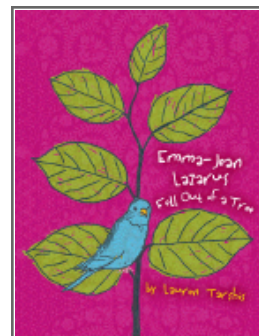
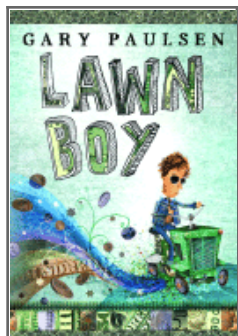
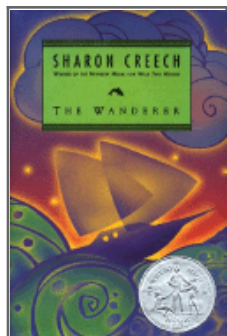




## 10 in Ten Recommendations - Youth2



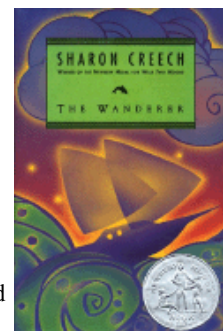
### Wanderer

by Sharon Creech  
Published 2000  
ISBN: 9780060277307

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

#### Jacket Notes:

On the way to visit their grandfather, 13-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard "The Wanderer," a 45-foot sailboat which is en route to England. "The sea, the sea, the sea. It rolled and rolled and called to me. Come in, it said, come in. Thirteen-year-old Sophie is the only girl amongst the surly crew of "The Wanderer" made up of her three uncles and two cousins. They sail across the Atlantic toward England, the land of Bompie, her grandfather. The sea calls to Sophie -- promising adventure and the chance to explore and discover. But the personal journey she takes brings her deeper into a forgotten past than she ever knew she could travel to. Sophie's thirteen-year-old cousin Cody isn't even sure why his father brought him along on this voyage. Everyone, including his dad, thinks he's nothing but a knuckle-headed doofus. But behind all the goofing off, he wonders if he has the strength to prove himself to the crew and to his father. Through Sophie's and Cody's travel logs, the amazing experiences of these six wanderers and their perilous journey unfold. Stories of the past and the daily challenges to survive at sea swirl together as "The Wanderer" sails toward its destination, and its passengers search for their places in the world. Newbery Award winner Sharon Creech's newest novel is an adventure-filled story of a courageous girl's journey across the ocean and into the memories of her tragic past. Sophie's struggle to reclaim who she is inspires similar exploration from those around her -- as the crew discovers the joys and trials of belonging to a family.



Read or Write a Comment ►

Publishers Weekly 03/06/2000

Like Creech's *Walk Two Moons* and *Chasing Redbird*, this intimate novel poetically connects journey with self-discovery. When 13-year-old Sophie learns that her three uncles and two male cousins plan to sail across the Atlantic to visit the uncles' father, Bompie, in England, she begs to go along. Despite her mother's protests and the men's misgivings, Sophie joins the "motley" crew of the 45-foot *The Wanderer* and soon proves herself a worthy sailor. The novel unfolds through travel logs, predominantly penned by Sophie (with intermittent musings from her clownish cousin, Cody) that trace each leg of the eventful voyage; each opens with a handsome woodblock-like print by Diaz (*Smoky Night*). The teens' insightful observations reveal the frailties of both the boat and its six passengers, whose fears and regrets anchor them down. Sophie, who was adopted just three years ago, proves the most complicated and mysterious of all the characters; her ambivalent feelings about the sea ("The sea, the sea, the sea. It rolled and rolled and called to me... but some said I was too young and the sea was a dangerous temptress...") correlate to a repressed memory of a tragic accident. Stories Sophie tells about Bompie, as well as clever throwaway bits (such as the brothers'

given names: Ulysses, Jonah and Moses), temper the novel's more serious undercurrents. Creech once again captures the ebb and flow of a vulnerable teen's emotional life, in this enticing blend of adventure and reflection. Ages 8-12. (Mar.) Copyright 2000 Cahners Business Information.]

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## Lawn Boy

by Gary Paulsen

Published 2007

ISBN: 9780385746861

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

### Jacket Notes:

When a 12-year-old boy revs up his grandparents old riding lawnmower, he quickly learns about the beauty of capitalism, in this latest novel by the acclaimed author of "The Legend of Bass Reeves" and "The Time Hackers." One day I was 12 years old and broke. Then Grandma gave me Grandpa's old riding lawnmower. I set out to mow some lawns. More people wanted me to mow their lawns. And more and more. . . . One client was Arnold the stockbroker, who offered to teach me about "the beauty of capitalism. Supply and Demand. Diversify labor. Distribute the wealth." "Wealth?" I said. "It's groovy, man," said Arnold.

If I'd known what was coming, I might have climbed on my mower and putted all the way home to hide in my room. But the lawn business grew and grew. So did my profits, which Arnold invested in many things. And one of them was Joey Pow the prizefighter. That's when my 12th summer got really interesting.

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Publishers Weekly 06/11/2007

At the start of this witty, quick-moving tale from the Newbery author, a 12-year-old receives an unexpected birthday present from his grandmother: his late grandfather's riding lawn mower. Since his family's lawn is postage-stamp size with grass that never seemed to grow enough to need mowing, he's initially unsure what to do with the machine. But he soon realizes that he can earn money mowing neighbors' lawns perhaps even enough to buy a new inner tube for his bike. As the young entrepreneur's lawn-mowing business booms, he sees green in more ways than one, making enough money to buy countless inner tubes and learning a lesson about capitalism and investing. His teacher, a colorful ex-hippie named Arnold, is a down-on-his-luck stockbroker who brokers a barter deal with the lad, offering to invest his earnings for him in exchange for grass-cutting services. Repeatedly remarking how groovy Lawn Boy's success is, Arnold instructs his young pal in the rules of the business road, humorously reflected in Paulsen's chapter titles (such as Capital Growth Coupled with the Principles of Production Expansion and Conflict Resolution and Its Effects on Economic Policy). Adding further wry dimension to the plot are a tough-talking thug who threatens to take over the kid's business, the prize fighter whom Arnold (through another investment) arranges for Lawn Boy to sponsor, and the boy's delightfully and deceptively dotty grandmother, who gets the novel's sage last line: You know, dear, Grandpa always said, take care of your tools and they'll take care of you. Readers will find this madcap story a wise investment of their time. Ages 10-up. "(June)" Copyright 2007 Reed Business Information.



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## Adventures of a Cat-Whiskered Girl

by Daniel Manus Pinkwater

Published 2010

ISBN: 9780547223247

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

### Jacket Notes:

Big Audrey is a girl . . .

with cat's whiskers . . .

and sort of cat's eyes.

But, is there an other cat-whiskered, sort of cat-eyed girl?

Big Audrey waves goodbye to her friends Iggy and Neddie, Seamus, and Crazy Wig, in Los Angeles and hitches a ride with bongo-playing-while-driving Marlon Brando across the country to Poughkeepsie, New York, city of mystery. She finds she has questions needing answers--and a bit of inter-plane-of-existence traveling to do.

Big Audrey and her telepathic friend Molly zigzag off on an incredibly strange and kooky adventure, and solve the mystery of the cat-whiskered doppelganger.

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The best thing about Pinkwater is his untamed imagination, and like those in this book's predecessors, *The Neddiad* and *The Yggyssey*, his loveable, absurd characters feel like they've been drawn straight from the minds of elementary-school children. The story picks up after the events of *The Yggyssey*, with narrator Big Audrey, the partly feline girl from another plane of existence first seen in that book, getting mixed up in a series of belief-defying adventures. Leaving Yggy, Neddie, and Seamus in Los Angeles, Big Audrey hitches a ride to Poughkeepsie, N.Y., with Marlon Brando (yes, that Brando), finds a job in a paranormal bookstore, befriends a pair of mental patients, and searches for clues to her past with the help of the wise Chicken Nancy and a horrific monster/puppy, the Wolluf. Pinkwater meanders all over the place in his storytelling, weaving together nonsense and humor with bits of actual history and science. The story is fast-paced and laugh-out-loud funny, and though the ending, if it can be called that, doesn't let up on the weirdness, readers will find reasons to delight on every page. Ages 10up. (June) Copyright 2010 Reed Business Information.

**Publisher's Marketing Text:**

Big Audrey is a girl . . .  
with cat's whiskers . . .  
and sort of cat's eyes.

But, is there an other cat-whiskered, sort of cat-eyed girl?

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## Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree

by Lauren Tarshis

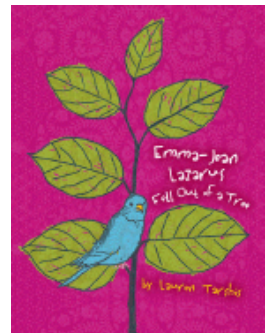
Published 2007

ISBN: 9780803731646

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

**Jacket Notes:**

A quirky and utterly logical seventh-grade girl named Emma-Jean Lazarus discovers some interesting results when she gets involved in the messy everyday problems of her peers. Emma-Jean Lazarus is a lovable oddball who thinks she can use logic to solve the "messy" everyday problems of her seventh-grade peers. It's easy?she just follows the example of her late father, a brilliant mathematician. Of course, the more Emma-Jean gets involved, the messier her own life gets. Suddenly she's no longer the person standing on the outside of all social interactions. But perhaps that's a good thing? If you took "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time" and "Ida B . . . and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World" and put them in a middle-grade blender, you would have the book "Emma- Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree." Quirky, honest, and written by first-time author Lauren Tarshis, this is a tender story about what happens when a girl who has long stood in the social shadows gets a taste of what it's like to connect with kids her own age.



[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 02/05/2007

Through a compelling third-person narrative, first novelist Tarshis completely inhabits the character of an eccentric seventh-grader who will quickly win over readers. Emma-Jean Lazarus misses her father, who died two years ago and from whom she inherited an analytical mind. She does not always understand her "often irrational" peers and finds their lives "messy." She "thus made it her habit to keep herself separate, to observe from afar." One day, however, she discovers kind, sensitive Colleen in the girls' bathroom and decides to come to her aid. (The narrative occasionally shifts to Colleen's perspective, offering insight into how the heroine comes across to her classmates.) Emma-Jean takes her cue from the philosophy of Jules Henri Poincaré (a French mathematician whom her late father revered), who believed that "even the most complex problems could be solved through a process of creative thinking." Her well-intentioned efforts with Colleen and with others don't always hit their mark, but this slightly socially awkward, big-hearted outsider learns from her experiences. Other fully realized characters who show compassion and understanding to Emma-Jean include her mother, a wise and kind custodian, her teacher and especially Vikram, a doctoral student and the Lazaruses' boarder, who takes on a special significance to both mother and daughter. Readers will cheer on Emma-Jean as she begins to see more clearly and enter more fully the world around her, messiness and all. Ages 8-up. "(Mar.)" Copyright 2007 Reed Business Information.

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## Dear Dumb Dairy #1: Let's Pretend This Never Happened (First book in the Dear Dumb Diary (Quality) series)

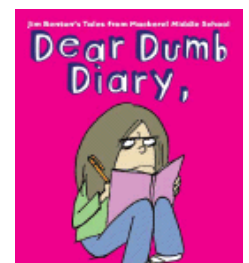
by Jim Benton

Published 2004

ISBN: 9780439629041

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

**Jacket Notes:**





Take a peek inside the diaries of Jamie Kelly! She's cool (sometimes), nice (mostly), and funny (always). Kid-friendly humor & art, along w/JKBenton's signature style make this series a standout! Read the hilarious, candid (& sometimes mean) diaries of Jamie Kelly, who promises that everything in her diary is true...or at least as true as it needs to be. In this book, Jamie contends with Angeline, the school's prettiest, most popular girl (who Jamie thinks is a goon!) and the impending visit of her troll-like little cousin. Will Jamie survive? Will she go mad? Will she send her mom's nasty casserole to starving children in Wheretheheckistan? You'll just have to read the first installment of Dear Dumb Diary to find out!

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 08/02/2004

Benton's Dear Dumb Diary series gets off to a shaky start with this trite tale told in diary format. In daily entries, each starting with the title salutation, Jamie Kelly vents repeatedly on several topics. A die-cut cover shows the heroine, and when readers lift it, they get a preview of the themes to be introduced in the coming pages. The primary target of Jamie's tirades is her middle-school nemesis: pretty, popular, perky Angeline, who "is so perfect that the word perfect' is probably not perfect enough for her. One day they'll probably have to invent another word for her and when they do I hope it rhymes with vomit or turd because I think I have a good idea for a song if they do." Jamie also gripes about her mother's abysmal cooking (one night she makes "some sort of mushy noodley stuff... that tasted almost exactly like socks smell") and her less than luxurious locks, which she tries to dye Angeline's shade but instead it "came out the exact color of raw chicken." Though the feisty diarist makes the occasional funny observation, more often her stabs at humor miss their mark or are so protracted that the comic moment fizzles. Inane, sketchy illustrations do little to fortify the tale. Ages 8-12. (July) Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information.

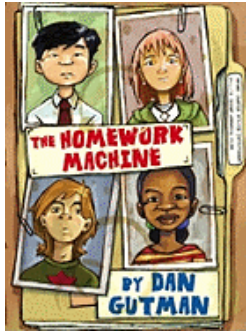
**Homework Machine**

by Dan Gutman  
Published 2006  
ISBN: 9780689876783

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

**Jacket Notes:**

Four kids share a secret--a homework machine. Everything is great for a while, but soon the machine becomes more powerful than they ever imagined, and even its inventor is powerless to stop it. DOING HOMEWORK BECOMES A THING OF THE PAST The unlikely foursome made up of a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker -- Brenton, Sam "Snick, ," Judy and Kelsey, respectively, -- are bound together by one very big secret: the homework machine. Because the machine, code named Belch, is doing their homework for them, they start spending a lot of time together, attracting a lot of attention. And attention is exactly what you don't want when you are keeping a secret. Before long, members of the D Squad, as they are called at school are getting strange Instant Messages from a shady guy named Milner; their teacher, Miss Rasmussen, is calling private meetings with each of them and giving them pop tests that they are failing; and someone has leaked the possibility of a homework machine to the school newspaper. Just when the D Squad thinks things can't get any more out of control, Belch becomes much more powerful than they ever imagined. Soon the kids are in a race against their own creation, and the loser could end up in jail...or worse!



[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

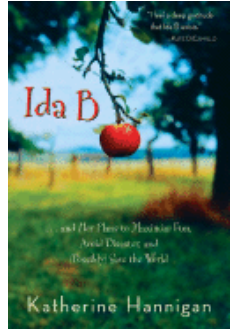
**Ida B: And Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World**

by Katherine Hannigan  
Published 2004  
ISBN: 9780060730246

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

**Jacket Notes:**

In this first novel by Hannigan, readers are introduced to Ida B, a fourth grader like no other, living a life like no other, with a voice like no other, and a family like no other. How does Ida B cope when outside forces attempt to derail her, her family, and her future? Who is Ida B. Applewood? She is a fourth grader like no other, living a life like no other, with a voice like no other, and her story will resonate long after you have put this book down. How does Ida B cope when outside forces--life, really--attempt to derail her and her family and her future? She enters her Black Period, and it is not pretty. But then, with the help of a patient teacher, a loyal cat and dog, her beloved apple trees, and parents who believe in the same things she does (even if they sometimes act as though they don't), the resilience that is the very essence of Ida B triumph...and Ida B. Applewood takes the hand that is extended and starts to grow up. This first novel is both very funny and extraordinarily moving, and it introduces two shining stars--Katherine Hannigan and Ida B. Applewood.



[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

## Skinnybones

by Barbara Park

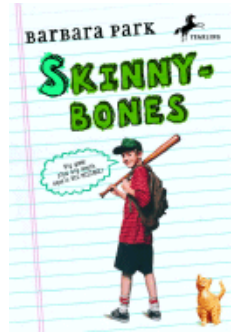
Published 1997

ISBN: 9780679887928

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

### Jacket Notes:

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the first publication of Skinnybones, bestselling author Barbara Park has updated the text of this award-winning novel and made it even more hilarious. A whole new generation of kids will meet Alex "Skinnybones" Frankovich, the smallest player on his baseball team, who is famous for his big mouth. Alex knows he's gone too far when he brags his way into a battle of skills with T.J. Stoner, a cocky Little League legend with a perfect hitting record. Can blabbermouth Alex talk his way out of "this" mess?



[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

### Publisher's Marketing Text:

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## Ruby Holler

by Sharon Creech

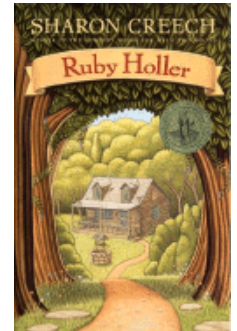
Published 2002

ISBN: 9780060277321

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

### Jacket Notes:

"As they pulled onto a narrow dirt road, Sairy said, "You are now entering Ruby Holler, the one and only Ruby Holler! Your lives are never going to be the same -- ""Dallas and Florida have been dubbed the "trouble twins." They have been shuffled between foster families and orphanages all their lives, longing only for a loving place to call home, though mistrustful that one exists for the likes of them. Tiller and Sairy are an eccentric, older couple whose children are grown and long gone, and they're each restless for one more big adventure while their bodies are still spry enough to paddle a river or climb a mountain. Ruby Holler is the beautiful, mysterious place that changes all of their lives forever. When Tiller and Sairy invite Dallas and Florida to stay with them and keep them company on their adventures, the magic of the Holler takes over, and the two kids begin to think that maybe, just maybe the old folks aren't so bad.... Filled with humor, poignancy, cookies, and treasure maps, Newbery Medal winner Sharon Creech's "Ruby Holler" is a delightful book about a special place where it's never too late to be loved.



[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 03/04/2002

The characters introduced here two abandoned children, their villainous guardians and a kindly country couple might have stepped out of a Dickens novel, but as Creech (Love that Dog) probes beneath their facades, the characters grow more complex than classic archetypes. Florida and her brother Dallas, raised in an orphanage run by the cold-hearted Trepids, rely on each other rather than grownups for support. They become suspicious when Mr. Trepid informs them that they are going to a place called Ruby Holler to accompany old Mr. and Mrs. Morey on separate vacations. Florida is to be Mr. Tiller Morey's companion on a canoe trip; Dallas is to help Mrs. Sairy Morey hunt down an elusive bird. Reaching for the trips proves to be a journey in itself as the Moreys, Florida and Dallas make discoveries about one another as well as themselves in a soothing rural environment. This poignant story evokes a feeling as welcoming as fresh-baked bread. The slow evolution of the siblings who are no angels parallels the gradual building of mutual trust for the Moreys. The novel celebrates the healing effects of love and compassion. Although conflicts emerge, readers will have little doubt that all will end well for the children and the grandparently Moreys. Ages 8-12. (Apr.) Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information.

## Frindle

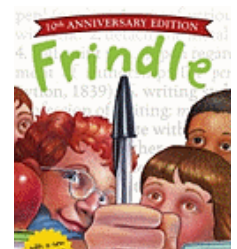
by Andrew Clements

Published 1996

ISBN: 9780689806698

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

### Jacket Notes:



What if one day you decided to stop calling a word like pen "pen" and started calling it something else--like "frindle"? When Nicholas Allen does just that, and encourages all of his friends to start using the new word, his experiment turns the town upside down. An imaginative tale about creative thought and the power of words. Nicholas Allen has plenty of ideas. Who can forget the time he turned his third-grade classroom into a tropical island, or the times he fooled his teacher by chirping like a blackbird? But now Nick's in fifth grade, and it looks like his days as a troublemaker are over. Everyone knows that Mrs. Granger, the language arts teacher, has X-ray vision, and nobody gets away with anything in her classroom. To make matters worse, she's also a fanatic about the dictionary, which is hopelessly boring to Nick. But when Nick learns an interesting tidbit about words and where they come from, it inspires his greatest plan yet: to invent a new word. From now on, a pen is no longer a pen -- it's a "frindle." It doesn't take long for "frindle" to take root, and soon the excitement spreads well beyond his school and town. His parents and Mrs. Granger would like Nick to put an end to all this nonsense. But "frindle" doesn't belong to Nick anymore. All he can do now is sit back and watch what happens. This quirky, imaginative tale about creative thought and the power of words will have readers inventing their own words. Brian Selznick's black-and-white illustrations enhance the humor in this unforgettable story.



[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 07/15/1996

Always one step ahead of his teachers, Nick not only can "feel a homework assignment coming the way a farmer can feel a rainstorm" but can dream up a distraction to prevent the assignment from being given. In fifth grade, however, he meets his match in tough language-arts teacher Mrs. Granger. Just to get under her skin--and despite her loud protests--he invents the word "frindle" and convinces the whole school to use it instead of the word "pen." The word spreads to the city, nation and world, and Clements (Big Al) fast-forwards the story by 10 years to show that "frindle" has made it into the dictionary. With this coup Nick gets a big surprise: the proof that Mrs. Granger was rooting for "frindle" all along. Like the Velveteen Rabbit, his well-worn word has become real. Dictionary lovers will cotton to this mild classroom fantasy, while readers who have a hard time believing that one person could invent a word out of thin air will be surprised to learn that the word "quiz" was invented the same way. Ages 8-12. (Sept.)

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