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Biographies from the 2013 Great Lakes Great

Lyneytte Suckow

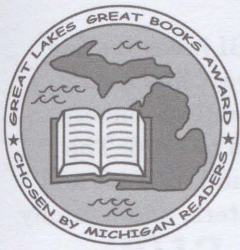
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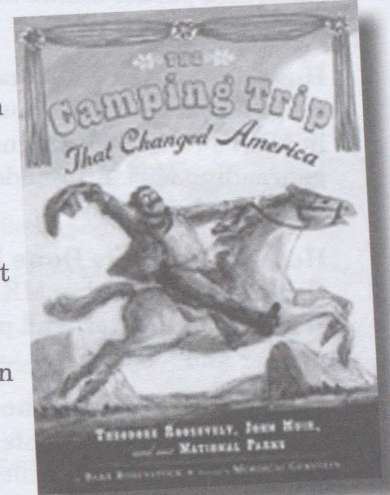


Biographies from the 2013 Great Lakes Great Books List

BY LYNETTE SUCKOW

Rosenstock, B. (2012). *The camping trip that changed America*. 32 pp. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers. ISBN: 978-0803737105. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

Young readers will want to take action when they learn that the entire National Park system began with a book written by John Muir, naturalist from California, who shared his love of the great California wilderness and his fear that it would soon be developed for its natural resources. President Teddy Roosevelt read this book, wrote a letter to Muir, and arranged a camping trip to Yosemite, where the national park is located today. They traveled through groves of giant sequoia trees and to the tops of cliffs that surround Yosemite Valley. Their trip was filled with stories of outdoor adventures, captured by illustrator, Mordecai Gerstein, in full-page spreads that show the campfire stories rising in the smoke like a giant speech bubble. Together, Muir and Roosevelt came up with ideals that eventually became government policy: national ownership of the wilderness, equal access for rich and poor, and preservation of the wilderness for future generations.



Freedman, R. (2012). *Abraham Lincoln & Frederick Douglass*. 128 pp. New York: Clarion Books. ISBN: 978-0547385624. (Hardcover); \$18.99.

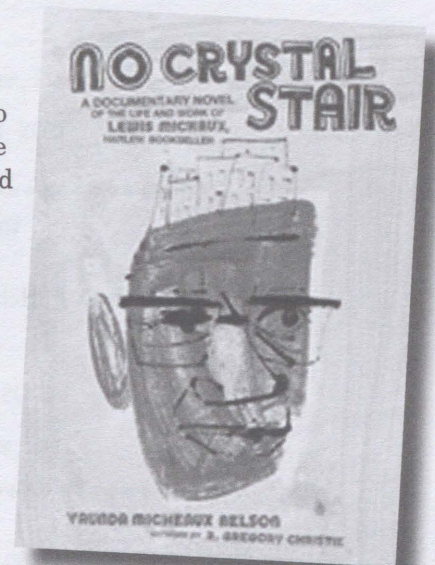
The subtitle, "The Story Behind an American Friendship" begins with a historic meeting between the two great men and then travels back into the past. Douglass's story begins with his childhood in slavery, his determination to educate himself, his escape to freedom in Philadelphia, and his eventual rise to prominence as an abolitionist. Lincoln's story follows a similar path, coming from a family of homesteaders, lacking formal education, leaving home in search of a career, and rising to positions in the Illinois State Legislature, the U.S. House of Representatives and the presidency. Both men believed that slavery was wrong, which became the basis for their friendship. After meeting first to discuss inequitable treatment of black soldiers, Lincoln and Douglass met several more times until Lincoln's assassination. Young readers will appreciate the quotes, photos, and historic sketches that add to the information of this double biography.

Montgomery, S. (2012). *Temple grandin: How the girl who loved cows embraced autism and changed the world*. 148 pp. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children. ISBN: 978-0547443157. (Hardcover); \$17.99.

Who hasn't found it hard to fit in with a crowd, been the target of bullies, or thought no one shared their interests? Add a hypersensitivity to sound and touch and the inability to read emotions on faces, and you have Temple Grandin's particular challenges on the spectrum of autism. She had a father who didn't understand her and a mother who wouldn't give up on her. Mrs. Grandin found a suitable boarding school that recognized Temple's abilities and encouraged her to build on her strengths. Temple's lifelong ability to relate to animals more easily than people eventually led her to be an expert in the humane treatment of cows. Since cows are usually raised to become part of the human food chain, her work concentrated on their living conditions and handling practices. Temple Grandin's amazing journey from childhood to becoming a university professor is chronicled with photos and sidebars of information on brain research and the farming industry.

Nelson, V. M. (2012). *No crystal stair*. 208 pp. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books. ISBN: 978-0761361695. (Hardcover); \$17.95.

Subtitled as *A Documentary Novel of the Life and Work of Lewis Michaux, Harlem Bookseller*, this book takes readers into the life of a man dedicated to equality for African American families through the promotion of literacy. Michaux ran the National Memorial African Bookstore, which featured African American



writers and attracted activists such as Malcolm X. By association, he became a target for FBI investigation and political harassment. The author takes her great uncle's story and tells it in a unique way, like a documentary film on paper. She writes in first person from the viewpoints of Michaux and his family members, allowing each one to speak and grouping them together in a timeline that extends from 1906 to 1976. The writing style is conversational, making for quick reading. Photos and historical documents add interest and validity to the story. Nelson includes author's notes, bibliography, index of historical characters, and a family tree in the back of the book.

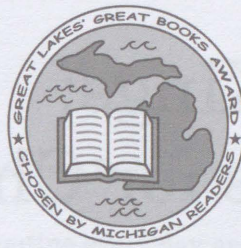
Further Resources On GLBG: Find the complete list of Great Lakes Great Books Award nominations and classroom packet online at http://michiganreading.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=105&Itemid=107.

How Books Are Chosen For GLGB: A committee searches out books from many sources. Nominations are sought from interested members of the community through a nomination form sent to participants, printed in MRA's *News & Views* newsletter and posted on the Michigan Reading Association's website (www.michiganreading.org). A final determination of nominees, divided by grade levels, is assembled into a Great Lakes Great Books packet.

How Balloting Is Done For GLGB: Great Lakes Great Books Packets are distributed at the MRA Annual Conference, mailed to MRA local council presidents, MRA Board and Committee Chairs, placed in the *News & Views* newsletter, and posted on the MRA web site. Packets include the previous year's winners, certificate master and a ballot.

How Winners Are Announced: The winners are announced at the Librarian/Literature Lover's Luncheon at the MRA Annual Conference, printed in the *News & Views* newsletter and posted on the MRA website. The results are also communicated to publishers and authors of winning books.

Lynette Suckow is Website Coordinator at Peter White Public Library in Marquette, MI. She holds a master's degree in education, with a focus on technology, and has been a Great Lakes Great Books committee member for 8 years.



2012-2013 Great Lakes Great Books Award Winners

Kindergarten and First Grade Winner

Clink by Kelly DiPucchio.....HarperCollins Childrens Books, 2011

~Honor Books~

I Had a Favorite Dress by Boni Ashburn.....Abrams Books for Younr Readers, 2011

The Voyage of Turtle Rex by Kurt Cyrus.....Harcout Children's Books, 2011

Second and Third Grade Winner

Bink & Gollie by Kate DeCamillo & Alison McGhee.....Candlewick Press, 2010

~Honor Books~

Spinster Goose by Lisa Wheeler.....Athenum Books for Young Readers, 2011

More Bears by Kenn Nesbitt.....Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2010

Fourth and Fifth Grade Winner

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick.....Scholastic Press, 2011

~Honor Books~

Bird in a Box by Andrea Davis Pinkney.....Little, Brown, & Company, 2011

Nurse, Soldier, Spy by Marissa Moss.....Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2011

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Winner

The Apothecary by Maille Meloy.....G.P.Putnam's Sons, 2011

~Honor Books~

Belly Up by Stuart GibbsSimon & Schuster, 2010

Okay for Now by Gary Schmidt.....Clarion Books, 2011

Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Winner

Hold Me Closer, Necromancer by Lish McBride.....Henry Holt & Company, 2010

~Honor Books~

Revolution by Jennifer Donnelly.....Delacorte Press, 2010

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys.....Philomel Books, 2111

For more on Great Lakes Great Books, go to www.michiganreading.org.