



Teachers'

Choices

2011



Logo illustration © by Chris Van Allsburg

## What Is the Teachers' Choices Project?

The Teachers' Choices logo that Chris Van Allsburg created (see below)

illuminates the idea that good books reach out and tap us on the shoulder to get our attention. Each year since 1989, the International Reading Association's Teachers' Choices project has identified outstanding trade books, published for children and adolescents, that teachers find exceptional for curriculum use. Parents, also, will find here books good for reading aloud and for help answering questions prompted by tours to a farm, aquarium, or museum or by other shared family activities such as television viewing.

See  
page 7 for the  
Teachers' Choices  
2011 Reading List  
bookmark!

# Primary Readers

Grades K-2, Ages 5-8

## *Back of the Bus*

Aaron Reynolds. Ill. Floyd Cooper. Philomel.

Told from a young boy's point of view, we hear the story of Rosa Parks and her determination to keep her seat on the bus in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955. The language is authentic. Oil painting illustrations magnify the story.

## *The Brothers Kennedy: John, Robert, Edward*

Kathleen Krull. Ill. Amy June Bates. Simon & Schuster.

Three ordinary brothers led three extraordinary lives. The Kennedys were raised to believe that they could change things for the better and with their tireless efforts, they did.

## *Chalk*

Bill Thomson. Marshall Cavendish.

An incredible wordless picture book comes to life when children find a bag of chalk at the park and begin to draw. Each illustration is meticulously painted by hand. The magic chalk will surprise all "readers" who can create their own words with the story.

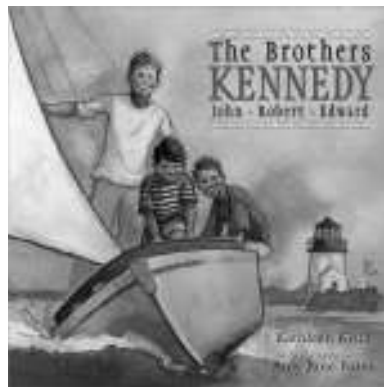
## *The Falling Raindrop*

Neil Johnson and Joel Chin. Tricycle.

This is a simple story to explain the science of the water cycle. One little raindrop is falling to earth and is excited to be alive. However, he then worries about crashing. This story demonstrates how one should live life to the fullest.



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From *The Brothers Kennedy: John, Robert, Edward* by Kathleen Krull. Ill. Amy June Bates. Simon & Schuster.



From *Chalk* by Bill Thomson. Marshall Cavendish.

### ***How Rocket Learned to Read***

Tad Hills. Schwartz & Wade.

A little, yellow bird is determined to get a dog named Rocket to read. This story allows the readers to see and hear the progress of reading. It reminds us that everything takes time. This book makes learning to read very appealing.

### ***Lily's Victory Garden***

Helen L. Wilbur. Ill. Robert Gantt Steele. Sleeping Bear.

This World War II story emphasizes how one girl takes action in her own community by growing a vegetable garden. She asks a neighbor for a plot of land to use. Friendship is bestowed on a woman who has lost her son in the war and working in the garden heals her sorrow. The seed packet artwork adds to the story and shows that one person, no matter how young, can truly make a difference.

### ***Miss Brooks Loves Books! (And I Don't)***

Barbara Bottner. Ill. Michael Emberley. Knopf.

A librarian is challenged when one of her patrons does not like books. Miss Brooks does not give up and is determined to make the match with this young reader.

### ***My Brother Charlie***

Holly Robinson Peete and Ryan Elizabeth Peete. Ill. Shane W. Evans. Scholastic.

Told from a little girl's point of view, we see what it is like for her twin brother to have autism: "Kids with autism are valuable human beings with real feelings even though they can't always express them." This heartwarming story can be shared with children of all ages.

### ***Seed Soil Sun***

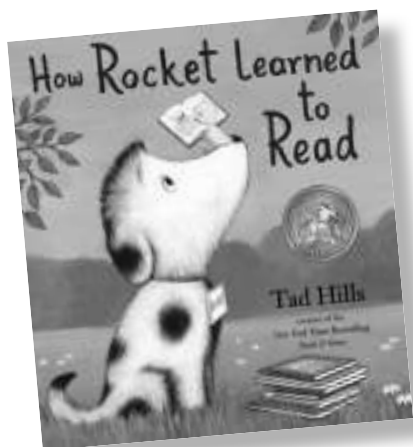
Cris Peterson. Photog. David R. Lundquist. Boyds Mills.

This book has vibrant photographs with lots of details for children to see. It opens with hands showing a wide variety of seeds. We then watch corn grow. This book complements science curricula and demonstrates where food actually comes from rather than just the grocery store.

### ***The Tooth Fairy Meets El Ratón Pérez***

René Colato Lázinez. Ill. Tom Lintern. Tricycle.

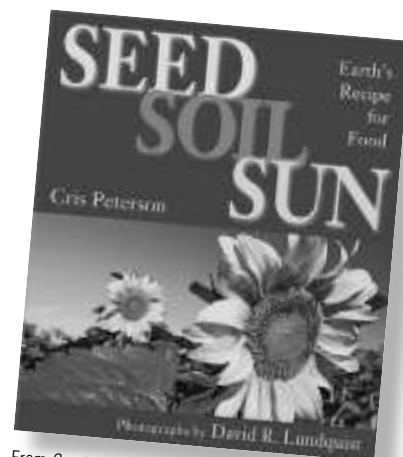
Two cultures collide when a young boy loses his tooth. Will the tooth fairy take the tooth? Or will the Ratón Pérez? The two team up to capture the tooth and decide to share their bounty. This book offers a unique view with which to compare and contrast traditions in other countries.



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