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Great Lakes, Great Books

Lynette Marten Suckow

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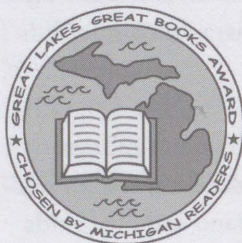
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Great Lakes, Great Books

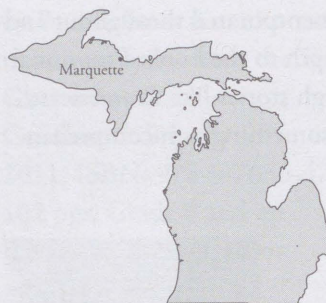
by Lynette Marten Suckow



As you settle into fall and the new school year, find some great new books from the Great Lakes Great Books Award list. Choose from various genres of fiction (reviewed below) or stick to the facts with nonfiction titles. Additionally, there are several graphic novels to delight fans of the visual arts. After sharing these titles with your students, check out the whole list and create a classroom event by voting on your favorite titles.

Each year, the GLGB committee selects 40 books, published within the previous two years, to encourage K-12 classrooms to sample interesting new literature. Teachers and librarians provide classrooms with books from their grade-level lists and facilitate voting for each student's favorite title. Great Lakes Great Books is one of Michigan Reading Association's Student Involvement Projects, promoting active participation in the reading process by students. Look for a classroom ballot, promotional bookmarks, and the opportunity to nominate your favorite new book at www.michiganreading.org under the Student Involvement tab.

BIG CAT, LITTLE CAT by Elisha Cooper (Grades K-1) is a touching tale about a big white cat who was happy to be the one-and-only house pet, until the day a little black cat arrived. The big cat showed little cat how to navigate around the house and, as the little cat grew, they became best friends. After many years, the old white cat passed away. Cooper gently phrases the passing of the white cat, the loneliness of the little black cat, and the introduction of a new pet into the home. The simplicity of this book is deceptive. Well-chosen words combined with black and white drawings pave the way for a story rich in emotion and exposure to a process of mourning that can apply to



**Lynette
Marten Suckow**



people, as well as cats. The life cycle has never been told with such clarity and compassion.

THE INFAMOUS RATSOS ARE NOT AFRAID by Kara LaReau (Grades 2-3) features Louie and Ralphie Ratso from *The Infamous Ratsos*, who are models of toughness, just like their dad, Big Lou. Nobody messes with them because of their bad reputation. However, things aren't working out for the Ratsos. Every time they try to pull a trick on someone, it unintentionally turns out to be a good deed. Their dad finds out about their string of good deeds and surprises them with his anything-but-tough reaction. The Ratso series continues with Louie and Ralphie making their own carnival games from recycled materials after having a great time at the annual carnival. The only drawback is that their carnival location is next to a spooky old building. The Ratso brothers need to conquer their fears of the unknown in order to maximize fun with their friends. The amazing illustrations in this series by Matt Myers won a 2017 Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Award.

THE ENEMY: DETROIT, 1954 by Sara E. Holbrook (Grades 4-5) takes place in 1954 when the Cold War between the U.S. and Russia was at its peak, as evidenced by air raid practice drills and the presence of war veterans in almost every family. German-American families were suspected of having ties with Nazis, and there was a pervasive fear of Communist spies. This was Marjorie Campbell's world when a new student, named Inga, showed up in her sixth-grade classroom. All the girls, especially the very popular Bernadette, voiced their suspicions about Inga. If she moved to the U.S. from Canada, why did she speak German instead of English? Marjorie's natural curiosity about Inga, along with her parents' support of Inga's family, help her stand up to Bernadette and demand fair treatment for all the girls in class, regardless of ethnicity or religion. There are a lot of moving parts in this historic story, including a slam book, foster care, the post-war auto industry in Detroit, and post-traumatic stress disorder—which was undiagnosed in soldiers at the time.

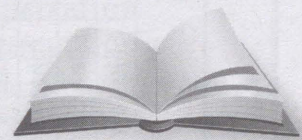
UNBOUND: A NOVEL IN VERSE by Ann E. Burg (Grades 6-8) gives readers a glimpse of life on a cotton plantation in the 1800s. As the story begins, Grace, a slave with light skin and eyes, has been chosen to leave her family in the slave cabins and begin work in the Big House. Grace's mother cautions her to keep her eyes lowered and her opinions to herself, but she has trouble understanding why one person can own another and treat them so badly. Unable to contain her thoughts, she sets off a chain of events that forces her family to flee the plantation or risk being sold to separate slave owners on the auction block. Their escape is suspenseful, with slave hunters behind and deadly creatures ahead in the Great Dismal Swamp. Based on slave narratives collected by the Federal Writer's Project, the issues of parentage and broken families are dealt with honestly. Burg's rhythmic novel in verse is a pleasure to read and easy to incorporate into middle school social studies curricula.

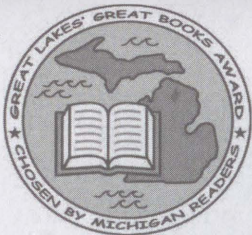
MIDNIGHT AT THE ELECTRIC by Jodi Lynn Anderson (Grades 9-12) is a science fiction story that takes place in 2065, connecting characters and historic events over the span of 115 years. Adri Ortiz is one of the smartest, most driven people on the planet, and that is

how she became a candidate for the Mars program. Her only flaw seems to be a reluctance to socialize. That could be attributed to the loss of her parents at an early age and the absence of any family members...until now. While waiting for her launch date into space, Adri has been sent to an aged cousin, Lily, who lives on a Kansas farm near the government colonization center where Adri will be training. While helping Lily clean out closets, Adri finds a bundle of mysterious letters written by someone named Lenore in England at the end of World War I in 1919, and a diary written by someone named Catherine who resided on this very same Kansas farm during the Dust Bowl in 1934. The common thread between all the female characters is their willingness to follow their dreams, even if it means traveling to new states, new countries, or a new planet.

Author Biography

Lynette Marten Suckow works at the Peter White Public Library's reference desk in Marquette, MI where she provides assistance with library resources and digital technology. She holds a master's degree in education from Northern Michigan University, is actively involved with the Marquette-Alger Reading Council, and has been a follower of the Great Lakes Great Books Award list for the last 12 years. She can be reached at lynette.suckow@gmail.com.





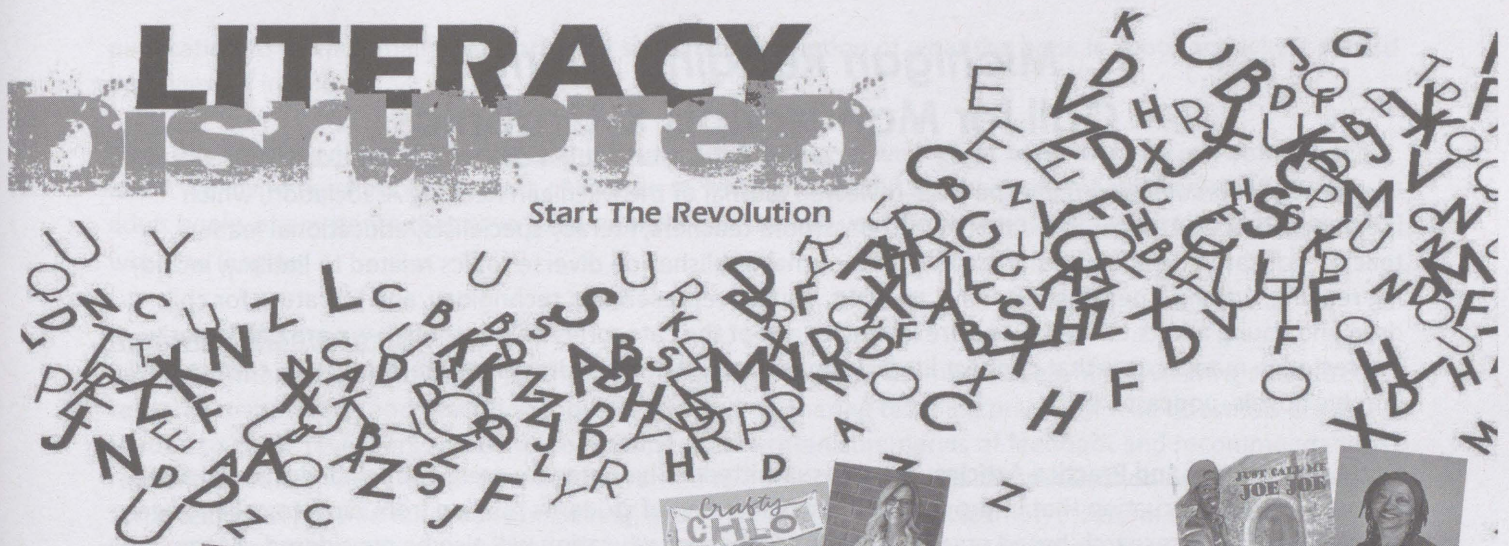
OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR THE 2018-19 GREAT LAKES GREAT BOOKS AWARD

COMPLETED BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 25, 2019. Ballots may be completed online at www.michiganreading.org under the student involvement tab or e-mailed to greatlakesgreatbooks@gmail.com. Enter one vote per student.

Grades K-1			Grades 2-3		
Vote	Title	Author	Vote	Title	Author
	Big Cat, Little Cat	Elisha Cooper		Whoosh!	Chris Barton
	This Is How We Do It	Matt Lamothe		The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors	Drew Daywalt
	Blue Sky White Stars	Sarvinder Naberhaus		Mae and June and the Wonder Wheel	Charise Mericle Harper
	Life	Cynthia Rylant		Spinach Dip Pancakes	Kevin Kammeraad
	After the Fall	Dan Santat		The Infamous Ratsos Are Not Afraid	Kara LaReau
	I Am Josephine	Jan Thornhill		The Youngest Marcher	Cynthia Levinson
	The Water Princess	Susan Verde		Nerdy Birdy Tweets	Aaron Reynolds
	That's My Book and Other Stories	Salina Yoon		If Sharks Disappeared	Lily Williams
Grades 4-5			Grades 6-8		
Vote	Title	Author	Vote	Title	Author
	Grand Canyon	Jason Chin		Posted	John David Anderson
	Three Pennies	Melanie Crowder		Unbound: A Novel in Verse	Ann E. Burg
	Real Friends	Shannon Hale		See You in the Cosmos	Jack Cheng
	The Enemy: Detroit, 1954	Sara E. Holbrook		One Last Word	Nikki Grimes
	How Many Guinea Pigs Can Fit on a Plane	Laura Overdeck		All's Faire in Middle School	Victoria Jamieson
	Silent Days, Silent Dreams	Allen Say		Furthermore	Tahereh Mafi
	Orphan Island	Laurel Snyder		Flying Lessons & Other Stories	Ellen Oh, Editor
	Save Me a Seat	Sarah Weeks		Forget Me Not	Ellie Terry
Grades 9-12			Teacher Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____ School or Library: _____ City: _____ <i>For more information about GLGB, please visit: www.michiganreading.org</i>		
Vote	Title	Author			
	Midnight at the Electric	Jodi Lynn Anderson			
	Bad Romance	Heather Demetrios			
	The Great American Whatever	Tim Federle			
	Loving vs. Virginia	Patricia Hruby Powell			
	Long Way Down	Jason Reynolds			
	A List of Cages	Robin Roe			
	Spill Zone	Scott Westerfeld			
	American Street	Ibi Zoboi			

LITERACY DISRUPTED

Start The Revolution



Gary Schmidt



Ellen Airgood



Kelly DiPucchio

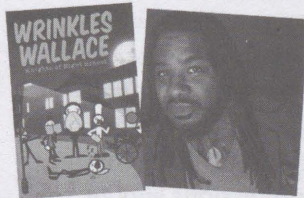


Jean Alicia Elster



Kevin Kammeraad

Leslie Helakoski



Marquin Parks



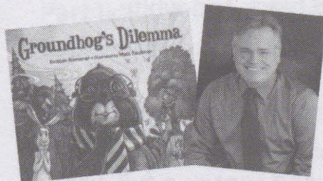
Michael Salinger &
Sara Holbrook



Buffy Silverman



Alison DeCamp



Matt Faulkner



Jerzy & Anne Drozd



Carrie Pearson



Debbie Gonzales



Ruth McNally Barshaw



Kristin Bartley Lenz

Conference Registration

Early Bird Registration

Early Bird prices only available through January 16

Members

Non-Members

3 Day Registration - \$219 3 Day Registration - \$299

1 Day Registration - \$174 1 Day Registration - \$224

Membership Fee - \$35

*Discounted retiree & student rates available at
michiganreading.org

