**Garden State Children’s Book Awards Committee Meeting**

**January 9, 2015**

**Old Bridge Public Library**

**In Attendance**: Jordan Bilodeau, Karen T. Bilton, Antonette D’Orazio, Kathy Hackler, Rebecca Klein, Nancy O’Grady, Audra Osorio, Ellen Pozzi, Robin Rockman, Juley Rodwogin, Cassie Runkel, Alia Shields, Jennifer Sivers, Dana Skwirut

Karen Bilton moved that the minutes from last meeting, September 19, 2014 be approved. The motion was seconded by Cassie Runkel.

The next committee meeting will be on February 13, 2015 (Snow Date 2/27, as the YA Section has a meeting 2/20) at Old Bridge Public Library. Morning refreshments will be provided by Cassie, Audra Osorio and Martha Liu. In preparation for the next meeting, we were reminded to finish reading our primary titles and our back-up titles. Non-Fiction readers need to bring their books with them so that everyone can look over the illustrations.

Horn Book Guide is used to formulate the preliminary reading lists. A four-month

on-line subscription is $24 and it was suggested that one of us lay out this fee, to be possibly reimbursed by CSS.

Cassie brought up the possibility of limiting the number of printed ballots and Past Winner down from 1500 of each. After discussion, it was determined that we should cut own order down to 500. Cassie will check with the printer to see if this number is acceptable.

The 2015 NJLA Conference will be held on April 20-22 at Ocean Place in Long Branch. This year the Young Adult Section is in charge and has been approved for the following:

Presenter(s): Sandy Hall (YA librarian, Morris Township Public Library and author

of “*A Little Something Different”*)  
Timeslot: Wednesday, 12:30-2:20 PM

Ellen Pozzi spoke about her presentation at the 2014 NJASL Conference. There was a larger attendance than years past. Besty conducted an interactive presentation that included lesson plan ‘performance’ which was enthusiastically received. Ellen also presented at NJEA and is willing to check to see if they would allow GSCBA to participate next time.

GSCBA Winners and Citations

**Easy reader**: There’s a Fly Guy in My Soup 45 total points

Lets Go for a Drive 29 total points

Amelia Bedelia Sleeps Over 6 total points

Citation for *There’s a Fly Guy in My Soup* written and illustrated by Tedd Arnold

To Tedd Arnold: The children of New Jersey continue to show their love for Fly Guy and welcome him into their lives, onto their book shelves and maybe even bathing in their soup.

**Fiction:** The One and Only Ivan 25 total points

Chomp 23 total points

Nancy Clancy Super Sleuth 16 total points

Citations for *The One and Only Ivan,* written by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by

Patricia Castelao

To Katherine Applegate: The children of New Jersey thank you for painting a beautiful picture of friendship and empathy through Ivan’s story.

To [Patricia Castelao](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2079343.Patricia_Castelao): New Jersey’s children thank you for drawing us into Ivan’s world!

**Fiction Series**: Diary of Wimpy Kid: The Third Wheel 36 total points

Big Nate Goes For Broke 28 total points

Judy Moody and the Bad Luck Charm 9 total points

Citation for *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Third Wheel* written and illustrated by Jeff Kinney

To Jeff Kinney: Greg may feel that the world is against him, but once again the children of New Jersey lift him high on their shoulders.

**Non-fiction**: Nic Bishop’s Snakes 25 total points

Stay the True Story of 10 Dogs 16 total points

Where Do Presidents Come From 14 total points

Brothers at Bat 14 total points

Citation for *Nic Bishop’s Snakes* text and photographs by Nic Bishop

To Nic Bishop: While snakes hope not to be noticed in the first place, the children of New Jersey thank you for exposing the hidden world of snakes through revealing photos and fascinating facts.

Antonette will contact Baker & Taylor to see if they are again willing to donate sets of the winning titles to be raffled off.

There were only 17 voting libraries this past year. One of the possible reasons might be a problem with committee email address which will be addressed.

A discussion of how votes are tabulated followed. The original formula for the weighting of votes was developed by a statistician. This is something that we can revisit if we feel it is needed. The was also a discussion of trends of voting numbers.

Books covers are now on the wiki along with lesson plans to make it easier for Public and School Librarians integrate the nominees into existing programs. It was suggested that we print each category on the ballot separately. Also discussed was the shifting of the focus of publishing the award and use of promotional materials to electronic formats, including the possibility of allowing on-line voting, both by libraries and individual readers. Committee members were encouraged to contact book award committees in other states to see how they handle their campaign and forward any relevant information to Cassie. NJLA is discontinuing the use of wikis, including the GSCBA wiki. Cassie will follow-up regarding the new NJLA shared site.

Jennifer Sivers told us about how she used the nominated titles in her library book club. She will forward more information about this to Ellen to be added to the tip sheet.

Cassie asked committee members to consider volunteering as officers for the 2015/2016 Committee. Ellen Pozzi, current Vice-chair, will be the Chair. We still need someone to act as Vice-chair (and as chair for 2016/2017) and Secretary.

Nancy O’Grady asked if anyone has any materials with reference to the PARCC preparation. All agreed that not much available. Coreclicks has a very small amount of test preparation. It was

generally agreed that the students need to improve reading and typing skills.

Cassie made a motion to adjoin the meeting at 12:10pm. It was seconded by Ellen and Robin Rockman.

Next Meeting: Friday, February 13, 2015 at Old Bridge Public Library.

Coffee and refreshments at 9:30am. Meeting at 10am.