

## TITLES TO TREASURE FOR 2015

PK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in Montana will once again have the opportunity to vote for their favorite among the five nominated picture book titles for the 2015 Treasure State Award. The nominated titles for 2015 are a reflection of various genres of literature.

Andrea Beaty, author, and David Roberts, illustrator, have collaborated on the book ROSIE REVERE ENGINEER. The main character of this book is Rosie who dreams of becoming an engineer. Rosie is afraid that people will laugh at her inventions so she works on them in her bedroom at night and then hides the completed gizmos under her bed. Things change for Rosie when her great-great-aunt Rose pays her a visit and encourages her to bring her inventions out in the open. Rose convinces Rosie that her inventions are not failures, and it is only a failure if you quit trying. This story reminds students that if you have a passion for something then you should pursue it with persistence.

PRAIRIE CHICKEN LITTLE is a folktale written by Jackie Mims Hopkins and illustrated by Henry Cole. This story is the retelling of the classic tale, CHICKEN LITTLE. Mary McBlicken is a prairie chicken who along with her animal friends are on their way to warn Cowboy Stan and Red Dog Dan that a stampede is coming when they encounter a coyote. Readers are in for a surprise when they discover what the stampede actually is and how the problem is resolved.

A nonfiction title, SAVING YASHA: THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY OF AN ADOPTED MOON BEAR by Lia Kvatum is the third nominated title. Yasha is left scared and alone in the Russian wilderness without his mother. Two young scientists take Yasha deep into the Russian woods in an attempt to teach him how to live in the wild. In the woods Yasha meets two more cubs and the scientists must protect all three cubs as well as raise the cubs to become wild bears able to survive on their own. This is a National Geographic Young Explorer book and is accompanied by outstanding photographs for which National Geographic is well known. The book also contains additional information in the form of websites and books that can be used to expand knowledge and information about the moon bear.

Denise Walter Conduit's book, THE BOY WHO WOULDN'T READ, is of the fantasy genre. Robbie is the main character in this book and he doesn't like to read and he also thinks homework is horrible and that libraries are boring. Robbie makes a wish that he will never have to read again and when a sorcerer, Sileas, appears to grant his wish, he is most excited. Sileas tries to convince Robbie that his wish is not a good idea, but Robbie's stubbornness prevails and with a twist of the sorcerer's wand all the words in the world disappear. Robbie soon comes to the realization that a world without words is a dangerous place and hopes that Sileas will return and restore all the words of the world.

COWPOKE CLYDE AND DIRTY DAWG is a humorous story in rhyme written by Lori Mortensen and illustrated by Michael Allen Austin. Clyde comes to the realization that Dawg is caked with mud and also does not smell very good, so feels that Dawg is due for a bath. However Dawg has another idea and hightails it out the door with Clyde close behind, and soon all the critters on the ranch are caught

up in the chase as well. As the chase continues Clyde soon discovers that there is only one way to get Dawg in the tub.

Any student in Montana in grades PK-3<sup>rd</sup> is eligible to vote for their favorite Treasure State Award nominated title once they have heard all five titles. Votes for the 2015 nominated titles must be submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup> to Carole Monlux, Treasure State Award chair, by email to the address of [carolemonlux@gmail.com](mailto:carolemonlux@gmail.com) or they can also be submitted by mail to Carole at 3738 West Central Ave, Missoula, MT 59804. Questions concerning this award can also be directed to Carole at the above addresses. If you have a favorite book that you would like to have considered for the 2016 list of nominees, please submit the title to Carole by February 1, 2015. A book must have a copyright date of no later than 2013 to be considered for the list of nominees.

Students cast 14, 814 votes for the 2014 nominated titles with JANGLES by David Shannon emerging as the winner of the award. The Montana State Reading Council proudly sponsors this award.