

# The Thunderbird Advisory Reading Challenge

2009-2010

## Rebecca Caudill Program



### **What is the Award?**

The Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award was developed to encourage children and young adults to read for personal satisfaction. It is an Illinois award for outstanding literature for young people and is sponsored by the [Illinois Reading Council](#), the [Illinois School Library Media Association](#), and the [Illinois Association of Teachers of English](#).

- Books are nominated by children in grades 4-8.
- A master list of 20 titles is sent to participating elementary and middle schools.
- Students read the books on the list and vote for their favorites each February.
- Votes are sent to the award committee, which compiles the final tally.
- The winning title is announced in March.
- Postcards announcing the winner are mailed to each participating school or library.
- A plaque is given to the author of the winning book.
- Public libraries may sponsor the program if the schools in the area choose not to do so.

### **Who Was Rebecca Caudill?**

Rebecca Caudill has loved storytelling since she was five years old. She published her first book when she was 44. Her books are honest, and cross all geographic and social barriers.

Born in Harlan County, Kentucky, deep in the Appalachian Mountains, on February 2, 1899, Rebecca was one of ten children born to George and Susan Caudill, both teachers. She was very active as a student at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. After graduation, she taught English and history in a Tennessee high school. In 1922, she received a fellowship to Vanderbilt University, where she received a master's degree in International Relations.

A tip from a friend led Rebecca to Brazil, where she taught English to children in Rio de Janeiro. Two years later, she returned to Tennessee to help put her younger siblings through college. She edited a publication for young girls in Nashville, eventually landing a job at a Chicago publishing firm.

Rebecca married James Sterling Ayars in 1931, and had two children. In 1937, they moved to Urbana, Illinois. Rebecca's first book, *Barrie and Daughter*, was published in 1943. Ideas for her books came from her childhood; the characters were based on people she knew in the hill country of Kentucky and Tennessee. Her children's books especially brought alive the pioneer era of the 1700s and 1800s.

Rebecca Caudill died October 2, 1985. Her books included *Tree of Freedom*, a Newbery Honor winner (Viking, 1949); *Did You Carry the Flag Today, Charley?* (Holt, 1966); *A Pocketful of Cricket* (Holt, 1964); and *A Certain Small Shepherd* (Dell, 1987).

## **Candill Nominees 2010**

Students may choose to read any of the novels from the list below. Most of these titles can be found in our school library and at the Frankfort Public library. However, they may also be purchased for nominal prices at the local bookstores.

***All the Lovely Bad Ones*** by Mary Downing Hahn  
***A Crooked Kind of Perfect*** by Linda Urban  
***Crossing the Wire*** by Will Hobbs  
***Dragon Slippers*** by Jessica Day George  
***Elephant Run*** by Roland Smith  
***Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree*** by Lauren Tarshis  
***First Light*** by Rebecca Stead  
***Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott*** by Russell Freedman  
***Home of the Brave*** by Katherine Applegate  
***Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life*** by Wendy Mass  
***Kimchi & Calamari*** by Rose Kent  
***The Mozart Question*** by Michael Morpurgo  
***The Naked Mole-Rat Letters*** by Mary Amato  
***Shark Girl*** by Kelly L. Bingham  
***Shooting the Moon*** by Frances O'Roark Dowell  
***A Small White Scar*** by K. A. Nuzum  
***Someone Named Eva*** by Joan M. Wolf  
***The Thing About Georgie*** by Lisa Graff  
***The Wednesday Wars*** by Gary D. Schmidt  
***The White Giraffe*** by Lauren St. John



## **The Thunderbird's Caudill Program Guidelines:**

1. Each student on our team will be challenged to read at least one of the twenty novels entered in the contest. Those who read three or more will be eligible to attend the school wide party, held in the spring, and vote for their favorite with the other children throughout Illinois.
2. Language Arts classes will be brought to the library on a bi-monthly basis beginning in September. During these visits, students will be encouraged to check out new books or use the time to silently read.
3. Those students who finish a Caudill book will fill out a Caudill reading worksheet and turn it into their advisory teacher. They will be invited to sign their names to the posters located outside of their Advisory teacher's room.. A small certificate of recognition will be placed on their locker by the team. Advisory teachers will keep track of the number of books each student has read by filling out the poster.

*\*\*\*Parents, please consider donating one or more titles from the list to your child's Advisory classroom. Thank you ☺*

