

NASSAU LIBRARY SYSTEM

NOVEMBER 19, 2007

TO: MEMBER LIBRARY DIRECTORS
CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS

FROM: Renee McGrath, Youth Services Manager

SUBJECT: **2008 Annual Mock Caldecott Discussion Day**

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2008

9:30AM – 12:00PM

(COFFEE & TIME TO EXPLORE MOCK CALDECOTT TITLES AT 9:00AM)

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*******Westbury Memorial Public Library*******

Please note location!!!

Our annual Mock Caldecott Discussion Day will soon be here! This is a wonderful opportunity to examine and evaluate some of the many titles that have been published for children in 2007, and to select our top choices for this prestigious award. **Attached to this memo is a list of 22 titles that all participants will be expected to have read along with an agenda and guidelines for discussion.**

Participants will discuss in-depth the 22 titles in two small groups. We will then vote on our winner and any honor books we wish to select together.

If you plan on attending, please either fill in the form below, or email Renee at rmcgrath@nassaulibrary.org as soon as possible.

Please Return to Renee McGrath, NLS Youth Services

___ I will attend the Mock Caldecott Workshop on Monday, January 7, 2008 at **Westbury Memorial Public Library**.

Name _____

Library _____



Youth Services Office, 900 Jerusalem Avenue, Uniondale, NY 11553-3039
516-292-8920 ext. 232 (Judy), 230 (Renee) 481-4777(fax) rmcgrath@nassaulibrary.org

The
Randolph
Caldecott
Medal



Nassau Library System

2008 Annual Mock Caldecott Discussion Day

Attached you will find a list of **22** books selected for our 2008 Annual Mock Caldecott Discussion. Each title was published in 2007 and meets the established criteria for the Caldecott Award. The list includes books that were well-reviewed and most are included in other Mock Caldecott discussions across the country. Of course, there are many other well-reviewed books and potential Caldecott winners. This is only a small selection of what the Caldecott Committee is actually discussing and there is no guarantee that they will choose one of these titles, but we will have a wonderful day discussing these terrific books and coming up with winners of our own!

Our format will be similar to last year. We will be breaking into 2 small discussion groups led by some of your colleagues. Each group will have an opportunity to discuss every title, so please try to familiarize yourself with all 22 titles. I have included some thoughts on how to evaluate a picture book in this memo from ALSC. I encourage you to try and look at them before our meeting. However, you can also come early and look at the ones you don't own, or couldn't get. Please bring any copies of the listed books that you own to the discussion. It would be helpful to have as many copies as possible on the morning of January 7.

After our discussions, we will come together as a group and vote for the winner. Our guidelines for voting will be similar to the ones used by the actual Caldecott Committee. Criteria for the Caldecott Award and General Discussion Guidelines, which you might want to read over before participating in the event, is also attached.

Engaging in a process that is both vital and dear to the continuation of excellence in literature for young people, the mock discussions allow librarians to become familiar with *some* of the most outstanding books of the year. Participants will learn how the awards are decided and begin to think more critically about literature.

Agenda

9:00 - 9:30	Coffee & time to look over nominated books
9:30 – 9:45	Announcements & Caldecott Award criteria
9:45 – 10:45	First discussion group
10:45 - 11:45	Second discussion group
11:45- 12:00	Group voting & Award Ceremony

2008 Mock Caldecott/ Monday, January 7, 2008
List of Titles to Discuss

The Arrival by Shaun Tan (Not Eligible)

At Night by Jonathan Bean

Bow-Wow Bugs a Bug by Mark Newgarden, illustrated by Megan Montague Cash

The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County by Janice N. Harrington,
illustrated by Shelley Jackson

Comets, Stars, The Moon, and Mars Space Poems and Paintings by Douglas Florian

Dog and Bear: Two Friends - Three Stories by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

The End by David LaRochelle, illustrated by Richard Egielski

Every Friday by Dan Yaccarino

Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A Worldwide Cinderella by Paul Fleischman,
Illustrated by Julie Paschkis

A Good Day by Kevin Henkes

Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine, illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick

Jabberwocky Reimagined and illustrated by Christopher Myers

Knuffle Bunny Too by Mo Willems

Leaves by David Ezra Stein

Old Penn Station by William Low

Orange Pear Apple Bear by Emily Gravett (Not Eligible)

Pictures from our Vacation by Lynne Rae Perkins

Rainstorm by Barbara Lehman

Robot Dreams by Sara Varon

The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain Written & Illustrated by Peter Sis

Yo, Jo! by Rachel Isadora

Some thoughts on how to evaluate a picture book taken from ALSC's handbook on how to do a mock election.*

They have the following advice:

The best way to evaluate a picture book is to look, and look again and again. Approach the book with the joy of discovery, with open eyes and an open mind, giving the author and illustrator a chance to create a visual experience.

Gain an impression of the visual story while flipping slowly through the book from cover to cover without reading the text at first. Viewing the pictures independently in this way also reveals how effectively they flow from one to another.

Then go through the book reading the text and viewing the illustrations. Do text and illustrations work together to tell the story, develop the concept, or impart information?

Do the illustrations extend the narrative, enhance the story, and add new dimension to the text.

Illustrations add visual appeal, decorate the text, and represent the narrative in many picture books, but distinguished illustrations go beyond, to become an integral part of the story. They enhance and enrich the experience by establishing setting, evoking mood, offering nuances to character, leading the eye from page to page and providing visual clues to plot development.

You can, or want, to talk about color, perspective, light and dark, shape or line. These all make up a distinguished picture book.

Things to consider if they detract from the overall effectiveness of a book include typeface, paper stock, size and shape of a book, the dust jacket, front cover and endpapers. An example of this might be the abrupt cropping of illustrations at the book's gutter, or page composition, including poor placement of the text in relation to the pictures. **Also do not discuss a book's 'usefulness' or its appropriateness for storytime.**

*Newbery and Caldecott Mock Elections by Kathleen Simonetta. ALSC, Revised Edition, 2001