

# NUTMEG Children's Book Award

## 2007 NOMINEES, GRADES 4-6

### **Becoming Naomi Leon** by Pam Munoz Ryan

Naomi and her brother are being raised by their great-grandmother. When Naomi's mother reappears after a seven year absence to reclaim Naomi but not her brother, Naomi must find a way to keep her family together.

### **The Boy Who Saved Baseball** by John H. Ritter

Tom must find a way, with the help of his team, a mysterious stranger, and an old baseball star to win one last baseball game and save his beloved baseball park from destruction by a developer.

### **Brainboy and the Deathmaster** by Tor Seidler

Darryl, video game whiz, is drawn into a new video game that eventually lands him in the high-tech home of software guru Keith Masterly. Darryl, however, soon uncovers Masterly's sinister plan and must find a way to stop Masterly as well as escape before it is too late.

### **Gifts From the Sea** by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock

Twelve-year-old Motherless Quila and her father are the keepers of the lighthouse on Devil's Rock island. Quila rescues a baby from the sea after a storm but two years later, when a relative of the child appears, Quila must find a way to keep her new "sister" on Devil's Rock.

### **Granny Torrelli Makes Soup** by Sharon Creech

Rosie and Bailey have been best friends their whole lives. When a big argument and a new girl in the neighborhood threatens their friendship, Granny Torrelli and her cooking help Rosie know what to do to make things right.

### **Half and Half** by Lensey Namioka

Fiona, whose father is Chinese and mother is Scottish, is sometimes confused about who she really is. When her grandparents on both sides come to town for the annual folk festival, Fiona is pulled in both directions as they try to persuade her to participate in their particular section of the festival. Fiona's solution helps her understand that her two halves make a perfect whole.

### **Kensuke's Kingdom** by Michael Morpurgo

Michael and his parents are sailing around the world when a storm washes Michael and his dog Stella overboard and he finds himself stranded on a Pacific island. Michael's survival depends on Kensuke, the island's only other human inhabitant, who also doesn't want anyone to know they are on the island. Can Michael find a way to be rescued and reunited with his parents?

### **Macaroni Boy** by Katherine Ayres

Living in Pittsburgh during the Great Depression, Mike Costa is proud to be part of his family's business, Costa Brothers Fine Food, even though the school bully Andy has nicknamed him "Macaroni Boy". When Mike discovers that his grandfather and Andy seem to have the same sickness, Mike and his best friend Joseph try to discover the source of their illness.

### **Thunder From the Sea** by Joan Hiatt Harlow

Thirteen-year-old orphan Tom Campbell, while fishing with his foster father Enoch Murray, rescues a Newfoundland dog from the sea during a terrible storm. Tom's life seems almost perfect now that he is part of a family and has a dog he loves. But in order to keep Thunder, Tom must keep his jealous neighbors, the Bosworth's, from taking Thunder and at the same time keep Thunder's true owner from finding him.

**The Warriors** by Joseph Bruchac

Jake, an Iroquois, is a star lacrosse player who discovers that his new school's coach is prejudiced toward Native Americans and ignorant of the true history and importance of lacrosse to the Iroquois people. When a terrible tragedy happens to the coach, Jake must decide if he will use his skills, knowledge and love of the game to help the coach.

**About the Nutmeg Award:** The Nutmeg Children's Book Award encourages children in grades 4-6 to read quality literature and to choose their favorite from a list of ten nominated titles. Jointly sponsored by the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) and the Connecticut Educational Media Association (CEMA), the Nutmeg Committee is comprised of children's librarians, school library media specialists and teachers. Readers vote in January at their schools or public libraries for their favorite book to determine the Nutmeg Book Award winner. The winning title is announced in February.

All books nominated for the award must be:

1. A work of fiction, with appeal for readers in grades 4-6;
2. Written by an author who currently resides in the United States;
3. Copyrighted in the United States, and first published no more than five years from date of selection;
4. Currently in print, and available in paper back as well as hard cover;
5. Well-written, with strong characterization, a vivid setting, striking language, a well-constructed plot, and a plausible conclusion.