2020 Rebecca Caudill Young Readers’ Book Award

The Rebecca Caudill Young Readers’ Book Award is an annual award given to the author of the book voted most outstanding by students in grades 4 through 8 in participating Illinois schools. Patriots who wish to help select this year’s winner need to:

1. Read at least three titles on the following list by Friday February 21, 2020.
2. Sign the contract and add titles to the contract as you read. **Students are responsible for keeping track of their contracts and making sure they are up-to-date.**
3. Reflect about each book you read. You can do an online review in Atrium OR conference with a staff member who needs to initial your contract.
4. For further explanation, visit the Patriot Book Award Page under the Library Tab on the top navigation of the Jefferson webpage: [http://www.naperville203.org/jjhs](http://www.naperville203.org/jjhs).
5. Students who read all 20 titles will be eligible for an All 20 READ poster if they complete all requirements, including writing three reviews in Atrium.

**Read**

___ **Fred Korematsu Speaks Up**  
Atkins, Laura & Stan Yogi  
Alternating stirring free verse with informational segments (each including a relevant timeline), this book powerfully reveals the story of the young Japanese American man who protested U.S. internment camps during WWII and continued fighting for civil liberties throughout his life. Stylized illustrations accompany the verse; archival images appear throughout. Appended with ideas for young activists and a note from Korematsu’s daughter.

___ **Serafina and the Black Cloak**  
Beatty, Robert  
In 1899, a twelve-year-old rat catcher on North Carolina’s Biltmore estate teams up with the estate owner’s young nephew to battle a great evil and, in the process, unlocks the puzzle of her past.

___ **Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus**  
Bowling, Dusty  
New friends and a mystery help Aden, thirteen, adjust to middle school and life at a dying western theme park in a new state, where her being born armless presents many challenges.

___ **The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora**  
Cartaya, Pablo  
For Arturo, summertime in Miami means playing basketball until dark, sipping mango smoothies, and keeping cool under banyan trees. And maybe a few shifts as junior lunchtime dishwasher at Abuela’s restaurant. Maybe. But this summer also includes Carmen, a poetry enthusiast who moves into Arturo’s apartment complex and turns his stomach into a deep fryer. He almost doesn’t notice the smarmy land developer who rolls into town and threatens to change it. Arturo refuses to let his family and community go down without a fight, and as he schemes with Carmen, Arturo discovers the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of Jose Marti.

___ **The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle**  
Connor, Leslie  
Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason’s learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason’s best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family’s orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can’t understand why Lieutenant Baird won’t believe the story Mason has told about that day. Both Mason and his new friend, tiny Calvin Chumsky, are relentlessly bullied by the other boys in their neighborhood, so they create an underground club space for themselves. When Calvin goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble again. He’s desperate to figure out what happened to Calvin, and eventually, Benny. But will anyone believe him?

___ **Space Case**  
Gibbs, Stuart  
12-year-old Dash Gibson lives with his family in Moon Base Alpha, the first lunar outpost. Life is mostly dull (watching TV, going to the gym to keep fit, and playing video games-not much variety) until Ronald Holtz, beloved base physician, dies under suspicious circumstances. Despite warnings from the base’s autocratic commander, Dash continues to investigate the incident as a possible murder.

___ **Refugee**  
Gratz, Alan  
Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.

___ **Slider**  
Hautman, Pete  
Winning a competitive eating contest is David’s only hope of avoiding being grounded for life after he does something stupid with his mother’s credit card. Already an avid eater and a fan of the “sport,” David Miller, 14, figures that he’s really going to have to up his game after accidentally spending $2,000 in an online auction for what is billed as the very hot-dog half that cost pro eater Jooky Garafalo last year’s Nathan’s Famous contest. Fortunately, local pizzeria Pigorino’s is sponsoring a competition at the Iowa State Fair with a $5,000 first prize. Unfortunately, David will have to beat out not only a roster of gifted amateurs to make and win the finals, but also a pair of professionals—notably the renowned but unscrupulous El Gurgitator.
**Piecing Me Together**
Jade is an "at-risk" student from a rough neighborhood in Portland, OR. She is also a talented collage artist, and she attends an elite private school on scholarship. More than anything, she wants to go on a study abroad week offered at her school to use her Spanish skills. Instead, she is given an invitation to join Woman to Woman, a mentorship program for young women like her: poor and black. Her mentor, Maxine, is from a more privileged background, and Jade doesn't see what she can use her Spanish skills. Instead, she is given an invitation to join Woman to Woman, a mentorship program for young women.

**All's Faire in Middle School**
Imogen Vega's parents perform at a Renaissance fair in Florida, immersing the family in a world of jousting and archaic language ("Thou quailing toad-spotted clack-dish!"). Imogen has been homeschooled all her life; now, at 11, she's headed to public school. In her first weeks, she falls victim to the wiles of a mean girl, hurts a girl who might have been a good friend, and throws her younger brother's treasured stuffed animal into the lake. As Imogen undergoes a period of self-enforced solitude, the extended family of the fair community offers unexpected support.

**Restart**
Chase does not remember falling off the roof, in fact he does not remember anything about himself, and when he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids--trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase that is being revealed, but can he the opportunity amnesia has provided and restart his life?

**The Stars Beneath Our Feet**
Twelve-year-old Wallace "Lolly" Rachpaul lives in the St. Nick projects at 127th street in Harlem, New York. Wallace copes with the death of his older brother, Jermaine, due to "crew" violence, by making masterpieces with the LEGO's his mom's girlfriend, Yvonne, brings him. He likes hanging out with his best friend Vega, and when he makes his own world with LEGO's and creates a game around it after school with a new friend Rose, things seem to be looking up. But when crew members interested in recruiting Wallace start following him around, and his friend Vega thinks about joining, Wallace must confront his grief and the events that led up to his brother's death.

**The First Rule of Punk**
Twelve-year-old María Luisa O'Neill-Morales (who really prefers to be called Malú) reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang--violating the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurning the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like-minded weirdos.

**42 is Not Just a Number: The Odyssey of Jackie Robinson, American Hero**
The book examines Jack Roosevelt Robinson's life from his early years (including teenage run-ins with the law) and concludes its detailed coverage with the World Series of 1947. Rappaport does not sugarcoat the challenges Robinson faced, repeating racial slurs in the text. Although Robinson sometimes lost his temper, he kept his dignity through incidents that will make readers cringe. Robinson was not welcome at team hotels. He ate many meals in restaurants separate from the team, with only manager Wendell Smith for company, and he was harassed and insulted by opposing players and occasionally by teammates as well.

**As Brave as You**
Reynolds delivers an emotionally resonant story of an African American family working to overcome its past. Warmly told in third person, the novel follows Genie (staying with his grandparents in rural Virginia) through a series of tragicomic blunders, minor triumphs, and heartfelt discussions with blind and fiercely independent Grandpop.

**The Blackthorn Key**
In 1665 London, fourteen-year-old Christopher Rowe, apprentice to an apothecary, and his best friend, Tom, try to uncover the truth behind a mysterious cult, following a trail of puzzles, codes, pranks, and danger toward an unearthly secret with the power to tear the world apart.

**Scythe**
In a world where disease has been eliminated, the only way to die is to be randomly killed (‘gleaned’) by professional reapers (‘scythes’). Two teens must compete with each other to become a scythe--a position neither of them wants. The one who becomes a scythe must kill the one who doesn’t.

**Wild Bird**
When her behavior escalates out of control, fourteen-year-old Wren is taken away to a wilderness therapy camp where she is forced to develop new skills, including the courage to ask for help.

**The Prince and the Dressmaker**
Prince Sebastian is looking for a bride--or rather, his parents are looking for one for him. Sebastian is too busy hiding his secret life from everyone. At night he puts on daring dresses and takes Paris by storm as the fabulous Lady Crystallia--the hottest fashion icon in the world capital of fashion! Sebastian's secret weapon (and best friend) is the brilliant dressmaker Frances--one of only two people who know the truth: sometimes this boy wears dresses. But Frances dreams of greatness, and being someone's secret weapon means being a secret. Forever. How long can Frances defer her dreams to protect a friend?

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