



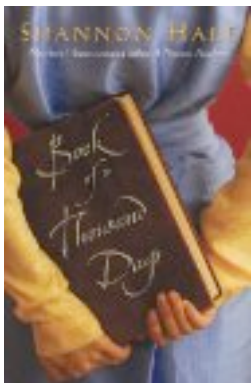
# Sakura Medal 2009

## Middle School Book List



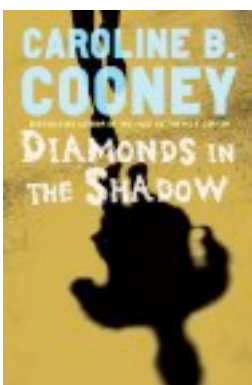
### **The Alchemist: the Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel by Michael Scott**

While working at pleasant but mundane summer jobs in San Francisco, fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, suddenly find themselves caught up in the deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient and powerful book holding the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.



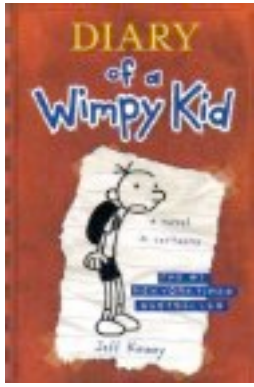
### **Book of a Thousand Days by Shannon Hale**

When Dashti, a maid, and Lady Saren, her mistress, are shut in a tower for seven years for Saren's refusal to marry a man she despises, the two prepare for a very long and dark imprisonment. As food runs low and the days go from broiling hot to freezing cold, it is all Dashti can do to keep them fed and comfortable. But the arrival outside the tower of Saren's two suitors—one welcome, and the other decidedly less so—brings both hope and great danger, and Dashti must make the desperate choices of a girl whose life is worth more than she knows.



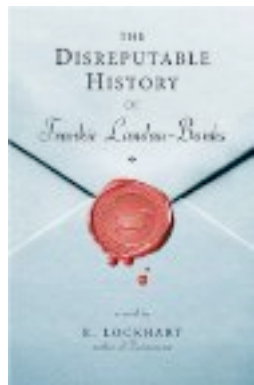
### **Diamonds in the Shadow by Caroline B. Cooney**

The Finch family did not know that five refugees landed from Africa on the day they went to the airport to welcome the family sponsored by their church. The Finch family only knew about the four refugees they were meeting - Andre, Celestine, Mattu, and Alake - mother, father, teenage son and daughter. Soon Jared realizes that the good guys are not always innocent, and he must make a decision that could change the fate of both families. This story presents many points of view and a fresh perspective on doing the right thing.



### **Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney**

Greg Heffley knows he's not popular, but he tries hard to fit in. He records his observations about life in middle school in his journal (NOT a diary, he says) along with frequent drawings.



### **The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks, by E. Lockhart**

Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever.



### **Elephant Run by Roland Smith**

In 1941, bombs drop from the night skies of London, demolishing the apartment Nick Freestone lives in with his mother. Deciding the situation in England is too unstable, Nick's mother sends him to live with his father in Burma, hoping he will be safer living on the family's teak plantation. But as soon as Nick arrives, trouble erupts in this remote Burmese elephant village. Japanese soldiers invade, and Nick's father is taken prisoner. Nick is stranded on the plantation, forced to work as a servant to the new rulers. As life in the village grows more dangerous for Nick and his young friend, Mya, they plan their daring escape. Setting off on elephant back, they will risk their lives to save Nick's father and Mya's brother from a Japanese POW camp.



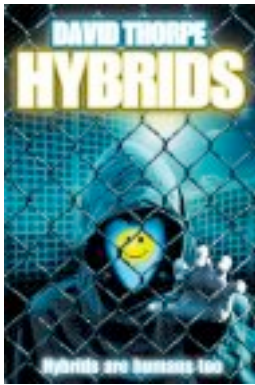
### **Fearless by Tim Lott**

In the not-too-distant future, the world is safe from terrorists, the streets are clean, and girls labeled "juvies" or "mindcrips" have been hidden away behind the smartly painted exterior of the City Community Faith School. Their birth names are forgotten and replaced with a letter and number, but they give each other nicknames like Tattle or Stench or Little Fearless. As they slave away at chores, Little Fearless, who is actually the bravest girl in the school, tells the other girls stories, stories about the day their families will return for them. Little Fearless's own hope and conviction spur her on a dangerous adventure — a bold and unthinkable plan that will either save the imprisoned girls or mean the end of Little Fearless herself, or both.



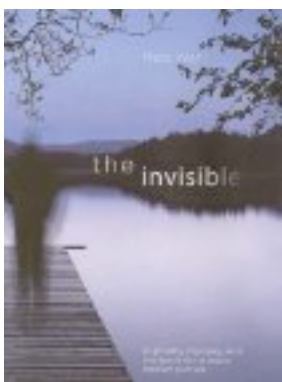
### **Greetings From Planet Earth by Barbara Kerley**

If you had one minute to describe life on Earth, what would you say? It's 1977, and Theo and his class are creating a golden record inspired by the one Voyager 2 will carry into space as a greeting from Earth. But as Theo searches for an original answer to his teacher's question, other questions begin to surface: What happened to his father in Vietnam? And why has his mother been keeping secrets all these years?



### **Hybrids by David Thorpe**

Johnny Online and Kestrella are hybrids - victims of "Creep", a pandemic sweeping the country which causes sufferers to merge with items of technology when over-exposed to their use. Kestrella persuades a wary Johnny to help her find her missing mother, but the Gene Police have other plans for him...



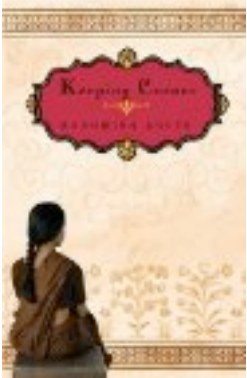
### **The Invisible by Mats Wahl**

One ordinary Monday morning in May, Hilmer Eriksson walks into his high school classroom and discovers that he has become invisible. No one can see him, no one can hear him. In fact, a police detective named Harald Fors arrives at school that very morning to investigate Hilmer's disappearance. The boy has no idea what's going on, but he's frightened, and he's starting to forget things – including what happened to him a few nights earlier. Detective Fors suspects foul play, and those suspicions lead him – trailed by the ghostlike presence of Hilmer – to a group of skinheads. These unpopular, disaffected kids are very vocal about their Nazi sympathies. But how does Hilmer's life intersect with theirs? As Fors scours the village and interviews area residents for clues, he begins to piece together the puzzle of Hilmer's disappearance. Meanwhile Hilmer waits, silently, to discover what has happened to him.



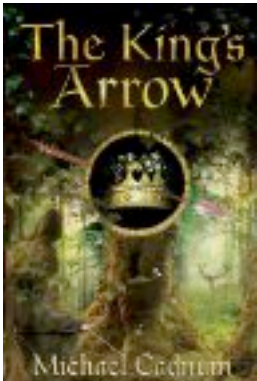
**Joel and Cat set the story straight by Nick Earls & Rebecca Sparrow**

Cat and Joel are definitely not friends, Cat hates Joel because she thinks she saw him cheating on her best friend, and Joel hates Cat because she broke them up. It's only thanks to a leaky pen and a bad case of hay fever that they end up sitting together in Extension English.



**Keeping Corner by Kashmira Sheth**

In India in the 1940s, thirteen-year-old Leela's happy, spoiled childhood ends when her husband since age nine, whom she barely knows, dies, leaving her a widow whose only hope of happiness could come from Mahatma Gandhi's social and political reforms.



**The King's Arrow by Michael Cadnum**

In England's New Forest on the second day of August, 1100, eighteen-year-old Simon Foldre, delighted to be allowed to participate in a royal hunt as squire to the Anglo-Norman nobleman Walter Tirel, finds his future irrevocably altered when, during the hunt, he witnesses the possible murder of King William II.



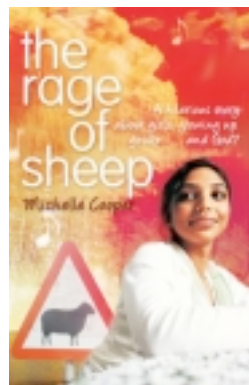
**Lee Raven, Boy Thief by Zizou Corder**

Lee Raven, boy thief, has stolen something he didn't really mean to. Now he faces a perilous flight through London as he tries to escape capture - because Lee has stolen the book of Nebo.



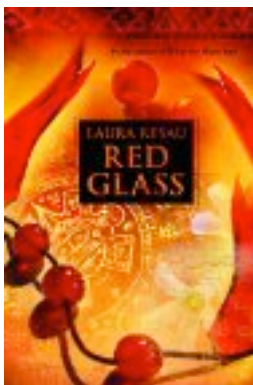
### **Mixing It by Rosemary Hayes**

Fatimah is a devout Muslim. Steve has never given much thought to matters of faith. The two of them happen to be walking down the same street when a terrorist bomb explodes. Steve is badly injured, and when the emergency services arrive they find Fatimah cradling his head in her lap, talking to him, willing him to stay alive. But the media is there too, and the next day their picture appears in every newspaper. "Romeo and Juliet!" and "Love Across the Divide!" scream the headlines. Then the threats and anonymous phone calls start. Can the two young people rise above the hatred and learn to understand one another? And what about the terrorists, who surely aren't doing nothing as Steve and Fatimah try to break down barriers?



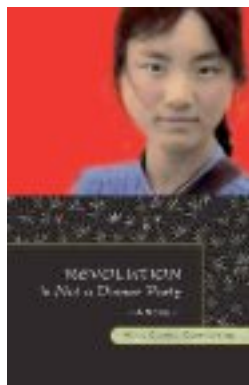
### **The Rage of Sheep by Michelle Cooper**

Hester's been lonely since her best friend Krystena moved away at the beginning of Year 10, but she knows how lucky she is to be hanging around with sweet and kind Lynda and gorgeous, popular Natalie. That is, until they make her sit beside weird Joshua Mason in science class for a laugh.



### **Red Glass by Laura Resau**

Sixteen-year-old Sophie has been frail and delicate since her premature birth, but discovers her true strength during a journey through Mexico, where the six-year-old orphan her family hopes to adopt was born, and to Guatemala, where her would-be boyfriend hopes to find his mother and plans to remain.



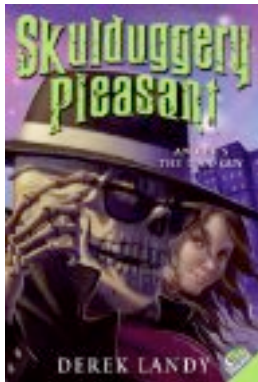
### **Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party by Ying Chang Compestine**

Nine-year-old Ling is very comfortable in her life; her parents are both dedicated surgeons in the best hospital in Wuhan. But when Comrade Li, one of Mao's political officers, moves into a room in their apartment, Ling begins to witness the gradual disintegration of her world. In an atmosphere of increasing mistrust, Ling fears for the safety of her neighbors and, soon, for herself and family. Over the course of four years, Ling manages to grow and blossom, even as she suffers more horrors than many people face in a lifetime.



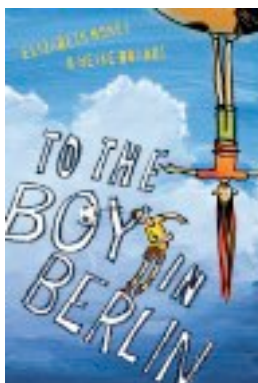
### **Schooled by Gordon Korman**

Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a guidance counselor and attend the local middle school. While Cap knows a lot about tie-dyeing and Zen Buddhism, no education could prepare him for the politics of public school.



### **Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy**

When twelve-year-old Stephanie inherits her weird uncle's estate, she must join forces with Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from the Faceless Ones.



### **To the Boy in Berlin by Elizabeth Honey**

This novel unfolds in a series of emails between Henni in Cauldron Bay, Australia and Leo in Berlin. Henni is trying to uncover the story of the German family who lived in a beachside house in 1915 and left suddenly. Leo, while writing to Henni, is faced with losing his best friend through deportation because of Germany's immigration laws. As their detective work and friendship grows across the distance, they are also grappling with the reality and folly of racial prejudice across the generations.



### **The Transformation of Minna Hargreaves by Fleur Beale**

Minna is a typical fourteen-year-old, who is urban, technologically savvy, and has the right boyfriend and peer group. But her life is turned upside down when her father announces that the family is going to live on an off-shore island for a year, and the venture will be made into a reality TV series.



### **The true meaning of Smekday by Adam Rex**

Twelve-year-old Gratuity "Tip" Tucci is left to fend for herself after Earth is colonized by aliens and her mother is abducted, and must try to stop another alien invasion with only the help of a cat named Pig and an alien named J. Lo.



### **Unwind by Neal Shusterman**

Connor's parents want to be rid of him because he's a troublemaker. Risa has no parents and is being unwound to cut orphanage costs. Lev's unwinding has been planned since his birth, as part of his family's strict religion. These three "unwinds", brought together by desperation, battle a variety of forces, physical and mental. If they can survive until they're eighteen, they can't be harmed. Otherwise, every piece of them will be sold to a world confused about the definition of "life."



### **Wilderness by Roddy Doyle**

Two stories run side by side in this novel. Irish teenager Gráinne anxiously prepares for a reunion with her birth mother Rosemary, who abandoned the family years before. At the same time, Gráinne's half-brothers and their mother take a dogsledding vacation in Finland (the reason for the trip is to stay clear of what is sure to be a difficult reunion for Grainne.) The boys love their dogsledding adventure, enjoying every minute of helping to take care of the dogs, enduring the cold and hard labor and collapsing into bed every night in blissful exhaustion - until the night their mother disappears! As the boys set off into the frozen wilderness on dogsleds to search for their mother, Grainne deals with her coming-of-age epiphany. Survival fiction fans will find the boys' tale especially gripping.

