

## Mock Newbery Awards Chat - 5/18/2011

- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : Welcome Back!
- **Laurie (DEMA)** : Hello again, all!
- **Keri @ Hackensack** : Hello
- **Sharon (PARA)** : Marie: Are you here yet?
- **Sharon (PARA)** : Sorry for being rude--hello again!
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : Welcome to the Newbery pre-mock chat! Our list has been comprised of books in the 8-14 year old range with starred reviews. The authors must live in the US. So far we have read many books, and have short listed Inside Out and Back Again, Amelia Lost, Music Was It, and Dogtag Summer. If you have any other great titles, please let us know.
- **Kate- Dumont** : Hello again
- **Sharon (PARA)** : Just read Inside Out and Back Again last night. I am a sucker for novels written in verse, and this one didn't disappoint.
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : Why don't we start with Amelia Lost? after everyone says hello ;-)
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : or Inside out and back again!
- **Sharon (PARA)** : Ooops--want to start with Amelia Lost? I loved it. I felt it was a really accessible and interesting history of Amelia Earhart, that I didn't want to put down.
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : Hello.
- **Laurie (DEMA)** : I have to say, I really wasn't excited about reading Inside Out and Back Again. BUT I was hooked within the first few pages. The free-verse poetry is beautiful, and Ha's personality comes through perfectly - she feels very real.
- **Megan Kociolek** : Hello
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : I feel like there are a lot of Earheart books being released this spring!
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : And Abraham Lincoln!
- **Sharon (PARA)** : Ha does feel real, and that is probably because the book is based on the writer's life. The prose was just beautiful though, and her voice comes through loud and clear.
- **Kate- Dumont** : I was thinking the same thing
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : And Jane Goodall. I wonder why.
- **Sharon (PARA)** : And Jane Goodall.
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : I don't know but I'm glad to see some stellar women represented!
- **Lizzie @ Leonia** : Hi all. Better late than never...
- **Sharon (PARA)** : Agreed!
- **Megan Kociolek** : They are always publishing Lincoln books. I think the current Amelia books is a very well written historical account, but I didn't think it was Newbery quality. I felt that you couldn't divorce the pictures from the actual book.

- **Latricia (Tenafly)** : Hello all
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : Hey Lizzie! I loved Inside out but I don't know how many kids will give it a try :-(
- **Latricia (Tenafly)** : I love Inside out and Ha. The poems about learning english are great
- **Lizzie @ Leonia** : That's never stopped the Newbery committee before...
- **Laurie (DEMA)** : I have a line of kids waiting for it in Demarest! Granted, I had to pitch it to them first, but everyone who has read it so far absolutely loved it.
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : It's true not many kids will grab onto a book written in poetry. But you could say the same about "Out of the Dust" and that's a winner.
- **Sharon (PARA)** : I agree with Laura--it may be a hard sell--however, the cover was personally very appealing--although I don't think it was a great representation of the actual book.
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : Nope it has't - Yay Demarest!
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : Those types of books are great for discussion groups.
- **Latricia (Tenafly)** : Has anyone had a chance to read Small Acts of Amazing courage by Whelan?
- **Laurie (DEMA)** : I think some of the kids also liked the amount of white space left on the pages - it makes for a quick read.
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : True! They don't realize that the poems can sometimes be harder to read! LOL
- **Lizzie @ Leonia** : Still sitting on the ARC of Small Acts :-(
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : I feel like every year there is one book in verse that just stands out- Love that dog, Peace, Locomotion, Word after word....
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : I just got my copy in Latricia- hoping to get started on it this weekend!
- **Latricia (Tenafly)** : I found it hard to get into at first, but really liked it by the end. Her style is so....dry? I always seem to have that problem with her books, but love them by the end.
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : I love those types of books. When they are well done, they really capture a character profoundly.
- **Latricia (Tenafly)** : This year there are a couple. And while I loved Inside out and Back again. Hidden was really good as well and quite a bit lighter.
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : I meant verse books
- **Janet - Westwood** : Hello all....sorry to be lurking but I have storytime in a few....
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : Meggs- what were you saying about Amelia and picture / content ratio?
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : As for Amelia Lost, I didn't know that it should be judged without the pictures. That's really interesting.

- **Sharon (PARA)** : So, back to Amelia? Megan and I do disagree because I think it is the text, not the photos that draw you in. I do try to read all non-fiction without looking at the photos/illustration and what drew me in with Amelia was the text that ran throughout detailing how they were trying to find her for days. It was very exciting!
- **Megan Kociolek** : It has to be judged without the pictures for the Newbury, I think without the pictures it is just another great biography.
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : I will try that. I usually can't resist the pictures. I said I had that problem with Father Abraham. The pictures were so intriguing, but the text was a little flat.
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : I feel like we had a similar debate about Lincoln Shot a few years ago
- **Sharon (PARA)** : Yes it is a GREAT biography!
- **Lizzie @ Leonia** : Interestingly, It does not look like a biography has won since about 1988...a biography about Lincoln...
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : There's been a lot of non-fiction this year. I find most kids want shorter non-fiction than what is starred. Our school district is pushing non-fiction so I have been buying well reviewed titles.
- **Michelle (MONT)** : Just arriving - I agree with Sharon on Amelia - I enjoyed the text and story, easy to read non-fiction - it must be the year of Amelia, Night Flight is on the Caldecott Favorites with great illustrations
- **Megan Kociolek** : With the pictures it goes from a great biography to an excellent source of historical information.
- **Megan Kociolek** : But is that going to win a Newbery?
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : I don't know but I never would have guessed that Moon over Manifest would have won last year- just goes to show
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : What about Dogtag Summer?
- **Laurie (DEMA)** : Reminder: If you have a favorite from our list, you can vote for it at the Youth Services web site:  
<http://bcclsyc.weebly.com/newbery-current-favorites.html>
- **Lizzie @ Leonia** : Amazing book.
- **Kate N @ Fair Lawn** : Hi! Sorry I'm late. Its crazy here.
- **Sharon (PARA)** : Just arrived on my desk today. About Vietnam also, correct?
- **Lizzie @ Leonia** : It had a real classic feel to it. Very much a journey of self discovery. Still easy to relate to though.
- **IAURA@RFPK** : Hi
- **Kate- Dumont** : I haven't read it yet, but I've heard and read great things
- **Lizzie @ Leonia** : Honestly, it is its own story but it felt a whole lot like Moon Over Manifest to me.
- **Sharon (PARA)** : Again, as with Inside Out, will kids relate to it because of the Vietnam connection?

- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : I know this is terrible to say, but the cover is a turn off for me. It looks very "problem novel", or like a paperback cover
- **Sharon (PARA)** : It felt like Moon over Manifest, is that a good thing? Or will the "real" judges feel that a similar novel cannot win again this year?
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : I agree Meggs the cover lacks appeal
- **Lizzie @ Leonia** : While Vietnam is a big part of the story, the finding out who you are part is what seemed central. And that is timeless.
- **Keri @ Hackensack** : Theoretically the judges aren't supposed to compare the books to anything that's not currently up for discussion. So even if it's similar, if it's good, it could win.
- **Latricia (Tenafly)** : and oddly, while picture and style cannot be a positive for considering a book, they CAN be considered if they make it less effective/less of a contribution to lit
- **Sharon (PARA)** : I can't wait to read it--I love those coming of age novels (think Savvy--one of my all time favorites)
- **Lizzie @ Leonia** : Are we seriously going to judge a book by its cover? ;)
- **Latricia (Tenafly)** : Summer Before Boys has a bit more of a modern setting for some of the same themes
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : I have to try "Moon Over Manifest". I think I was just disappointed that Ninth Ward didn't win. I loved that book. It takes real talent to take a sad story and make it uplifting
- **Sharon (PARA)** : True, Keri, and I don't think we should look at it in that way either. It should be judged on its own merit.
- **Latricia (Tenafly)** : It's set in 2004/05 with a 12 yr old whose mother is deployed with the National Guard.
- **Sharon (PARA)** : Again, Summer Before Boys just came in yesterday. Should get to it soon....
- **Kate- Dumont** : Summer Before Boys just left my library yesterday, didn't have it on the shelf for a whole day.
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : @ Lizzie : of course! The kids do - the difference is we still give it a shot anyway- but it's always interesting to ask the kids to redesign a cover
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : As far as judging books by their cover, no, not for the purpose of a Newbery. But for getting kids to read it...
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : Our last book is Music was IT---thoughts?
- **Latricia (Tenafly)** : @Sharon It's a very quick read. felt very nostalgic for a book set not that long ago
- **Sharon (PARA)** : Agreed--that cover will make it a hard sell for kids. And,, I do wish kid appeal figured into the Newbery awards somehow, but I guess that's a discussion for another time!
- **Keri @ Hackensack** : I don't read a lot of middle grade, but if I were 12 and there was a book called Summer Before Boys, I would read that book in a heartbeat.

- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : Can I see your ID just arrived on my desk. Not sure it's Newbery material, but I think kids will love the hook "Have you ever pretended to be someone you're not?"
- **Sharon (PARA)** : I haven't ordered this book. Lizzie you read it, will anyone check it out?
- **IAURA@RFPK** : I really enjoyed Inside Out and Back Again more than I thought I would and it is universal for any one who has ever felt they don't fit in especially if they are from another culture.
- **Lizzie @ Leonia** : Was not interesting in having to read it. In the first few pages though I was hooked. Music is one of those NF that reads like a novel.
- **Kate- Dumont** : Keri, I actually put a tween sticker on Summer Before Boys, I felt that it would speak to my twelve year olds who are looking to crossover into Young Adult
- **Lizzie @ Leonia** : Ah, the million dollar question. Don't know that your average browser will just pick it up.
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : I feel like its another hard sell - we got spoiled with Graveyard book
- **Lizzie @ Leonia** : So true. That was the total package...
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : Indeed. That book was amazing. Spooky and touching. Not a normal mix.
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : Ok guys- sorry to cut anybody short but we need to be off by 1:40 so Trevor can set up the Caldecott at 1:45!

Don't forget to RSVP for the MIXER!!!! (arlene@bccls.org)

- **Sharon (PARA)** : All in all, I don't feel that thus far there have been many books at all Newbery worthy. Many for Best Books, but not Newbery. I hope this picks up soon.
- **Laura Rifkin CLTR** : Thanks everybody!!
- **Megan Kociolek** : Take Care
- **Marie @ Hasbrouck Heights** : Ciao
- **Sharon (PARA)** : See you in 15 minutes at the Caldecott discussion!
- **Kate- Dumont** : See you soon!
- **Lizzie @ Leonia** : See you all Friday!