**Bluestem Book Award Winners 2011 – Present**

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

**2023:** *Twins* by Varian Johnson (J 741.5 JOH PB) 247 pages

Maureen and Francine Carter are twins and best friends. They participate in the same clubs, enjoy the same foods, and are partners on all their school projects. But just before the girls start sixth grade, Francine becomes Fran -- a girl who wants to join the chorus, run for class president, and dress in fashionable outfits that set her apart from Maureen. Maureen and Francine are growing apart and there's nothing Maureen can do to stop it. Are sisters really forever? Or will middle school change things for good?

**2022:** *Does It Fart? A Kid’s Guide to the Gas Animals Pass* by Nick Caruso (J 591.5 CAR) unpaged

An illustrated guide to whether or not various animals pass gas, infused with humor and scientific facts.

**2021:** *Wedgie & Gizmo* by Suzanne Selfors (J SEL) 168 pages

While his human Elliot adjusts to his new home and stepfamily, Gizmo, an evil genius guinea pig, searches for a new evil lair where he can plot to take over the world, but Gizmo is constantly thwarted by members of the family.

**2020:** *Real Friends* by Shannon Hale (J 741.5 HAL) 211 pages

The author traces the roller-coaster challenges of first friendships as demonstrated by her own experiences from kindergarten through fifth grade, years marked by cliques, bullies, and her efforts to gain popularity.

**2019:** *Wish* by Barbara O’Connor (J OCO) 227 pages

Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese is sent to live with a family she barely knows in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, but with the help of a skinny stray dog who captures her heart and a neighbor boy named Howard, she learns what the real meaning of family may be*.*

**2018:** *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson (J JAM) 239 pages

For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so, begins the most difficult summer of Astrid’s life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embark on a new friendship. As the end of summer nears and her first roller derby bout (and junior high!) draws closer, Astrid realizes that maybe she is strong enough to handle the bout, a lost friendship, and middle school in short, strong enough to be a roller girl.

**2017:** *El Deafo* by Cece Bell (J 741.5 BEL PB) 233 pages

The author recounts in graphic novel format her experiences with hearing loss at a young age, including using a bulky hearing aid, learning how to lip read, and determining her “superpower.”

**2016:** *The 13 Story Treehouse* by Andy Griffiths (J GRI) 239 pages

Who wouldn’t want to live in a treehouse? Especially a 13-story treehouse that has a bowling alley, a see-through swimming pool, a tank full of sharks, a library full of comics, a secret underground laboratory, a games room, self-making beds, vines you can swing on, a vegetable vaporizer and a marshmallow machine that follows you around and automatically shoots your favorite flavored marshmallows into your mouth whenever it discerns you’re hungry. Life would be perfect for Andy and Terry if it wasn’t for the fact that they have to write their next book, which is almost impossible because there are just so many distractions, including thirteen flying cats, giant bananas, mermaids, a sea monster pretending to be a mermaid, enormous gorillas, and dangerous burp gas-bubblegum bubbles!

**2015:** *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate (J APP) 305 pages

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decided that he must find her a better life.

**2014:** *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio (J PAL) 315 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:** *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper (J DRA) 295 pages

Eleven-year-old Melody, a brilliant fifth grader with cerebral palsy, has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording and has no delete option. She’s the smartest kid in the entire school, but no one knows it—her parents and teachers have always believed that she can’t learn, because she can’t talk. Then Melody discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time, but not everyone is ready to hear what she has to say.

**2012:** *Adventures in Cartooning* by James Sturm (J 741.5 STU) 109 pages

Once upon a time…a princess tried to make a comic. And with the help of a magical cartooning elf, she learned how—well enough to draw her way out of an encounter with a dangerous dragon, near death drowning, and into her very own adventure! Like the princess, young readers will discover that they already have the drawing and writing skills it takes to make a comic—they just need a little know-how. And Adventures in cartooning supplies just that.

**2011:** *Hachiko Waits* by Leslea Newman (J NEW) 96 pages

Professor Ueno’s loyal Akita, Hachiko, waits for him at the train station every afternoon, and even after the professor has a fatal heart attack while at work, Hachiko faithfully continues to await his return until the day the dog dies.