

**Vanderbilt University Library / Research Guides / Peabody Library  
/ Children's and Young Adult Book Awards / Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal**

## Children's and Young Adult Book Awards: Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal

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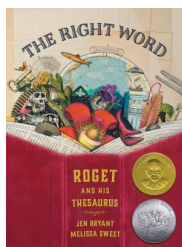
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**Robert F. Sibert  
Informational Book  
Medal**



The Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award, established by the Association for Library Service to Children in 2001, is awarded annually to the author(s) and illustrator(s) of the most distinguished informational book published in English during the preceding year. The award is named in honor of Robert F. Sibert, the long-time President of Bound to Stay Bound Books, Inc. of Jacksonville, Illinois, and is sponsored by the company. ALSC administers the award.

**2015 Sibert Medal Winner & Honor Books**



**The Right Word** by Jen Bryant; Melissa Sweet (Illustrator)

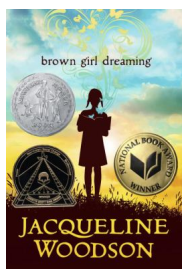
ISBN: 9780802853851

Publication Date: 2014-09-01

For shy young Peter Mark

Roget, books were the best companions -- and it wasn't long before Peter began writing his own book. But he didn't write stories; he wrote lists. Peter took his love for words and turned it to organizing ideas and finding exactly the right word to express just what he thought. His lists grew and grew, eventually turning into one of the most important reference books of all time. Readers of all ages will marvel at Roget's life, depicted through lyrical text and brilliantly detailed illustrations. This elegant book celebrates the joy of learning and the power of words."

Winner listed first with honor books following.



**Brown Girl Dreaming** by

Jacqueline Woodson

ISBN: 9780399252518

Publication Date: 2014-08-28

Jacqueline Woodson, one of today's finest writers, tells the moving story of her childhood

in mesmerizing verse. Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with

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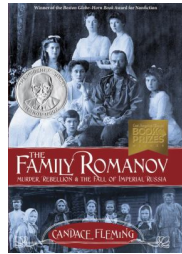
**Contact:**

615-322-8098

**Past Sibert Medal  
Winners & Honor Books**

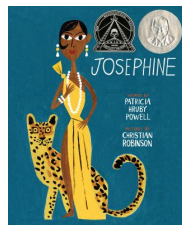
- Past Sibert  
Winners &  
Honors

reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.



**The Family Romanov** by  
Candace Fleming  
ISBN: 9780375867828  
Publication Date: 2014-07-08  
Here is the tumultuous,  
heartrending, true story of the

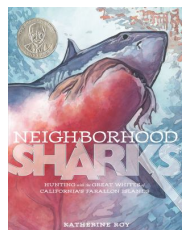
Romanovs--at once an intimate portrait of Russia's last royal family and a gripping account of its undoing. Using captivating photos and compelling first person accounts, award-winning author Candace Fleming (Amelia Lost; The Lincolns) deftly maneuvers between the imperial family's extravagant lives and the plight of Russia's poor masses, making this an utterly mesmerizing read as well as a perfect resource for meeting Common Core standards.



**Josephine** by Patricia Hruby  
Powell; Christian Robinson  
(Illustrator)  
ISBN: 9781452103143

Publication Date: 2014-01-14  
In exuberant verse and stirring

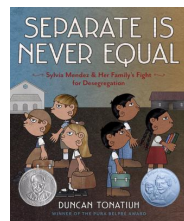
pictures, Patricia Hruby Powell and Christian Robinson create an extraordinary portrait for young people of the passionate performer and civil rights advocate Josephine Baker, the woman who worked her way from the slums of St. Louis to the grandest stages in the world. Meticulously researched by both author and artist, Josephine's powerful story of struggle and triumph is an inspiration and a spectacle, just like the legend herself.



**Neighborhood Sharks** by  
Katherine Roy (Illustrator)  
ISBN: 9781596438743  
Publication Date: 2014-09-30

Up close with the ocean's  
most fearsome and famous  
predator and the scientists who study them--  
just twenty-six miles from the Golden Gate

just twenty-six miles from the Golden Gate Bridge ! A few miles from San Francisco lives a population of the ocean's largest and most famous predators. Each fall, while the city's inhabitants dine on steaks, salads, and sandwiches, the great white sharks return to California's Farallon Islands to dine on their favorite meal: the seals that live on the island's rocky coasts. Massive, fast, and perfectly adapted to hunting after 11 million years of evolution, the great whites are among the planet's most fearsome, fascinating, and least understood animals. In the fall of 2012, Katherine Roy visited the Farallons with the scientists who study the islands' shark population. She witnessed seal attacks, observed sharks being tagged in the wild, and got an up close look at the dramatic Farallons--a wildlife refuge that is strictly off-limits to all but the scientists who work there. Neighborhood Sharks is an intimate portrait of the life cycle, biology, and habitat of the great white shark, based on the latest research and an up-close visit with these amazing animals.



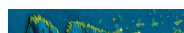
**Separate Is Never Equal** by  
Duncan Tonatiuh

ISBN: 9781419710544

Publication Date: 2014-05-06

Almost 10 years before Brown vs. Board of Education, Sylvia Mendez and her parents helped end school segregation in California. An American citizen of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage who spoke and wrote perfect English, Mendez was denied enrollment to a "Whites only" school. Her parents took action by organizing the Hispanic community and filing a lawsuit in federal district court. Their success eventually brought an end to the era of segregated education in California.

#### 2014 Sibert Medal Winner & Honor Books



**Parrots over Puerto Rico** by



**Parrots Over Puerto Rico** by

Susan L. Roth (Illustrator);

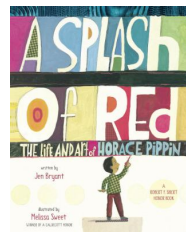
Cindy Trumbore

ISBN: 9781620140048

Publication Date: 2013-10-20

A picture book telling the intertwined histories of the Puerto Rican parrot and the island of Puerto Rico, culminating with current efforts to save the parrots from extinction. Puerto Rican parrots, once abundant, came perilously close to extinction in the 1960s due to centuries of foreign exploration and occupation, development, and habitat destruction. In this compelling book, Roth and Trumbore recount the efforts of the scientists of the Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program to save the parrots and ensure their future. Woven into the parrots' story is a brief history of Puerto Rico itself, from before the first human settlers to the present day.

Winner listed first with honor books following.



**A Splash of Red** by Jennifer

Bryant; Melissa Sweet

(Illustrator)

ISBN: 9780375867125

Publication Date: 2013-01-08

As a child in the late 1800s,

Horace Pippin loved to draw: He loved the feel of the charcoal as it slid across the floor. He loved looking at something in the room and making it come alive again in front of him. He drew pictures for his sisters, his classmates, his co-workers. Even during W.W.I, Horace filled his notebooks with drawings from the trenches . . . until he was shot. Upon his return home, Horace couldn't lift his right arm, and couldn't make any art. Slowly, with lots of practice, he regained use of his arm, until once again, he was able to paint--and paint, and paint! Soon, people--including the famous painter N. C. Wyeth--started noticing Horace's art, and before long, his paintings were displayed in galleries and museums across the country.



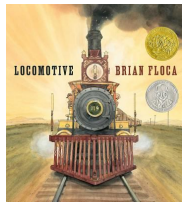
**Look Up!** by Annette LeBlanc

Cate (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9780763645618

Publication Date: 2013-03-12

You don't have to own binoculars and know a bunch of fancy Latin names to watch birds! No matter where you live, they're in your neighborhood -- just look up. This conversational, humorous introduction to bird-watching encourages kids to get outdoors with a sketchbook and really look around. Quirky full-color illustrations portray dozens of birds chatting about their distinctive characteristics, including color, shape, plumage, and beak and foot types, while tongue-in-cheek cartoons feature banter between birds, characters, and the reader ("Here I am, the noble spruce grouse. In a spruce grove. Eatin' some spruce. Yep."). Interactive and enjoyable tips bring an age-old hobby to new life for the next generation of bird-watchers.



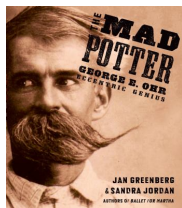
**Locomotive** by Brian Floca

(Illustrator)

ISBN: 9781416994152

Publication Date: 2013-09-03

It is the summer of 1869, and trains, crews, and family are traveling together, riding America's brand-new transcontinental railroad. These pages come alive with the details of the trip and the sounds, speed, and strength of the mighty locomotives; the work that keeps them moving; and the thrill of travel from plains to mountain to ocean. Come hear the hiss of the steam, feel the heat of the engine, watch the landscape race by. Come ride the rails, come cross the young country!



**The Mad Potter** by Jan

Greenberg; Sandra Jordan

ISBN: 9781596438101

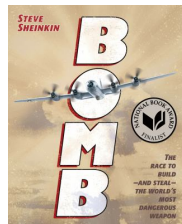
Publication Date: 2013-10-29

When George Ohr's trove of pottery was discovered in 1967, years after his



death, his true genius was discovered with it. The world could finally see how unique this artist really was! Born in 1856 in Biloxi, Mississippi, George grew up to the sounds of the civil war and political unrest. When he was 22, his boyhood friend introduced him to the pottery wheel. The lost young man suddenly found his calling. When I found the potter's wheel I felt it all over like a duck in water." He started creating strangely crafted pots and vases, expressing his creativity and personality through the ceramic sculptures. Eventually he had thousands at his fingertips. He took them to fairs and art shows, but nobody was buying these odd figures from this bizarre man. Eventually he retired, but not without hiding hundreds of his ceramics. Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, authors of the award winning Ballet for Martha, approach this colorful biography with a gentle and curious hand."

#### 2013 Sibert Medal Winner & Honor Books



**Bomb** by Steve Sheinkin

Call Number: UG1282 .A8

.S235 2012

ISBN: 9781596434875

Publication Date: 2012-09-04

In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's





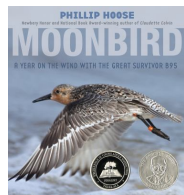
most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.

Winner listed first with honor books following.



**Electric Ben** by Robert Byrd  
Call Number: E302.6 .F8 B97  
2012  
ISBN: 9780803737495  
Publication Date: 2012-09-13  
A dazzling picture-book

biography of a fascinating Founding Father A true Renaissance man, Benjamin Franklin was the first American celebrity. In pictures and text, master artist Robert Byrd documents Franklin's numerous and diverse accomplishments, from framing the Constitution to creating bifocals. The witty, wise, and endlessly curious Franklin is the perfect subject for Byrd's lively style and vibrant art. The pages pulse with facts, quotes, and captions, while the inventive design and intricately detailed illustrations make a striking tribute to the brilliant American.



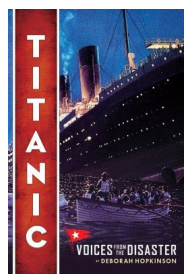
**Moonbird** by Phillip Hoose  
Call Number: QL696 .C48 H66  
2012  
ISBN: 9780374304683  
Publication Date: 2012-07-17

B95 can feel it: a stirring in his bones and feathers. It's time. Today is the day he will once again cast himself into the air, spiral upward into the clouds, and bank into the wind. He wears a black band on his lower right leg and an orange flag on his upper left, bearing the laser inscription B95. Scientists call him the Moonbird because, in the course of his astoundingly long lifetime, this gritty, four-ounce marathoner has flown the distance to the moon and halfway back! B95 is a robin-sized shorebird, a red knot of the subspecies rufa. Each February he joins a flock that lifts off from Tierra del Fuego, headed for breeding grounds in the Canadian Arctic. nine





breeding grounds in the Canadian Arctic, nine thousand miles away. Late in the summer, he begins the return journey. B95 can fly for days without eating or sleeping, but eventually he must descend to refuel and rest. However, recent changes at ancient refueling stations along his migratory circuit - changes caused mostly by human activity - have reduced the food available and made it harder for the birds to reach. And so, since 1995, when B95 was first captured and banded, the worldwide rufa population has collapsed by nearly 80 percent. Most perish somewhere along the great hemispheric circuit, but the Moonbird wings on. He has been seen as recently as November 2011, which makes him nearly twenty years old. Shaking their heads, scientists ask themselves: How can this one bird make it year after year when so many others fall? National Book Award-winning author Phillip Hoose takes us around the hemisphere with the world's most celebrated shorebird, showing the obstacles rufared knots face, introducing a worldwide team of scientists and conservationists trying to save them, and offering insights about what we can do to help shorebirds before it's too late. With inspiring prose, thorough research, and stirring images, Hoose explores the tragedy of extinction through the triumph of a single bird.



**Titanic: Voices from the Disaster** by Deborah

Hopkinson

Call Number: G530 .T6 H66

2012

ISBN: 9780545116749

Publication Date: 2012-04-01

A critically acclaimed nonfiction author pieces together the story of the "Titanic" and that fateful April night in 1912, drawing on the voices of survivors and archival photographs.



**Subjects:** Juvenile Literature   **Tags:** [childrens\\_literature](#), [education](#), [peabody library](#)



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