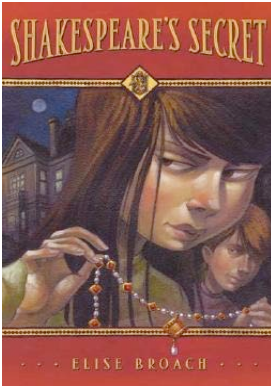


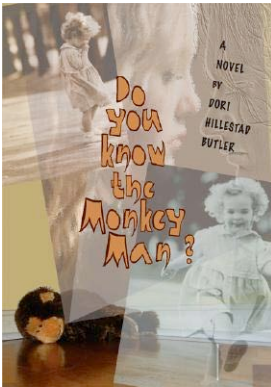


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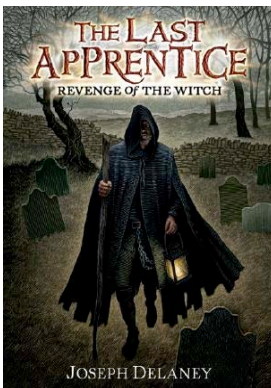
## Black-Eyed Susan Nominees



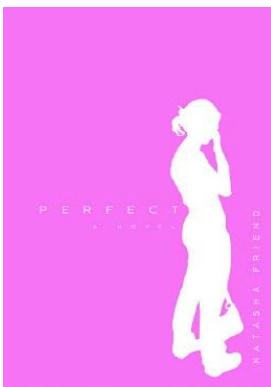
**Shakespeare's Secret**, by Elise Broach, Henry Holt and Company, 2005. Sixth-grader Hero, named after a Shakespeare character, becomes caught up in the search for the missing "Murphy Diamond". She teams up with her elderly neighbor and a popular eight-grader when she learns that the diamond may be in her new house. (Mystery)



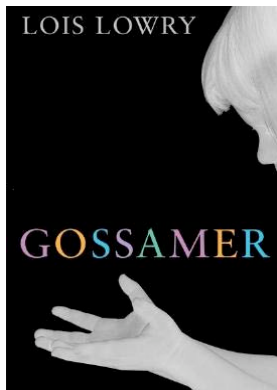
**Do You Know the Monkey Man?**, by Dori Hillestad Butler, Peachtree, 2005. The only psychic listed in the Clearwater, Iowa phone book has just told 13 year-old Samantha astonishing news! Her twin, who supposedly drowned when she was just three, is alive! How crazy a reading is that?! Sam went to the psychic to find out why her father disappeared after the drowning accident and why he never even tried to contact her. Now, confused by the psychic's "revelation," a determined Sam sets out to locate her father and get some real answers. (Realistic)



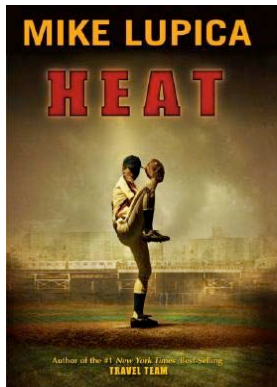
**Revenge of the Witch: The Last Apprentice**, Joseph Delaney, Greenwillow, 2005. Thomas J. Hardy is the 7<sup>th</sup> son of the 7<sup>th</sup> son, the perfect candidate, it seems, to be the Spook's apprentice. His job is to rid villages of malevolent witches, evil unaware witches, hairy boggarts, hall knockers, cattle rippers, ghosts, ghosts, and any other creatures that seek to do harm. For a boy of 13 who sees things that others can't, this is a challenge requiring all of his courage, his wit, and possibly his life. Will he have what it takes to succeed when all those before him have failed? (Fantasy)



**Perfect**, by Natasha Friend, Milkweed Press, 2004. The sudden death of Isabelle Lee's father and her mother's silent mourning causes 13-year-old Isabelle to begin bingeing and purging. When she is "turned In" by her younger sister she begins attending an eating disorder support group where she sees Ashley, the most "perfect" girl in her grade. Together they form a friendship and bond because of their bulimia, but Isabelle realizes that Ashley's perfect life might not be what it seems. Through journaling and counseling, Isabelle is eventually able to talk about her sadness. From there she is able to connect to her sister, help her mother, and begin her road to recovery. (Realistic)



**Gossamer**, by Lois Lowry, Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Do you dream? Ever wonder where your dreams & nightmares come from? Ignore the current findings of brain research for as long as it takes to read this story about a lonely old woman, a troubled foster child, and the magical creatures, good & bad, who influence their world. Perhaps you'll sleep better. (Fantasy)



**Heat**, by Mike Lupica, Philomel, 2006. Michael Arroyo's older brother has always looked out for him, and since their father died he is working even harder to keep them together. Their dream is for Michael to play in the Little League World Series., but without a birth certificate to prove Michael's age this dream may never come true. The birth certificate is in Cuba, and they need a miracle from a major league friend to prove Michael's age. (Sports)

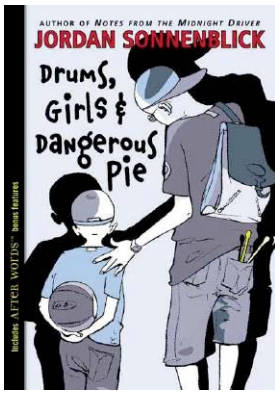


**Archer's Quest**, by Linda Sue Park, Clarion, 2006. Linda Sue Park has woven the fantasy of time travel and the fascinating facts of Korean history into this fast-paced adventure, where the characters learn more than they could imagine about another place and time. When the mysterious archer, Chu-mong, a legendary king of ancient Korea, shows up in his living room, twelve-year-old Kevin Kim is determined to help him return to his own time before the Year of the Tigers ends the next day and history is changed forever. (Fantasy/Aventure)

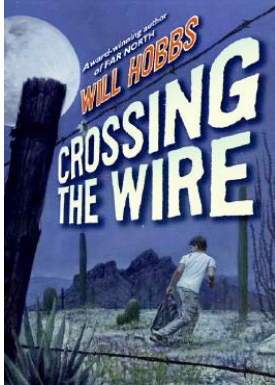


**Crooked River**, by Shelley Pearsall, Knopf, 2005. Is it really justice? This compelling drama examines the early justice system in our country's frontier through the eyes of thirteen-year-old Rebecca Carver, when a Native American Chippewa is accused of murdering a white man. Is it really 1812? The emotional overtones of vengeance, prejudice, anger and courage will make you wonder how many times since then history has repeated itself in our nations' courtrooms. (Historical)





**Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie**, Jordan Sonnenblick, Scholastic, 2005. What happens when your basic 8<sup>th</sup> grade world is shattered by the news that your pesky but loveable 5-year-old brother has leukemia? Join Steven this year as he confronts feelings, family, school and the world of cancer...all without losing his sense of humor. This is a fast-paced story for anyone wondering about what happens in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, or about what happens when you are battling cancer. (Realistic)



**Crossing the Wire**, by Will Hobbs, Harper Collins, 2006. Illegal immigration is a serious contemporary issue. Two teenage boys have crossed into the United States from Mexico and are surviving through determination, intelligence and spirit. As the book comes to an end, the two boys are trying to decide whether to stay in the United States or to return to Mexico. (Realistic)

