Children's Choices for 2008: A project of the International Reading Association and The Children's Book Council

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Abstract
Each year 12,500 school children from different regions of the United States read and vote on the newly published children's and young adults' trade books that they like best. The Children's Choices for 2008 list is the 34th in a series that first appeared as "Classroom Choices" in the November 1975 issue of The Reading Teacher (RT), a peer-reviewed journal for preschool, primary, and elementary levels published eight times a year by the International Reading Association (IRA). This list is designed for use not only by teachers, librarians, administrators, and booksellers, but also by parents, grandparents, caregivers, and everyone who wishes to encourage young people to read for pleasure.

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To assert through a multiple-choice test that a piece of text has only one meaning is unacceptable, given what we know of language. Voting for the finalists was open to children and teens from March 17 through May 3. Finalists and winners were determined by votes from across the country through the Children’s Choices program, a joint project of the International Literacy Association and the Children’s Book Council. The awards are part of Children’s Book Week, celebrating its 96th year of festivities and events. The goal of the program, created by the Children’s Book Council and nonprofit Every Child a Reader, is to encourage young readers to speak up about their favorite books and “cultivate a life