

***Born To Rock* by Gordan Korman**

Leo is president of the Young Republicans. He plans to attend Harvard in the fall, until a “misunderstanding” threatens his perfectly planned future. It’s all thanks to the X-factor, as in Marion X. McMurphy, also known as King Maggot, the lead singer of Purge, the most destructive punk rock band ever. Oh, by the way, King Maggot is Leo’s dad...

***Code Talker* by Joseph Bruchac**

At age 6 Ned Begay is sent from his Navajo home to the mission boarding school in Gallup. In defiance of his teachers, Ned retains his Navajo language and culture. Upon graduation, during World War II, Ned joins the Marines hoping to become a secret code specialist - a Code Talker. Watch American tragedy morph into a heroic tale in *Code Talker*.

***Copper Sun* by Sharon Draper**

Amari, a 15-year-old Ashanti girl, is kidnapped by slavers who brand her and load her on a ship with many other captives. After surviving a harrowing trip to America, Amari is purchased as a gift for a slave owner’s son. She is treated like property by the white family but is befriended by Polly, a white indentured servant. The plantation owner’s cruelty causes Amari and Polly to flee the plantation. They hope to make their way to Fort Mose, a free colony for runaway slaves.

***Dairy Queen* by Catherine Murdock**

In a family, which never really talks, D.J. Schwenk has to take over the farm chores while her father recovers from an accident. The accident also means D.J. has to give up school sports. Along with the chores D.J. becomes a volunteer trainer for Brian, the rich-kid quarterback on her school’s rival football team. Challenged to prove herself, D.J. tries out for the football team at her own school and earns a place on the squad. Will she ever find peace with her family, Brian and herself? A thoughtful, funny book.

***Devilish* by Maureen Johnson**

When Jane’s best friend, Ally, sells her soul to the devil in exchange for popularity, Jane finds herself engaged in a battle of wills with a cupcake-loving demon. Jane’s own life and soul are in peril as she fights for her friend.

***Dollmage* by Martine Leavitt**

As the Dollmage, the wise woman of her village, ages and begins to lose her powers, she chooses her replacement. Does her choice have the power to save the people from destruction?

***Endgame* by Nancy Garden**

A talented musician, Gray has entered another new school, hoping for the best, but there are bullies in the new school, too. Verbal, emotional and physical abuse become an almost daily occurrence for Gray and his friend Ross. Adults seem unable to acknowledge or even see that anything is wrong. Finally, in desperation, Gray takes matters into his own hands in the only way he can see to get the abuse to stop.

***Freedom Writers Diary* by the Freedom Writers**

First-year teacher Erin Gruwell and her students embark upon a journey into literature using real-life connections. Her students keep journals, and the chosen entries tell of real stories intertwined with the exciting experiences in Ms. Gruwell’s classroom. Connections between life and lit are constantly made, and the students build an amazing foundation for all future challenges.

***Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls**

Jeannette Walls’s exciting memoir begins with her looking out of a taxi in New York, wondering if she has overdressed for the evening, as she spies her mother sorting through a dumpster. Although she has covered up her past for years, Ms. Walls begins to recount her life growing up with two wild parents who have so much right, but so much wrong. Their eccentricities will leave the reader’s jaw on the floor, and the author’s no-nonsense style reads like a great story.

***Godless* by Pete Hautman**

Jason is an agnostic who is leaning toward atheism. He does not want to follow in his father’s footsteps to become Catholic. After being beat up under the water tower, Jason and his friend Shin work together to create a new religion. "Chutengodianism" worships water, specifically the Ten-Legged God (aka the water tower). Jason recruits more people to this religion and a creed is written. The acolytes worship on top of the tower, but are caught and the Church is broken up. The faithful are then faced with new trials and temptations.

***I’d Tell You I Love You, But Then I’d Have To Kill You* by Ally Carter**

Cammie attends the Gallagher Academy for Exceptional Young Women, where her mom is headmistress. While everyone assumes Gallagher girls are rich snobs, they can actually speak seventeen different languages, disable an alarm in seconds, and disappear into a crowd, because, really, Gallagher girls are the next generation of CIA agents.

***Looking for Alaska* by John Green**

Miles (a.k.a. Pudge) is fascinated by famous last words and is tired of his safe life at home. When he finally gets to attend a boarding school in Alabama, he meets Chip (a.k.a. The Colonel), and the most beautiful girl in the world, Alaska. The three pull pranks on the weekday warriors, until things go horribly wrong, and two are left grieving.

***Peeps* by Scott Westerfeld**

Cal is an agent with the Night Watch. He is searching for and removing "Peeps" from New York City in an effort to save the city from a devastating epidemic. "Peeps" are parasite positive – positive with the vampire virus. They must be contained. But everything is not as it seems. Will Cal be able to figure out what is really going on?



***Road of the Dead* by Kevin Brooks**

Ruben Ford feels things. Even though he is home in London, he knows when his sister is murdered on the English moors. This “second sight” may be because of his Gypsy blood. Ruben and his brother, Cole, travel to Dartmoor to find their sister's killer and bring her body home. This compelling drama starts on the first page and doesn't let go until the story is complete. The brothers use Ruben's second sight to know what is going on around them and to discover reasons for their sister's murder.

***The Storm Front* by Jim Butcher**

Harry Dresden is a private investigator that specializes in strange problems, the kind that can only be solved by a trained wizard like Harry. Most normal people don't believe Harry can actually do magic, but when unexplained murders and disappearances occur, he is the one the police call. When Harry investigates this baffling murder case even he may be in over his head.

***Tough Boy Sonatas* by Curtis Crisler**

Creative writer Curtis Crisler grew up in Gary, Indiana. He has written a series of poems which describe both a physical inner city and a young man's emotional reactions to the city and the people who surround him. Excellent illustrations by Floyd Cooper give the words added impact.

***Trigger* by Susan Vaught**

Jersey Hatch wakes up in a rehabilitation center with no memory of why he is there. The doctors tell him he tried to kill himself, but Jersey has no memory of why he would ever do that. After a year of physical therapy, Jersey is finally ready to go back to high school and confront his past. Jersey wants to solve the mystery behind his suicide attempt, but he may not like the answers he finds.

***Twisted* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

Tyler would do anything to get Bethany Milbury to notice him. Anything. But would he go that far? Once you've been the scapegoat, it's just easier to be blamed again.

***Tyrell* by Coe Booth**

Tyrell, his mom, and little brother have been evicted from their apartment and are now awaiting placement in a shelter. Tyrell, worried about his seven-year-old brother and disgusted by his mother's lack of parental skills, decides to take money matters into his own hands. Trying to take care of two love interests and working with his imprisoned father's crooked connections lead to a lot of drama, a huge party, and a glimmer of hope.

***What Happened to Cass McBride?* by Gail Giles**

Kyle blames Cass for his younger brother's suicide and buries her alive with a walkie talkie as her only link to survival.



Eliot Rosewater
Indiana High School Book Award
Annotations for 2008-2009 Nominees



***American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang**

In this complex graphic novel, Yang weaves three stories into one fantastic ending. The author brings to light Asian mythology, horrid American stereotypes, and, most importantly, the journey to accepting one's self during adolescence.

***Anahita's Woven Riddle* by Meghan Sayres**

Anahita is a young girl born into a nomadic family in 20th century Persia. Anahita has been promised to a man she does not even like, let alone love, so she proposes a contest. She convinces her father to allow her to marry the man who deciphers the riddle she will weave into her wedding carpet, an unheard-of practice for the time and place. This story provides a view of a little-known lifestyle to most American students.

***Avalon High* by Meg Cabot**

Elaine's parents have taken a sabbatical and moved her to Annapolis, MD, for her junior year of high school. One day while out jogging, Elaine encounters Will in the woods. She soon finds her life sharing characteristics with a familiar story, that of King Arthur. Are some of her class-mates reincarnations of people from Arthurian legend? If so, Elaine must try to save Will from impending destruction.

***Bermudez Triangle* by Maureen Johnson**

Nina, Avery, and Melanie have been best friends for as long as they can remember, but this summer they are facing separation. Nina is going to Stanford for a ten-week leadership program. Mel and Avery plan to work at P.J. Mortimer's for the summer; what they don't plan is their first kiss.

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

Death narrates the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster child in Nazi Germany. Liesel discovers that she is interested in books and begins stealing them from Nazi book burnings, the Mayor's wife's library, wherever she can find them. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, Liesel learns to read. She shares her stolen books with her neighbors and the Jewish man hidden in the basement.