



The following titles will be discussed during the ALSC Webinar, *The Best of the Best: 2013 Notable Children's Books*, taking place on April 12, 2013. For a complete list of 2013 Notable Children's Books please visit [www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants](http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants).

According to the ALSC Notable Children's Books Committee manual, these categories loosely represent the following: Younger Readers – Preschool-grade 2 (age 7), including easy-to-read books; Middle Readers – Grades 3-5, ages 8-10; Older Readers – Grades 6-8, ages 11-14; All Ages – Has appeal and interest for children in all of the above age ranges.

## **Young Readers**

***Demolition.*** By Sally Sutton. Illus. by Brian Lovelock. Candlewick.

Through a mix of rhyming text, sounds, and onomatopoeia, and large gritty illustrations, children are introduced to what machines do at a construction site.

***Dogs on Duty.*** By Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. Walker.

Brave, loyal dogs are hard to resist, especially those trained to serve on difficult military missions. Easy-to-read blocks of text are paired with photos to walk readers through the history of these hero hounds.

***Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building.*** By Christy Hale. Illus. by the author. Lee & Low.

Poetry combined with images illustrates how children's play influences the creative process as it pertains to the buildings we inhabit and will inspire readers to dream big.

***Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors.*** By Hena Khan. Illus. by Mehrdokht Amini. Chronicle.

A look at Muslim life through the eyes of a child, sharing family experiences; the warm illustrations and cultural details remind us how similar we are.

***Green.*** By Laura Vaccaro Seeger. Illus. by the author. Roaring Brook/Neal Porter.

Seeger engages all the senses with her fresh approach to the multiple meanings of "green" in this highly original concept book. (A 2013 Caldecott Honor Book)

***Infinity and Me.*** By Kate Hosford. Illus. by Gabi Swiatkowska. Lerner/Carolrhoda.

Children will relate to Uma's experience of feeling small as she considers the universe and her place in it. Idiosyncratic illustrations contrast with the warm relationship between Uma and her grandmother. Finally, infinity in terms Uma can understand.

## **Middle Readers**

***Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an Amazing All-Brother Baseball Team.*** By Audrey Vernick. Illus. by Steven Salerno. Clarion/Houghton.

The Acerra family had twelve sons who all played baseball together from the time they were children, through World War II, and into adulthood. The story of their camaraderie and positive family attitude is as inspiring as their baseball records. Retro illustrations take readers back to the 1930s and 1940s.

***Each Kindness.*** By Jacqueline Woodson. Illus. by E. B. Lewis. Penguin/Nancy Paulsen.

A story of disconnections and regret when a child misses an opportunity of being a friend; while the illustrations reflect a beautiful outside world, the personal world shows isolation and loneliness. (A 2013 Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book)

***Helen's Big World: The Life of Helen Keller.*** By Doreen Rappaport. Illus. by Matt Tavares.

Disney/Hyperion.

Elegant text, direct quotes and big, beautiful illustrations express how Helen Keller's world became larger once she found a way to identify and give voice to her experiences.

***Liar & Spy.*** By Rebecca Stead. Random/Wendy Lamb.

What's real and what's deception? This subtle story, with unlikely friendships and secrets to be revealed, will intrigue readers and encourage a second reading.

***The Mighty Mars Rovers: The Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity.*** By Elizabeth Rusch. illus. Houghton.

Follows the creation and launch of the first two Mars rovers in 2004, their explorations of the Red Planet for the following six years, and the challenges that faced the scientists who built and guided them.

***Titanic: Voices from the Disaster.*** By Deborah Hopkinson. illus. Scholastic Press/Scholastic.

This story of the ill-fated ship is told in compelling detail, offering a gripping account through the voices of survivors. (A 2013 Sibert Honor Book and a YALSA Finalist for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults)

## **Older Readers**

***Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust.*** By Doreen Rappaport. illus. Candlewick.

Faces draw us into history. Filled with abundant photographs and stirring personal accounts, this inspiring, well-researched history reveals and recognizes courageous Jews and righteous Gentiles who fought back during the Holocaust.

***Drama.*** By Raina Telgemeier. Illus. by the author. Graphix/Scholastic.

Callie's personal drama on the tech-crew -- unrequited crushes, a first kiss, middle-school cliques -- is a spot-on tribute to teamwork, strong friendships, and individuality. (A 2013 Stonewall Honor Book)

***My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece.*** By Annabel Pitcher. Little, Brown.

A painful, sometimes comic, but ultimately hopeful, story about a family coping with grief, while confronting their own biases against Muslims.

***National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry: 200 Poems with Photographs that Squeak, Soar, and Roar!*** Ed. by J. Patrick Lewis. illus. National Geographic.

In a collection for all ages, Lewis pairs poems by classic and modern poets with breathtaking photos from the National Geographic archives that capture the amazing diversity of the animal world.

***Seraphina***. By Rachel Hartman. Random.

In Goredd, dragons and humans live in uneasy peace. Hartman pulls Seraphina, a half-human/half-dragon teen musician, into the intrigue at court. Internally logical, suspenseful with just a hint of romance. (The YALSA 2013 William C. Morris Award Book)

***Temple Grandin: How the Girl who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World***. By Sy Montgomery. illus. Houghton.

Using interviews, blueprints, and accessible narrative, the author explains the workings of the autistic brain while introducing the life of Temple Grandin, an autistic woman famous for her animal rights advocacy.