



# The 2006 Cybils Awards

Presented by the Children's and Young Adult Bloggers' Literary Awards Committee – [www.Cybils.com](http://www.Cybils.com)

Co-Creators: Anne Boles Levy and Kelly Herold

## Fantasy and Science Fiction Short List Titles

### **Winner: Ptolemy's Gate**

by Jonathan Stroud  
Hyperion: Miramax  
Magician John Mandrake (a.k.a. Nathaniel), rebel commoner Kitty, and wise-cracking, sarcastic djinni Bartimaeus are drawn together in spite of their differences to battle a powerful evil. The three learn more about each other and try to come to terms with their past, in this stunning series conclusion that also stands well alone.

### **Silver City**

by Cliff McNish  
Carolrhoda Books  
The second in an astonishingly original trilogy, Cliff McNish's Silver City continues the story of six extraordinary and special children and how they are preparing to defend the world against an alien being, known only as the Roar, that is heading their way through space. A gripping sequel to The Silver Child, which nonetheless can be read as a stand-alone (though we recommend the entire series).

### **Beka Cooper: Terrier**

by Tamora Pierce  
Random House  
Beka Cooper is one tough-but-vulnerable heroine who fights crime in a world of magic. Her passion to save the kidnapped children of the Lower Side, along with some action-packed scrapes with thieves and rogues, makes Beka Cooper a must read of .

### **Last Dragon, The**

by Silvana de Mari  
Hyperion: Miramax  
The Last Dragon is a clever, playful, and funny story with a lot of kid appeal. A very young elf, trying to stay alive in a world darkened by rain and oppression, finds life full of surprises as he tries to follow the destiny laid out for him in an ancient prophecy.

### **Pucker**

by Melanie Gideon  
Penguin: Razorbill  
Pucker by Melanie Gideon is the story of seventeen-year-old Thomas Quicksilver who was disfigured in a fire when he was a child back before he and his mother were exiled to Earth from Isaura, a "pocket of a world," a parallel reality. His voice is both modestly wiseass and yet mature and sophisticated. Thomas sounds like a teenager, but one who is self-aware instead of self-obsessed.

## Graphic Novels

### **Ages 12 and under**

### **Winner: Amelia Rules, vol. 3: Superheroes**

by Jimmy Gownley  
Renaissance Press  
This book has a great cast of characters and bright, colorful art that uses the space on each page in creative ways. The issues dealt with by the kids in this book don't shirk from the hard stuff of kids' lives: divorce, moving, bullying, and a friend dying. But these tough issues are presented in very kid-friendly ways.

**Babymouse: Beach Babe**

by Jennifer Holm and Matt Holm  
Random House

This book is just right for this age group. Babymouse deals with typical problems of childhood. The illustrator uses color in the art as a visual cue when Babymouse is dreaming.

**The Baby-Sitters Club: Kristy's Great Idea**

by Ann Martin, Rina Telgemeier  
GRAPHIX/Scholastic

There are a variety of personalities in the characters, and the girls work well together, showing initiative and solving problems. The art is a nice blend of American Comics and Manga styles.

**Kat and Mouse**

by Alex De Campi; pictures by Federica Manfredi  
TokyoPop

Two "less cool girls" in a clique-filled private school use their brains to solve a mystery and win out over the evil "cool" kids. A science experiment in the back gives the reader a chance to try the science the girls used to solve the mystery. The art is a good introduction to Manga style art.

**To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel**

by Siena Siegel and Mark Siegl  
Aladdin / Simon & Schuster

This book is a graphic memoir. The story and the art work exceptionally well together. The book has a great message for anyone who must abandon his/her first passion: you can go back to it, in some form, later in life.

**Graphic Novels: Ages 13 and up****Winner: American Born Chinese**

by Gene Yang  
First Second

The story in this book speaks to the universal experience of any teen who has just wanted to

fit in. The blend of the three story strands is masterful.

**Castle Waiting**

by Linda Medley  
Fantagraphics

In this 450+ page fairy tale, the art is very detailed and perfectly matched to the story. The author creates a believable world with unique and believable characters, weaving together well-known fairy tale fragments and allusions in her completely original story.

**Dramacon Vol. 2**

by Svetlana Chmakova  
Tokyo Pop

This book give the reader an insider's view of the world of comic making: what it's like to go to a Con, how a young writer or artist breaks into the industry, even the debate between pure Manga and the new artistic styles that blend Manga and American Comics.

**Flight Vol. 3**

by Kazu Kibuishi & others  
Ballantine

This is a great collection of stories and styles - artistic styles as well as storytelling styles. Definitely a book to read again and again.

**La Perdida**

by Jessica Abel  
Pantheon

The search for one's identity is rarely an easy thing. The character in this book is naive, idealistic, and in Mexico without being able to speak fluent Spanish. The story is layered with art, politics, history, culture, and language.

**Non-fiction (Middle Grade and YA)****Winner: Freedom Walkers**

written by Russell Freedman

Holiday House

**Escape!**

written by Sid Fleischman  
Greenwillow

**Immersed in Verse**

written by Alan Wolf  
Lark Books

**Isaac Newton**

written by Kathleen Krull; illustrated by Boris  
Kulikov  
Viking Juvenile

**Team Moon**

written by Catherine Thimmesh  
Houghton Mifflin

**Middle Grade Fiction**

**Winner: A Drowned Maiden's Hair:  
A Melodrama**

Laura Amy Schlitz  
Candlewick

This gothic page-turner features a feisty orphan, a houseful of secrets, and a villain preying on unsuspecting victims.

**Framed**

Frank Cottrell Boyce  
Harper Collins  
Take a small grey Welsh town. Add great works of art. Stir.

**Heat**

Mike Lupica  
Philomel  
A heartwarming tale of immigration, baseball and familial love. It's a reminder of what the U.S.A. and Americans can be.

**Kiki Strike**

Kirsten Miller  
Bloomsbury  
What's better than Girl Scouts, books, and an underground world under New York City?

Absolutely nothing! That's why Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City one of the most entertaining books of the year.

**Weedflower**

Cynthia Kadohata  
Atheneum  
WWII serves as the backdrop to this tale of internment, friendship, and growing flowers in the dry desert dust of Arizona.

**Young Adult Fiction**

**Winner: Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist**

written by Rachel Cohn and David Levithan  
Knopf Books for Young Readers

**Book Thief, The**

written by Markus Zusak  
Knopf Books for Young Readers

**Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life, A**

written by Dana Reinhardt  
Wendy Lamb Books

**Hattie Big Sky**

written by Kirby Larson  
Delacorte Books for Young Readers

**Rules of Survival, The**

written by Nancy Werlin  
Dial

**Fiction Picture Books**

**Winner: Scaredy Squirrel**

Melanie Watt  
Kids Can Press  
An anxious squirrel, who is most comfortable staying in his familiar surroundings and sticking to his rigid daily schedule, is surprised when the unexpected occurs. The illustrations and the text features add to the humor.

**Emily's Balloon**

Written and illustrated by Komako Sakai

Chronicle Books

A bittersweet glimpse into the mind of a toddler who has befriended a yellow balloon.

### **Learning to Fly**

Written and illustrated by Sebastian Meschenmoser  
Kane/Miller

A simple book with an important message, this is the story of a penguin who wants to fly and his friend who helps him. The humorous illustrations add to this message about dreams and friendship.

### **Waiting for Gregory**

Written by Kimberly Willis Holt; illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska  
Henry Holt and Co.

A young girl, living in the whimsical, imaginative world that only Gabi Swiatkowska can create, anticipates with great excitement the birth of her cousin, only to grow increasingly confused by her family's peculiar responses to her questions about exactly how and when the baby will arrive.

### **Wolves**

Written and illustrated by Emily Gravett  
Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing a clever book-within-a-book that uses expressive collage and mixed media to tell the tale of a curious rabbit who finds real-life adventure in addition to the information he expects when he checks out a library book about wolves.

## **Non-fiction Picture Books**

### **Winner: An Egg Is Quiet**

written by Dianna Aston; illustrated by Sylvia Long  
Chronicle Books

This uncommonly elegant title explores eggs in their many shapes, sizes, colors, textures, and other qualities. With layered, wonder-filled text and gorgeous ink-and-watercolor art, it's earned a standing ova-tion.

### **3-D ABC: A Sculptural Alphabet**

written and illustrated by Bob Raczka  
Milbrook Press

This art exhibit in a book begins with "A is for Arrow" and ends with "Z is for Zigzags." In between a and z, readers are treated to a visual feast, with the different types of sculpture and the materials they use both indoors and out clearly explained.

### **Aliens Are Coming!: The True Account Of The 1938 War Of The Worlds Radio Broadcast**

written and illustrated by Meghan McCarthy  
Knopf

McCarthy's funny illustrations— of wide-eyed cartoonish people in a panic, drooling aliens on city streets, and long-legged Martian vehicles taking over the country—are among the many highlights of the book subtitled The True Account Of The 1938 War Of The Worlds Radio Broadcast.

### **An Island Grows**

written by Lola M. Schaefer; illustrated by Cathie Felstead  
Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins

Simple rhymed couplets and colorful collage illustrations tell of an island's formation, from the initial undersea volcanic eruption to the arrival of flora, fauna, people and culture. A graceful, engaging lesson in basic geology for young children.

### **Little Lost Bat**

written by Sandra Markle; illustrated by Alan Marks  
Charlesbridge

Markle describes the early life of the Mexican free-tailed bat. Her research is reflected in the storyline which also has an emotional tug to pull the child into the book. Marks evokes the darkness of the cave and evening sky and tenderly depicts the faces of mother and child.

## Poetry

### Winner: **Butterfly Eyes and Other Secrets of the Meadow**

written by Joyce Sidman; illustrated by Beth Krommes  
Houghton Mifflin

### **Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich**

written and illustrated by Adam Rex  
Harcourt Children's Books

### **Handsprings**

written and illustrated by Douglas Florian  
Greenwillow Books/ HarperCollins

### **Jazz**

written by Walter Dean Myers; illustrated by Christopher Myers  
Holiday House

### **Tour America: A Journey Through Poems and Art**

written by Diane Siebert; illustrated by Stephen T. Johnson  
Chronicle Books

## About the 2006 Cybils

The Children's and Young Adult Bloggers' Literary Awards, or Cybils, were won by nine books in eight categories, from picture books to graphic novels and even fantasy and science fiction.

The awards cap five months of activity by roughly 80 volunteers, who plowed through 482 books nominated by the public at the Cybils blog, [www.cybils.com](http://www.cybils.com). The contest grew out of a comment on a blog post last October and rapidly gained traction in the tight-knit community of librarians, teachers, homeschoolers, parents, authors and illustrators, dubbed the "kidlitosphere."

The idea was to find books with literary merit that kids couldn't put down, striking a balance between the highbrow Newberys, for example, and the populist Quill awards.

The Children's and Young Adult Bloggers' Literary Award (Cybils) Finalists and Winners for books published in 2006 – [www.Cybils.com](http://www.Cybils.com)

Any children's or young adult title published in English in 2006 was eligible, and anyone could nominate a book. Nominees then went through two rounds of judging: those surviving the first cut were announced New Year's Day.

## The Organizers

The administrative committee for the 2006 Cybils consisted of:

Anne Boles Levy ([http://dadtalk.typepad.com/book\\_buds\\_kidlit\\_reviews/](http://dadtalk.typepad.com/book_buds_kidlit_reviews/)) – Editor and Co-Creator

Kelly Herold (<http://kidslitinformation.blogspot.com/>) – Fiction Picture Books and Co-Creator

Betsy Bird (<http://fusenumber8.blogspot.com/>) – Middle Grade Fiction

Chris Barton (<http://www.chrisbarton.info/blog/blog.html>) – Non-Fiction Picture Books

Jen Robinson (<http://jkrbooks.typepad.com/>) – Young Adult Fiction

Liz Burns (<http://yzocaet.blogspot.com/>) – Graphic Novels

Mindy Rhiger (<http://propernoun.net/>) – MG and YA Non-Fiction

Sheila Ruth (<http://www.wandsandworlds.com/blog1/>) – Fantasy and Science Fiction

Susan Thomsen ([http://chickenspaghetti.typepad.com/chicken\\_spaghetti/](http://chickenspaghetti.typepad.com/chicken_spaghetti/)) – Poetry

The Cybils logo was developed by Stephanie Ford of The Children's Literature Book Club (<http://childlitbookclub.blogspot.com/index.html>).