

SCHOLASTIC



GOLD



# Introducing SCHOLASTIC GOLD

At Scholastic, we take great pride in the many critically acclaimed and award-winning middle-grade novels we've published throughout the years. Now we're gathering together some of our favorites for a new line we're calling Scholastic Gold.

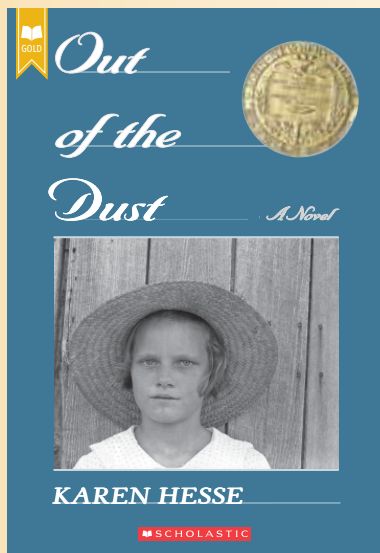
Our Scholastic Gold collection features a specially selected mix of both classic and newer titles, all of which have received extensive praise. Each of these Scholastic Gold titles contains exclusive bonus material at the end to enrich and enhance the reading experience.

Written by a number of today's best, most beloved authors, these books cover a broad range of genres and feature many diverse voices. Collectively, they are cherished by teachers, parents, librarians, and readers alike.

Read on to discover more about each treasured title from Scholastic Gold . . .

**For the Best in Middle-Grade Fiction,  
Go for the Gold!**





## OUT OF THE DUST

By Karen Hesse

PB: 978-0-590-37125-4 • \$7.99

In a series of compelling free-verse poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo tells the gripping tale of her family's struggle to survive during the dust bowl years of the Great Depression.

**Newbery Medal**

**Scott O'Dell Award**

**ALA Notable Children's Book**

**ALA Best Book for Young Adults**

**School Library Journal  
Best Book of the Year**

**Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year**

**New York Public Library 100 Titles  
for Reading and Sharing**

★ "Poetically conveys the heat, dust and wind of Oklahoma . . . Hesse paints a vivid picture."

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "Grounded in harsh reality, yet . . . decidedly poetic."

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "A powerfully compelling tale."

—*Booklist*, starred review

### BONUS MATERIALS INCLUDE:

Extended About the Author • Q&A with Karen Hesse • Historical Context  
Excerpts from Karen Hesse's Newbery Medal Acceptance Speech



## RULES

By Cynthia Lord

PB: 978-0-439-44383-8 • \$7.99

Catherine longs for a normal life, but her brother's autism makes that seem impossible—until some new friends turn Catherine's life upside down and force her to wonder: What is normal?

**Newbery Honor Book**

**New York Times Bestseller**

**Schneider Family Book Award**

**ALA Notable Children's Book**

**Bank Street College of Education  
Best Children's Book of the Year**

**NCTE Notable Children's Book  
in the Language Arts**

**Michigan Library Association Mitten  
Award Winner**

"Heartwarming."  
—*Booklist*

"A lovely, warm read, and a great  
discussion starter."  
—*School Library Journal*

"Rewarding."  
—*Publishers Weekly*

### BONUS MATERIALS INCLUDE:

Extended About the Author • Q&A with Cynthia Lord • Activities and Puzzles



## CHASING VERMEER

By Blue Balliett

Illustrated by Brett Helquist

PB: 978-0-439-37297-8 • \$7.99

When Petra and Calder end up in the middle of an international art scandal, the clever duo must track down a stolen Vermeer painting—and solve a case even the FBI can't crack.

**New York Times Bestseller**

**New York Times Notable Book**

**Edgar Award Winner**

**Agatha Award Winner**

**Book Sense Book of the Year Award Winner**

**Chicago Tribune Prize for  
Young Adult Fiction**

**Booklist Editors' Choice**

**Texas Bluebonnet Award Master List**

**CHILD Magazine Best Children's Book Award**

"Suspenseful, exciting, charming and even unexpectedly moving."

—*The New York Times Book Review*

"A Da Vinci Code for tweens."

—*Newsweek*

★ "This smart, playful story never stops challenging (and exhilarating) the audience."

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "A great read."

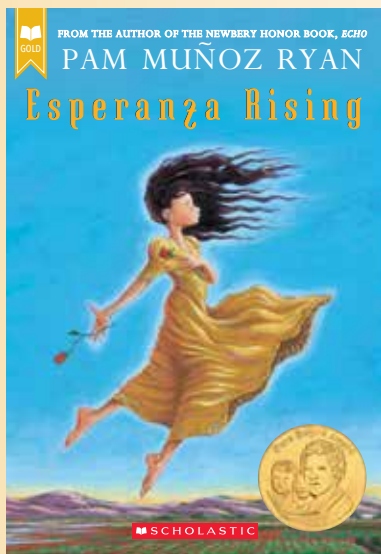
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "Delightful."

—*Booklist*, starred review

### BONUS MATERIALS INCLUDE:

Extended About the Author and Illustrator • Q&As with Blue Balliett and Brett Helquist  
Activities and Puzzles



## ESPERANZA RISING

By Pam Muñoz Ryan

PB: 978-0-439-12042-5 • \$6.99

After a sudden tragedy, a wealthy Mexican girl and her mother lose everything and are forced to flee to the United States, where they must work as migrant workers during the Great Depression.

**Pura Belpré Award**

**Jane Addams Children's Book Award**

**Willa Cather Award**

**ALA Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults**

**Américas Honor Book**

**California Young Reader Medal**

**Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year**

**Judy Goddard/Libraries Limited Arizona Young  
Adult Author Award**

**Judy Lopez Memorial Award for Children's  
Literature**

**South Carolina Junior Book Award**

★ "Lyrical . . . Readers will be swept up."

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "This well-written novel belongs in all collections."

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

### BONUS MATERIALS INCLUDE:

Extended About the Author  
Q&A with Pam Muñoz Ryan • Activities • Echo Excerpt



## GEORGE

By Alex Gino  
PB: 978-0-545-81257-3 • \$6.99

People look at Melissa and think they see a boy named George, but she knows she's a girl. When she's told she can't play Charlotte the spider in the class play, she and her best friend come up with a plan to show everyone who she is, once and for all.

**Stonewall Book Award**  
**Lambda Literary Award**  
**E. B. White Honor Book**  
**CBC Children's Choice Book Award for Debut Author of the Year**  
**Kansas William Allen White Children's Book Award**  
**National Parenting Publications Awards Silver Award**  
**ALA Rainbow List**  
**NCTE Charlotte Huck Award Recommended Book**  
**Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award**  
**Oregon Reader's Choice Award**  
**ILA Notable Books for a Global Society**

"Timely, touching."  
—*The New York Times Book Review*

★ "Warm, funny, and inspiring."  
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "Profound, moving, and radiant."  
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "Remarkable . . . A required purchase for any collection that serves a middle grade population."  
—*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "Sensitive, insightful."  
—*Booklist*, starred review

### BONUS MATERIALS INCLUDE:

Extended About the Author • Frequently Asked Questions (And Other Things Alex Wants to Say)



## A SNICKER OF MAGIC

By Natalie Lloyd  
PB: 978-0-545-55273-8 • \$6.99

Felicity finally thinks she's found a home in Midnight Gulch. But first she'll have to break a curse, bring back the town's magic—and convince her mom to finally settle down.

**ALA Notable Children's Book**  
**New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice**  
**Parents Magazine Best Children's Book**  
**SIBA Okra Pick**  
**Kids' Indie Next Top Ten Pick**  
**Georgia Children's Book Award**  
**CLA Notable Children's Books in the English Language Arts**  
**CBC Reading Beyond Master List**

"Young spelling enthusiasts, Scrabble lovers, Boggle big leaguers and word people of the world—hang on for the ride!"  
—*The New York Times Book Review*

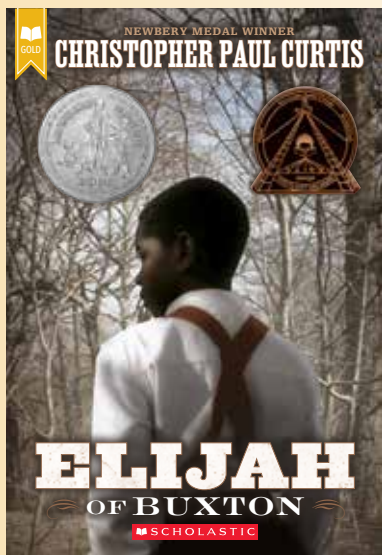
★ "Delightful and inspiring."  
—*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "Fine storytelling."  
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "Sparkles and radiates warmth."  
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

### BONUS MATERIALS INCLUDE:

Extended About the Author • Q&A with Natalie Lloyd • Activity  
*The Key to Extraordinary* Excerpt



## ELIJAH OF BUXTON

By Christopher Paul Curtis  
PB: 978-0-439-02345-0 • \$7.99

A young boy born into freedom in a Canadian town of runaway slaves takes a dangerous journey to the United States and discovers firsthand the unimaginable horrors of slavery.

**Newbery Honor Book**  
**Coretta Scott King Author Award**  
**Scott O'Dell Award**  
**IRA Notable Book for a Global Society**  
**New York Public Library 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing**  
**Booklist Editors' Choice**  
**Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year**  
**Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year**  
**Jane Addams Children's Honor Book for Younger Children Category**

★ "Rich, masterful . . . Curtis's best novel yet."  
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "A fine, original novel."—*Booklist*, starred review

"This arresting, surprising novel of reluctant heroism is about nothing less than nobility."  
—*Horn Book*

"Curtis's talent for dealing with painful periods of history with grace and sensitivity is as strong as ever."  
—*School Library Journal*

### BONUS MATERIALS INCLUDE:

Extended About the Author • Q&A with Christopher Paul Curtis • Historical Context



## GREGOR THE OVERLANDER

By Suzanne Collins  
PB: 978-0-439-67813-1 • \$7.99

When Gregor falls through a grate in the laundry room of his apartment building, he hurtles into the Underland, where spiders, rats, and giant cockroaches coexist uneasily with humans.

**New York Times Bestseller**  
**Texas Bluebonnet Award Master List**  
**Parent's Guide to Children's Media Award**  
**Illinois Bluestem Award**  
**Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award**

"Hard to put down."  
—*The Boston Globe*

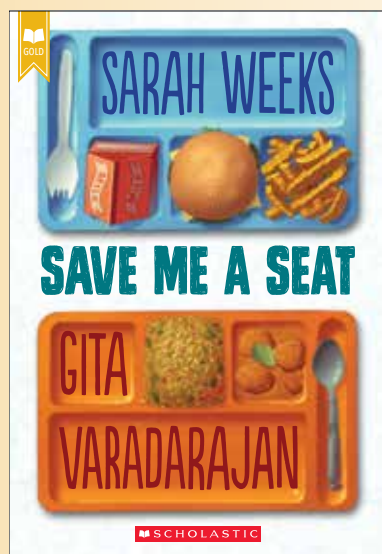
★ "A fascinating, vivid, highly original world."  
—*Booklist*, starred review

★ "Fantastically engaging."  
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "Luminous, supremely absorbing."  
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

### BONUS MATERIALS INCLUDE:

Extended About the Author • Q&A with Suzanne Collins • Fun Facts and Activities  
*Gregor and the Prophecy of Bane: Book Two in the Underland Chronicles* Excerpt



## SAVE ME A SEAT

By Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan  
PB: 978-0-545-84661-5 • \$7.99

Joe and Ravi—one born in America, one born in India—might seem very different, but they have a common enemy (the middle school's biggest bully) and a common mission: to take control of their lives.

### National Parenting Publications Award (NAPPA)

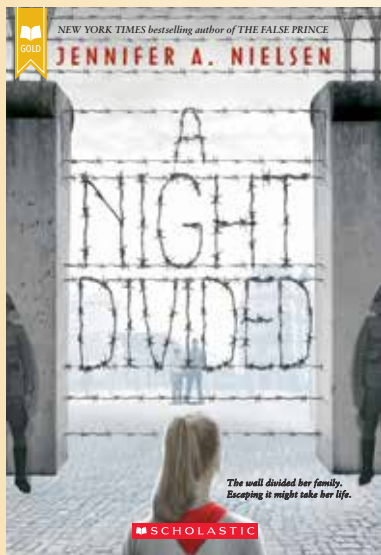
**Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year**  
**CBC Reading Beyond Master List**  
**Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award Master List**  
**Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award Master List**  
**Virginia Readers' Choice Award Master List**  
**Pennsylvania Keystone Reading Award Master List**  
**Illinois Bluestem Book Award Master List**

★ "Crackle[s] with emotion and humor. A novel treatment of a familiar situation delivered with fizz and aplomb."  
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"Engrossing and poignant."  
—*Publishers Weekly*

### BONUS MATERIALS INCLUDE:

Extended About the Authors • Glossaries  
Recipes



## A NIGHT DIVIDED

By Jennifer A. Nielsen  
PB: 978-0-545-68244-2 • \$7.99

A young girl must escape to freedom with her brother after the Berlin Wall divides her family between east and west.

**ILA-CBC Children's Choices List Selection**

**Texas Lone Star Reading List**

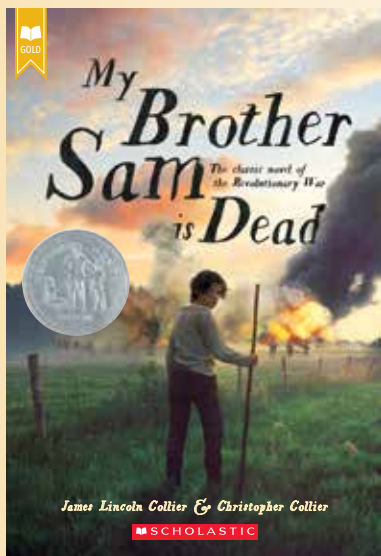
**Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher  
Children's Book Award**

"Absorbing and deeply suspenseful."  
—*Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"Will keep readers engrossed and holding their breath until the last page."  
—*School Library Journal*

### BONUS MATERIALS INCLUDE:

Extended About the Author • Q&A with Jennifer A. Nielsen  
Historical Context • *Resistance* Excerpt



## MY BROTHER SAM IS DEAD

By James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier  
PB: 978-0-439-78360-6 • \$7.99

When the American Revolution divides his family, Tim is forced to make a difficult choice—between the Patriots and the Redcoats . . . and between his brother and his father.

**Newbery Honor Book**

**ALA Notable Children's Book**

**Jane Addams Children's Honor Book**

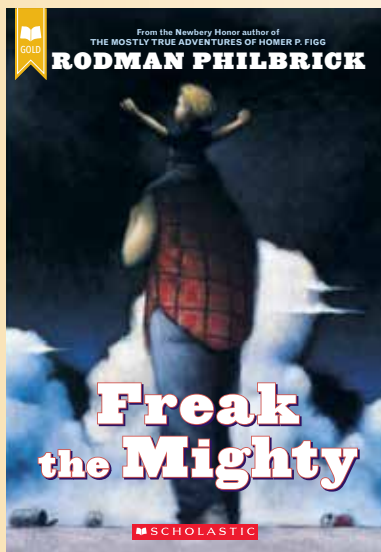
**Phoenix Award Honor**

★ "Wrenching."  
—*Booklist*, starred review

"This stirring and authoritative novel earns a place beside our best historical fiction . . . A memorable piece of writing."  
—*Horn Book*

### BONUS MATERIALS INCLUDE:

Extended About the Authors • Q&A with Christopher Collier  
Historical Context • Revolutionary Games



## FREAK THE MIGHTY

By Rodman Philbrick  
PB: 978-0-439-28606-0 • \$6.99

A troubled, oversized teen and a tiny, physically challenged genius forge a unique friendship when they team up to create one formidable force.

**ALA Best Book for Young Adults**

**Judy Lopez Memorial Award Honor Book**

**California Young Reader Medal**

**ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young  
Adult Readers**

**New York State Reading Association  
Charlotte Award**

**Arizona Young Reader's Award**

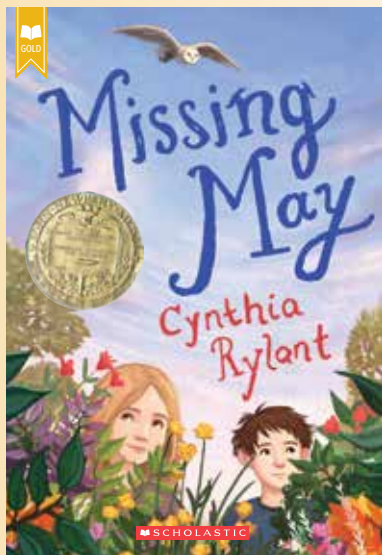
★ "Poignant . . . an intriguing and unusual story."  
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "A wonderful story of triumph."  
—*School Library Journal*, starred review

"Compelling."  
—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

### BONUS MATERIALS INCLUDE:

Extended About the Author • Q&A with Rodman Philbrick  
Writing Tips, Fun Facts, and Activities • *Max the Mighty* Excerpt



## MISSING MAY

By Cynthia Rylant  
PB: 978-0-439-61383-5 • \$6.99

In this story about loss and healing, Summer struggles to deal with the death of her beloved Aunt May—and to help her Uncle Ob find a reason to go on living.

**Newbery Medal**  
**Boston Globe-Horn Book Award**  
**ALA Notable Children's Book**  
**ALA Best Book for Young Adults**  
**Booklist Editors' Choice**  
**BCCB Blue Ribbon Book**  
**The Horn Book Fanfare Book**  
**NCTE Notable Children's Book in the Language Arts**  
**Parents' Choice Award**  
**School Library Journal Best Book of the Year**

"Complex and rewarding."  
—*The New York Times Book Review*

★ "A beautifully written, life-affirming book."  
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

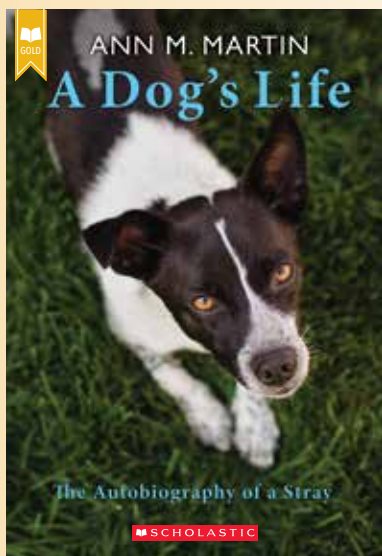
★ "There is much to ponder here, from the meaning of life and death to the power of love. That it all succeeds is a tribute to a fine writer."  
—*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "Triumphant."  
—*Horn Book*, starred review

★ "Rylant makes us aware of the possibilities of life, even in the midst of tragedy."  
—*Booklist*, starred review

### BONUS MATERIALS INCLUDE:

Extended About the Author • Fun Facts, Crafts, and Activities  
Cynthia Rylant's Newbery Medal Acceptance Speech



## A DOG'S LIFE: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A STRAY

By Ann M. Martin  
PB: 978-0-439-71700-7 • \$7.99

In this poignant tale of survival and friendship by a Newbery Honor author, a stray dog separated from her mother and brother is forced to make her own way in the world.

**ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Award Winner**  
**Kansas William Allen White Children's Book Award**  
**Pacific Northwest Library Association Young Reader's Choice Award**  
**New Mexico Land of Enchantment Book Award**  
**Colorado Children's Book Award**  
**Indiana Young Hoosier Book Award**  
**Arkansas Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award**  
**Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award**  
**Alabama Children's Choice Book Award**

★ "Sure to melt the hearts of animal lovers."  
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "Martin excels at evoking simply the intricacies of friendship."  
—*Horn Book*, starred review

"Heart-wrenching as well as heartwarming."  
—*Kirkus Reviews*

### BONUS MATERIALS INCLUDE:

Extended About the Author • Q&A with Ann M. Martin • Ways to Get Involved