

**"An Award Winning Collection: Newberry and Caldecott's for Children**  
**Linnea Czerney**

Growing up, reading has always been a passion of mine. I was that kid who took home the Scholastic book orders and asked my mother if I could get any, willing to use my own money. Saying no to literacy is a difficult thing for my parents to do when the child is asking for an award winning educational book. I continued to put books on my Christmas lists, birthday lists, and spent hours reading books from anywhere. To this day, I still cannot go to a bookstore and leave with nothing. This collection is an award winning collection; one in which each book has been deemed above the rest, worthy of reading, and most importantly a great choice for children.

Now as an elementary education major, I treasure my collections that have molded my love for reading. One knows they are destined to be a Language Arts teacher when they have picture book and other children's books in their apartment. This collection has been created to someday fill my classroom. Literacy is a growing issue in education. It is common that children are spending time watching television instead of discovering what is inside the pages of a book. Similarly, in this busy society, too often parents do not find nor make the time to read to their children. Sometimes it may be due to the fact that they are unsure what to read or do not have the books readily available. For the future, I hope to send books home with my students weekly, introducing them to new scholarly books, such as these, to ignite a desire for reading.

These books also offer a great range of topic areas and subject matter. It is important to explore various genres and topics. These awards also tend to diversify, and choose literature that may not otherwise be chosen. Many of the texts include folktales from various countries and origins. Books like *The Watson's go to Birmingham*, *Out of the Dust*, *Sarah Plain and Tall*, and *Number the Stars* capture periods of history while making them relatable to young readers. Yet other books explore a child's imagination or realistic aspects of their lives. Books can serve as an outlet for adventure, imagination, creativity, learning, and more. The books I have collected with notable awards make selection easier. There are a lot of books out there that serve little purpose other than getting the child to read. For some reason or another, these books are held above the rest whether it be for their illustrations or the words on the pages.

All of these books are geared toward a younger audience; just the children I will be teaching. I plan to incorporate many of these texts into my classroom through read alouds, take homes, and reading groups. I only hope that my students gain the same enjoyment from literature that I do, and I am able to continue adding to my collection to better their future.