**Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award Winners 1988 – Present**

**Title Author (Call #) Page Count Summary of Book**

**2024:** *Alone* by Megan Freeman (J FRE) 404 pages

When twelve-year-old Maddie hatches a scheme for a secret sleepover with her two best friends, she ends up waking up to a nightmare. She's alone--left behind in a town that has been mysteriously evacuated and abandoned. With no one to rely on, no power, and no working phone lines or internet access, Maddie slowly learns to survive on her own. Her only companions are a Rottweiler named George and all the books she can read. Can Maddie's stubborn will to survive carry her through the most frightening experience of her life?

**2023:** *When Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson (J 741.5 JAM) 256 pages

Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future . . . but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day.

**2022:** *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise* by Dan Gemeinhart (J GEM) 344 pages

Coyote lost her mom and two sisters in a car crash 5 years ago. Since then, Coyote and her dad, Rodeo, have lived on the road in an old school bus, criss-crossing the nation. But when she learns that the park in her old neighborhood where she, her mom, and her sisters buried a treasured memory box is being demolished, she devises an elaborate plan to get her dad to drive 3,600 miles back to Washington state in four days without him realizing it.

**2021:** *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang (J YAN) 286 pages

After emigrating from China, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel, despite the nasty owner, Mr. Yao, who exploits them, while she works the front desk and tries to cope with fitting in at her school.

**2020:** *Refugee* by Alan Gratz (J GRA) 338 pages

JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . .  
ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . .  
MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . .  
All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of *tomorrow*. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.

**2019:** *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds (J REY) 181 pages

Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny four kids from wildly different backgrounds that are chosen for an elite middle school track team--a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. Ghost has a crazy natural talent, but no formal training. Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons—it all starting with running away from his father, who, when Ghost was a very little boy, chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then, Ghost has been the one causing problems—and running away from them—until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who blew his own shot at success by using drugs, and who is determined to keep other kids from blowing their shots at life.

**2018:** *A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen (J NIE PB) 317 pages

When the Berlin Wall went up, Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz are trapped on the eastern side where they were living, while her father, and her other brother Dominic are in the West--four years later, now twelve, Gerta sees her father on a viewing platform on the western side and realizes he wants her to risk her life trying to tunnel to freedom.

**2017:** *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander (J ALE) 237 pages

"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . .The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I’m delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood.

**2016:** *Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25* by Richard Paul Evans (F EVA YA) 326 pages

To everyone at Meridian High School, fourteen-year-old *Michael* *Vey* is nothing special, just the kid who has Tourette's syndrome. But in truth, *Michael* is extremely special--he has electric powers. *Michael* thinks he is unique until he discovers that a cheerleader named Taylor has the same mysterious powers. With the help of *Michael*'s friend, Ostin, the three of them set out to discover how *Michael* and Taylor ended up with their abilities, and their investigation soon brings them to the attention of a powerful group who wants to control the electric teens--and through them, the world.

**2015:** *Legend* by Marie Lu (J LU PB) 305 pages

In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-old Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy.

**2014:** *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio (J PAL) 316 pages

August Pullman was born with a facial deformity that, up until now, prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid -- but his classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. *Wonder* begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

**2013:** *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier (J 741.5 TEL) 313 pages

In this graphic memoir, one night after girl scouts, *Raina* falls and severely damages her two front teeth. Through middle school and into high school, she struggles with peer relationships, discovering her own strengths while enduring painful orthodontia. The concluding pages reveal a self-assured high school student who can indeed *smile*.

**2012:** *Powerless* by Matthew Cody (J COD) 341 pages

"Twelve-year-old Daniel, the new kid in town, soon learns the truth about his nice--but odd--new friends: one can fly, another can turn invisible, yet another controls electricity. Incredible. The superkids use their powers to secretly do good in the town, but they're haunted *by* the fact that the moment they turn thirteen, their abilities will disappear--along with any memory that they ever had them. Is a memory-stealing supervillain sapping their powers? The answers lie in a long-ago meteor strike, a World War II-era comic book (Fantastic Futures, starring the first superhero, Johnny Noble), the green-flamed Witch Fire, a hidden Shroud cave, and--possibly, unbelievably--"*powerless*" regular-kid Daniel himself"

**2011:** *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins (F COL YA) 374 pages

Could you survive on your own, in the wild, with everyone fighting against you? Twenty-four are forced to enter. Only the winner survives. In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. Each year, the districts are forced by the Capitol to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the *Hunger* *Games*, a brutal and terrifying fight to the death -- televised for all of Panem to see. Survival is second nature for sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who struggles to feed her mother and younger sister by secretly hunting and gathering beyond the fences of District 12. When Katniss steps in to take the place of her sister in the *Hunger* *Games*, she knows it may be her death sentence. If she is to survive, she must weigh survival against humanity and life against love.

**2010:** *All the Lovely Bad Ones* by Mary Downing Hahn (J HAH) 182 pages

While spending *the* summer at their grandmother's Vermont inn, two prankster siblings awaken young ghosts from *the* inn's distant past who refuse to "rest in peace."

**2009:** *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan (J RIO) 377 pages

Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson learns he is a demigod, *the* son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of *the* sea. His mother sends him to a summer camp for demigods where he and his new friends set out on a quest to prevent a war between *the* gods.

**2008:** *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick (J SON) 273 pages

Steven is a typical eighth grader, until his younger brother, Jeffrey, is diagnosed with leukemia, *and* life begins to unravel.

**2007:** *So B. It* by Susan Weeks (J WEE) 245 pages

After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.

**2006:** *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini (J PAO) 513 pages

In Alagaësia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called *Eragon* finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

**2005:** *Hoot* by Carl Hiaason (J HIA) 292 pages

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

**2004:** *Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz (J HOR or F HOR YA) 234 pages

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

**2003:** *Fever, 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson (J AND) 251 pages

In *1793* Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow *fever* epidemic.

**2002:** *Holes* by Louis Sachar (J SAC) 233 pages

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

**2001:** *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* by J.K. Rowling (J ROW or F ROW YA) 309 pages

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry.

**2000:** *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine (J LEV) 232 pages

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her. How can a fairy's blessing be such a curse? At her birth, Ella of Frell was the unfortunate recipient of a foolish fairy's gift--the "gift' of obedience. Ella must obey any order given to her, whether it's hopping on one foot for a day and a half, or chopping off her own head! But strong-willed Ella does not tamely accept her fate. Against a bold backdrop of princes, ogres, giants, wicked stepsisters, and fairy godmothers, Ella goes on a quest to break the curse--once and for all. In this incredible debut novel comes the richly entertaining story of Ella of Frell, who at birth was given the gift of obedience by a fairy. Ella soon realizes that this gift is little better than a curse, for how can she truly be herself if at anytime anyone can order her to hop on one foot, or cut off her hand, or betray her kingdom' and she'll have to obey? Against a bold tapestry of princes, ogres, giants, wicked stepsisters, and fairy godmothers, Ella's quest to break the curse once and for all and discover who she really is is as sharply funny as Catherine, Called Birdy and as richly poignant as Beauty, and has all the marks of a classic in the making.

**1999:** *Frindle* by Andrew Clements (J CLE PB) 105 pages

When he decides to turn his fifth-grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

**1998:** *Mick Hart was Here* by Barbara Park (J PAR) 89 pages

Thirteen-year-old Phoebe recalls her younger brother Mick and his death in a bicycle accident. How could someone like Mick die? He was the kid who freaked out his mom by putting a ceramic eye in a defrosted chicken, the kid who did a wild dance in front of the whole school--and the kid who, if only he had worn his bicycle helmet, would still be alive today. But now Phoebe Harte's twelve-year-old brother is gone, and Phoebe's world has turned upside down. With her trademark candor and compassion, beloved middle-grade writer Barbara Park tells how Phoebe copes with her painful loss in this story filled with sadness, humor-and hope.

**1997:** *The Best School Year Ever* by Barbara Robinson (J ROB) 155 pages

The six horrible Herdmans, the worst kids in the history of the world, cause mayhem throughout the school year.

**1996:** *The Giver* by Lois Lowry (J LOW) 180 pages

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

**1995:** *Flight #116 is Down* by Caroline Cooney (J COO) 201 pages

Teenager Heidi Landseth helps rescue people from a plane crash on her family's property, and the experience changes her life forever.

**1994:** *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (J NAY PB) 144 pages

When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

**1993:** *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli (J SPI) 184 pages

He wasn't born with the name Maniac Magee. He came into this world named Jeffrey Lionel Magee, but when his parents died and his life changed, so did his name. And Maniac Magee became a legend. Even today kids talk about how fast he could run; about how he hit an inside-the-park "frog" homer; how no knot, no matter how snarled, would stay that way once he began to untie it. But the thing Maniac Magee is best known for is what he did for the kids from the East Side and those from the West Side.

**1992:** *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry (J LOW PB) 137 pages

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. In Copenhagen the Germans begin their campaign to "relocate" the Jews of Denmark. So Annemarie Johansen's parents take in her best friend Ellen Rosen and pretend that she is a part of their family. "Seamless, compelling, and memorable--impossible to put down; difficult to forget."

**1991:** *Matilda* by Roald Dahl (J DAH) 240 pages

Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.

**1990:** *Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story* by Mary downing Hahn (J HAH) 184 pages

Molly and Michael dislike their spooky new stepsister Heather but realize that they must try to save her when she seems ready to follow a ghost child to her doom.

**1989:** *Dollhouse Murders* by Betty Ren Wright (J WRI) 149 pages

A dollhouse filled with a ghostly light in the middle of the night and dolls that have moved from where she last left them lead Amy and her retarded sister to unravel the mystery surrounding grisly murders that took place years ago.

**1988:** *Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynn Banks (J BAN PB) 181 pages

A nine-year-old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and finds himself involved in adventure when the Indian comes to life in the cupboard and befriends him.