

Take Home Books 2009: Younger

MYSELF

Freckleface Strawberry

By: Julianne Moore

A little girl was like everyone else, except she had freckles. Her peers always made negative comments about her freckles. Everyone called her “Freckleface Strawberry”. Freckleface Strawberry tried many ways to get rid of her freckles. Nothing worked so she decided to just wear a mask. Eventually her freckles were forgotten and so was Freckleface Strawberry. She became very lonely without her friends and had learned that it is better to accept herself for who she is, than to try to be someone else.

FAMILY

I Love You the Purplest

By: Barbara M. Joosse

Two brothers, Max and Julian, spend the day with their mother. Throughout the day they ask their mother to judge who is the best at certain tasks including gathering worms, rowing, and catching fish. Instead of choosing either son, the mother responds by recognizing what is special about the way each of the boys completed each task. When it is time to go to bed the mother is asked one final question, “Who do you love best?” Again, the mother is able to describe what she loves about each of them.

FRIENDS

Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse

By: Leo Lionni

Two mice, Alexander and Willie, meet one day. Alexander is a real mouse, while Willie is a wind-up toy mouse. At first sight, Alexander is envious of Willie, because he has someone to love him. He wishes for a life more like his. Soon, Alexander finds out that the grass is not always greener on the other side, as Willie is going to be thrown out with old toys. Now, Willie is the envious one. With the help of a great friend and a magic pebble, Willie is able to be saved from the garbage.

HOMEPLACE

The Big Orange Splot

By: Daniel Manus Pinkwater

Mr. Plumbean lived on a “neat” street, where all the houses looked exactly the same. One day this changes, as a can of paint fell on top of his house, creating a big orange splot. Mr. Plumbean became inspired to add additional creations to his house. Neighbors tried to convince him to change his house back to be just like theirs, until Mr. Plumbean convinced them to add their own originality to the neighborhood.

COMMUNITY

The Rain Came Down

By: David Shannon

The rain came down and then one thing leads to another, until the community is in total chaos. Until...the rain stops. Soon, at the appearance of a rainbow, the town is able to work together to get things back in order.

MAKING MY WORLD A BETTER PLACE

City Green

By: DyanAnne DiSalvo-Ryan

A little girl notices a vacant lot in her community. She gets the idea to spruce up her neighborhood by getting community members to transform the lot into a beautiful garden. A resistant elderly neighbor continues to have a negative outlook on things. He eventually comes around by contributing to the garden, and the little girl learns of his history and gains a better understanding of why he was so unhappy.

Take Home Books 2009: Older

MYSELF

A Bad Case of Stripes

By: David Shannon

Camilla Cream loves lima beans but doesn't want to admit it. She is embarrassed enough as it is, when she wakes up one morning covered in stripes! She tries to go to school but her stripes begin turning into even worse patterns. Doctors, specialists, even her parents are at a loss of how to cure Camilla's bad case of stripes. Soon a knock at the door brings the cure Camilla needed all along...to be true to herself.

FAMILY

Aunt Flossie's Hats (and Crab Cakes Later)

By: Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard

Aunt Flossie receives a visit from her nieces who love to explore the inside of her house. She lets them go through her hat boxes, and they discover very unique hats. Each hat comes with a great story from Aunt Flossie's past.

FRIENDS

Because of Winn-Dixie

By: Kate DiCamillo

India Opal Buloni adopts a dog named Winn-Dixie. India Opal, also known as just "Opal," is getting used to a new life with her father, a small trailer, and a new town after being abandoned by her mother. Through the friendship of Winn-Dixie, Opal's life is put back together, one piece at a time.

HOMEPLACE

The Car Washing Street

By: Denise Lewis Patrick

On Matthew's street, interesting things happen as it is car washing time! Matthew's family does not own their own car, but he still enjoys the sound of water, waxing, and music that fills the block during car-washing time. Each time Matthew's street starts to wash cars, something fun and unexpected happens!

COMMUNITY

Nothing Ever Happens on 90th Street

By: Denise Lewis Patrick

Eva is trying to find something to write about but thinks there is nothing interesting going on in her community. Soon, her unique neighbors show her that the writing possibilities are endless! Her final work brings joy to the entire community!

MAKING MY WORLD A BETTER PLACE

The Three Questions

By: Jon Muth

Nikolai is searching for answers to three important questions: When is the best time to do things? Who is the most important one? What is the right thing to do? When he is faced with a challenge and has to make important decisions to save a life, Nikolai soon finds the answers to each of these questions.