Texas Bluebonnet Award Nominees
ESD THIRD AND FOURTH GRADES
An Optional Reading Incentive Program

There are 20 books on the 2014-2015 Texas Bluebonnet list of nominees. In January 2015, all 3rd and 4th graders who have read at least 5 of the nominees are eligible to vote for their favorite book in the state-wide poll. The Texas Library Association sponsors this program in order to encourage voluntary reading, and to expose students to a variety of genres (fiction, biography, poetry, history, etc.) In addition to this activity, ESD sponsors our own incentive reading award program featuring the Texas Bluebonnet nominees. Students may begin this program over the summer. Requirements are:

1) Read (or listen to someone read) ten (10) of the nominated books on the following list of Bluebonnet nominees. Please note that the list includes approximate “grade level equivalent” reading level [R.L. = Reading Level] and recommended grade levels according to interest. There are a few books which I believe are more appropriate for Middle School students; this is because of more mature content [remember that the Texas Bluebonnet program is designed for students in grades 3-6.] [Please note: students must read books from this list for the 2014-2015 school year, the 2015-2016 list will be released in November 2014, so don’t be confused if you see different books in the bookstores or public library at that time. We will only count books on this list for the award.

2) Using the form attached to this packet, write a short report (at least one paragraph) on the book. Be sure to include a brief summary (main characters and events) in your own words (i.e. not copied from the back cover of the book) as well as a few sentences stating your opinion of the book (e.g. your favorite part, whether you recommend this book to others, or any appropriate criticism, but please include specific reasons for your opinion.) Reports may be hand-written or typed, but the reports must be in your own words! We prefer you use the official form, but as long as all the information asked for on the form is included, you may use your own format.

3) Turn in each report to your classroom teacher. Reports finished during the summer may be held and turned in when school begins in the fall. Be sure to include your first and last name and your teacher’s name in the spaces provided. It is a good idea to keep a copy of your reports. Deadline: May 4, 2015.

4) Successful completion leads to recognition during the May 2015 Honors Assembly

Questions? Contact Mrs. Tollefson tollfsonb@esdallas.org
Texas Bluebonnet Award Annotated 2014-2015 Master List

THE TEXAS BLUEBONNET COMMITTEE AND THE TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SPONSOR THE TEXAS BLUEBONNET AWARD READING LIST FOR GRADES 3-6 SOLELY TO ENCOURAGE FREE VOLUNTARY READING. WWW.TXLA.ORG/TBA

This list has been reprinted for the use of ESD 3rd and 4th graders to use for an ESD incentive reading program. Please note that we have added the “grade level equivalent” reading level, and the age appropriate interest level for each title. Note that some books are more appropriate for middle school readers due to intense subject matter. Parents may wish to preview these books before giving them to their children. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Tollefson [tollefsonb@esdallas.org]

An asterisk (*) indicates the title is available for download as a book or audio book through the ESD Digital Overdrive Collection

*Baker, Kim. 2012. Pickle: The (Formerly) Anonymous Prank Club of Fountain Point Middle School. Illustrated by Tim Probert. Can you keep a secret? When you are the mastermind behind amazing pranks, remaining anonymous can be tough. That's why Ben and his friends form the League of Picklemakers, a real club, whose sole purpose is to pull pranks. [R.L. 5.7, Gr. 3-7]

Campbell, K. G. 2012. Lester’s Dreadful Sweaters. The clickety clack of Cousin Clara’s knitting needles is a dreadful sound to Lester. Her quirky sweater creations are beyond atrocious in this delightfully silly picture book. You will be glad she’s not your cousin! [R.L. 3.2, Gr. K-4]

Cheng, Andrea. 2012. The Year of the Book. Illustrated by Abigail Halpin. Sometimes it’s easier to be friends with the characters in a book than it is with people around us. When Anna’s best friend starts hanging around other girls, Anna finds comfort and companionship in the pages of her favorite books, while learning how to make dumplings and sew drawstring bags. [R.L. 2.3, Gr. 3-6]

Daywalt, Drew. 2013. The Day the Crayons Quit. Illustrated by Oliver Jeffers. Can crayons really go on STRIKE? Imagine opening your box of crayons only to discover the crayons have all quit! When Duncan finds letters from his crayons complaining about his color choices, he realizes crayons have feelings, too. What would you do to keep your crayons happy? [R.L. 2.3, Gr. K-4]

*DiCamillo, Kate. 2013. Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures. Illustrated by K. G. Campbell. After an unfortunate incident with the vacuum cleaner, Ulysses becomes a superhero squirrel! Flora recognizes Ulysses’ special potential as writer, adventurer, and peacemaker. This chapter book and graphic novel hybrid, with loveable, unstoppable Ulysses, will steal your heart. [R.L. 4.3, Gr. 3-6]

Fairlie, Emily. 2012. Lost Treasure of Tuckernuck. Illustrated by Antonio Javier Caparo. Put on your thinking caps, or Clucker hats, and help Laurie and Bud solve the mystery of the famous Tutweller Treasure before the school board tears down Tuckernuck Hall! Unexpected twists and humorous characters will keep you on your toes until the very end. [R.L. 3.9, Gr. 3-6]

Gibbs, Stuart. 2013. Spy Camp. Spy School is out for summer, but attendance at Survival Camp is mandatory! For twelve-year-old Ben, the camp experience will come in handy, as he is trying to survive death threats from Spydor, the evil rival spy network. No time for vacation in the world of espionage! [R.L. 4.5 Gr.5-8]

Hale, Nathan. 2012. Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: One Dead Spy. Yes, the author does share the name of the Revolutionary War spy, best remembered for his famous last words: “I regret that I have but one life to give for my country.” This graphic novel provides insight into the events leading up to the capture and hanging of one of America’s most well-known and unfortunate spies. [R.L. 3.6, Gr. 3-6]

Holyoke, Polly. 2013. The Neptune Project. In a future ravaged by global warming, Nere, daughter of
oceanographer parents, sets out to save the world with a team of newfound friends. Physical and mental obstacles challenge their courage and survival skills. Together, they must brave the beautiful ocean while government agents and dangerous aquatic predators lurk beneath the waves. [R.L. 5.6, Gr. 5-8]

*Krosoczka, Jarrett J. 2013. **Platypus Police Squad: The Frog Who Croaked.** Rick Zengo, a new detective on the Platypus Police Squad, is anxious to prove he is up to the task. When a beloved English teacher from the local high school goes missing in an illegal synthetic-fish deal gone awry, Zengo and his partner must stay hot on a trail taking them from swanky nightclub to the underbelly of the city. [R.L. 4.9, Gr. 3-6]

Lewis, J. Patrick. 2013. **Face Bug.** Illustrated by Kelly Murphy. Photography by Frederic B. Siskind. Come tour the new and exciting grand opening of the Face Bug Museum! Learn about a variety of weird and unusual insects through close-up photography of bug faces, humorous cartoon bug action, and some fun poetry by a poet laureate. [R.L. 4.9, Gr. 3-6]

*Macdonald, Maryann. 2013. **Odette's Secrets.** Most ten year olds love to keep secrets, but Odette must keep a secret to save her life. Written in free verse, this story offers a different perspective of the hurt, confusion and strength of a young Jewish girl during the Nazi invasion of Paris. [R.L. 3.2, Gr. 5-8]

*Mack, W. C. 2013. **Athlete vs. Mathlete.** Fraternal twins Owen, the jock, and Russell, the brains, coexisted for the majority of their life. This year, however, their worlds are turned upside down when the new basketball coach makes all the boys try out, and the brainiac ends up being a closeted Michael Jordan! Can the athlete brother keep pace and show some academic prowess? [R.L. 3.9, Gr. 3-6]

Ponti, James. 2012. **Dead City.** Pop Quiz — you are in the school bathroom with only a towel and flat iron when a zombie attacks. What do you do? Luckily for Molly, her mother has secretly prepared her with martial arts, fencing, and birdwatching lessons. Will those lessons pay off? Welcome to Molly Bigelow’s life! [R.L. 5.1, Gr. 5-8]

*Ransom, Candice F. 2012. **Rebel McKenzie.** The last place you’d ever expect to see this aspiring paleontologist is in a beauty pageant. But when Rebel wants to raise money for the Ice Age Kids’ Dig and Safari summer camp, she’s willing to try anything. Follow her as she ventures into the unfamiliar realm of hairstyles, makeup, and fancy dresses. After all, how hard can it be? [R.L. 4.1, Gr. 3-6]

Schubert, Leda. 2012. **Monsieur Marceau.** Illustrated by Gérard DuBois. Meet the world famous mime, Marcel Marceau. “He chases butterflies without a net...He can be a tree or a flower, a fish or a human being.” He rescues Americans parachuting into World War II France. His talent lies in not making a sound. A biography that says volumes without words. [R.L. 3.7, Gr. K-4]

*Shurtliff, Liesl. 2013. **Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin.** Think you know the story of Rumpelstiltskin? Think again! Rump has been bullied his whole life because of his name. Join his journey to find his destiny and break a magical curse in this new take on a familiar tale. [R.L. 4.1, Gr. 3-6]

*Sloan, Holly Goldberg. 2013. **Counting by 7s.** Willow, a twelve-year-old prodigy, loves the number 7, is obsessed with her garden and medical diseases, and is not interested in the usual middle school activities! Told through Willow's voice, this heartwarming story is filled with memorable characters who are thrust together by tragic circumstances. Their bonding results in the true meaning of “family””. [R.L. 5.3, Gr. 5-8]

*Stead, Rebecca. 2012. **Liar & Spy.** If you saw a sign that read “Spy Club Meeting – Today” would you want to know where and when? Join Georges as he moves into a new apartment and discovers that sometimes, even when you’re looking closely, you can still miss the clues. [R.L. 3.8, Gr. 5-8]

*Taylor, S.S. 2012. **The Expeditioners and the Treasure of Drowned Man’s Canyon.** Illustrated by Katherine Roy. Siblings Kit, Zander, and M.K. are on their own after Dad goes missing while exploring the world’s uncharted land. This alternate reality has a clever steampunk style that provides interesting mechanical gadgets to help in the quest to find their dad and the missing half of their treasure map. Revel in the blend of engineering, cartography, anthropology, and geology for a great adventure. [R.L. 5.1, Gr. 5-8]