2013 school year**