

## E. N. White 2011 ~ 2012 Books of the Month

### September



**A Young Man's Dance** by Laurie Lassaro Knowlton, paintings by Layne Johnson

K-Gr 3-Swirling, dancing colors, both muted and sunny, accompany this lyrical story about a boy whose grandmother has Alzheimer's disease. The young narrator doesn't like to visit Grandma Ronnie now that she is in a home and no longer recognizes him. The book also showcases the poignant process that moves the boy toward an understanding and acceptance of his different yet still beloved relative.

School Library Journal (April 1, 2006)

### October

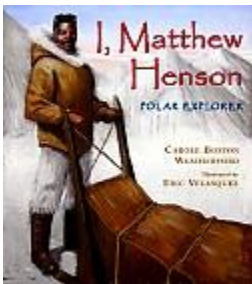
**The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq** written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter

Winter's picture book describes Alia Muhammad Baker's attempt to save her library's collection when war comes to the Iraqi city of Basra in 2003. The illustrations represent the terrors of war realistically but not graphically. This tale provides a good way to talk about war and demonstrates the quiet heroism of fighting for something important without using violence.

Horn Book starred (Fall 2005)



### November



**I, Matthew Henson, Polar Explorer** by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Eric Velasquez

Matthew Henson tells his story of polar exploration in this picture book biography giving the feats an immediacy and perspective missing from other biographies. Beginning with his first voyage as a cabin boy, readers are introduced to a man of purpose and determination. An adept student, he learned the Inuit language and the ways of the natives. This would serve him well since on one voyage with Peary he had to carry the Admiral back after being lost in the Arctic.

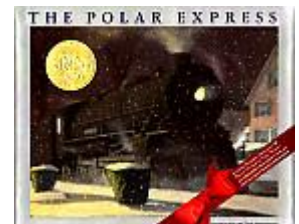
Library Media Connection (April/May 2008)

### December

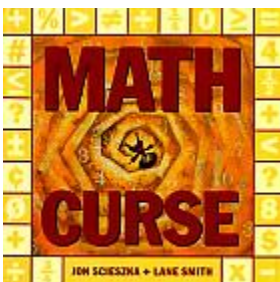
**The Polar Express** written and illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg

Van Allsburg's Polar Express is an old-fashioned steam train that takes children to the North Pole on Christmas Eve to meet the red-suited gentleman and to see him off on his annual sleigh ride. This is a personal retelling of the adult storyteller's adventures as a youngster on that train.

School Library Journal (October 1985)



### January



**Math Curse** by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith

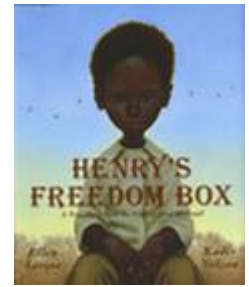
In the story, a girl wakes up one morning to find everything in life arranging itself into a math problem. Throughout the school day, each minor event inspires her to create new sets of math problems, which quickly develop from the merely arithmetical to the moderately puzzling to the truly wacky.

Booklist (Vol. 92, No. 5 (November 1, 1995)

## February

***Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad*** by Ellen Levine and illustrated by Kadir Nelson

This is a fictionalized account of how in 1849 a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown, escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.



## March

***The Junkyard Wonders*** by Patricia Polacco

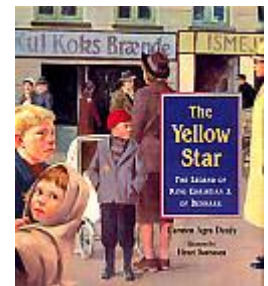
In this story based on Polacco's childhood, young Patricia is upset to be assigned to a special-needs class known colloquially as "the junkyard." However, she's heartened when her extraordinary teacher urges the students to think of themselves as "Wonders," full of exciting potential. Horn Book (Spring 2011)

## April

***The Yellow Star: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark*** by Carmen Agra Deedy and illustrated by Henri Sorenson

When the Nazi occupiers threaten the Jews of Denmark, King Christian X sews a yellow star onto his own clothing, defying Hitler's orders and empowering all Danes to proclaim solidarity with their Jewish friends and neighbors. This well-told legend is coupled with handsome oil paintings that echo and extend the tale's narrative strength and precise setting. An author's note separates fact from fiction.

Horn Book (Spring 2001)



## May

***The Rough-Face Girl*** by Rafe Martin and illustrated by David Shannon

In this powerful retelling of a Native-American Cinderella story, the Rough-Face Girl, the youngest of three daughters, is so named because years of tending the fire have scarred her face and arms. She earns the love of and the right to marry the powerful Invisible Being by seeing him in the beauty of the earth around her. The text contains the cadences and rhythms of oral language, and the illustrations, dark and vivid, use earth tones and shadows to convey the drama. Horn Book starred (September, 1992)



## June

***So Far From the Sea*** by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Chris K. Soentpiet

Visiting the site of the Manzanar War Relocation Camp with her family in 1972, young Laura's anger about her father and grandparents' internment experience is juxtaposed with her father's desire to forget the past and move on. Portraying a rarely seen point of view, the book provides room for discussion of changing historiographical and cultural expectations.

Horn Book starred (September, 1998)

