The Best Books of 2009
as recommended by Youth Services Staff @ San Diego County Library & Serra Cooperative Library Members

FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS
- Guess Who Eats What by Liesbet Slegers (from the Guess series)
- Just Like Bossy Bear by David Horvath (Bossy Bear series)
- Meoww and the Little Chairs by Sebastien Braun (first in the Meoww series)

PICTURE BOOKS for Preschoolers and All Ages
- All the World by Marla Frazee
- Are You a Horse? by Andy Roth
- Ballyhoo Bay by Judy Sierra
- Bartleby Speaks by Robin Cruise
- Betsy B. Little by Anne McEvoy
- Billy and Milly, Short and Silly! by Eve B. Feldman
- Can You Make a Scary Face? by Jan Thomas
- Chicken Butt by Erica Perl
- Crocodaddy by Kim Norman
- Curious Garden by Peter Brown
- Dinotrux by Chris Gail
- Duck! Rabbit! by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
- For Just One Day by Laura Leuck
- Fran's Flower by Lisa Bruce
- Hello, My Name is Bob by Linas Alsenas
- Jeremy Draws a Monster by Peter McCarty
- Lion and the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney
- Little Dump Truck by Margery Cuyler
- Magic Box: A Magical Story by Katie Clemenson
- Odd Egg by Emily Gravitt
- Penguin Story by Antoinette Portis (local author)
- Princess Bess Gets Dressed by Margery Cuyler
- Rhyming Dust Bunnies by Jan Thomas
- Shark in the Dark by Peter Bently
- Snow Day by Komako Sakai
- Spoon by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
- Subway Ride by Heather Lynn Miller
- Truck Town series by Jon Scieszka
- Tushy Book by Fran Manushkin
- Wagl by Patrick McDonnell
- Yummy: Eight Favorite Fairy Tales by Lucy Cousins

PICTURE BOOKS for School-Age and Older Kids
- 14 Cows for America by Carmen Agra Deedy
- Finding Lincoln by Colin Bootman
- I Spy Fly Guy by Tedd Arnold (reader)
- If America Were a Village: a Book About the People of the United States by David J. Smith
- Moonshot: the Flight of Apollo 11 by Brian Floca
- Orangutan Tongs: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue by Jon Agee
- Underwear Salesman: And Other Odd Jobs for Better or for Verse by J. Patrick Lewis
- Vanities by Terence Lawler

JUVENILE NON-FICTION
- Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream by Tanya Lee Stone
- Anne Frank: Her Life in Words and Pictures from the Archives of the Anne Frank House by Metselaar & van der Rol (pictorial biography)
- Boy Who Invented T.V.: The Story of Philo Farnsworth by Kathleen Krull (biography)
- Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous, Stupendous Life of Showman P.T. Barnum by Schwartz & Wade
- Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary by Elizabeth Partridge (civil rights pictorial)
- Up Close series by Andra Serlin Abramson (extreme photographs of vehicles and technology)
**JUVENILE FICTION**

- **Anything But Typical** by Nora Raleigh Baskin (realistic contemporary, autistic protagonist)
- **Camille McPhee Fell Under the Bus** by Kristen Tracy (humorous)
- **Dandelion Fire** by N. D. Wilson (fantasy, sequel to 100 Cupboards)
- **Deeper** by Roderick Gordon (sequel to Tunnels, subterranean fantasy)
- **Evolution of Calpurnia Tate** by Jacqueline Kelly (historical—turn-of-the-century Southern U.S.)
- **Half Minute Horrors** by various authors (nicely illustrated scary short stories)
- **Heart of a Shepherd** by Rosanne Parry (realistic contemporary, military deployment in family)
- **Magician’s Elephant** by Kate DiCamillo (fantasy, suitable for mature readers)
- **Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner’s Dilemma** by Trenton Lee Stewart (fantasy, adventure)
- **Ranger’s Apprentice: The Siege of Macindaw** by John Flanagan (book #6 in series, fantasy, adventure)
- **Season of Gifts** by Richard Peck (historical—1950’s Midwest U.S.)
- **Secret of Zoom** by Lynne Jonell (humorous fantasy)
- **Taste for Red** by Lewis Harris (vampire-lite)
- **Umbrella Summer** by Lisa Graff (contemporary coming of age, dealing with grief)
- **Unknowns: A Mystery** by Benedict Carey (for science and math fans)
- **When You Reach Me** by Rebecca Stead (mystery, fantasy)

**TEEN FICTION**

- **1001 Cranes** by Naomi Hirahara (coming of age, realistic contemporary)
- **After** by Amy Efaw (realistic contemporary)
- **Along for the Ride** by Sarah Dessen (realistic contemporary, romance)
- **Ash** by Malinda Lo (retelling of Cinderella story)
- **Beautiful Creatures** by Kami Barcia and Margaret Stohl (supernatural romance, southern gothic)
- **Catching Fire** by Suzanne Collins (sequel to Hunger Games, fantasy)
- **Chosen One** by Carol Lynch Williams (realistic contemporary)
- **Everafter** by Amy Huntley (supernatural, life after death)
- **Fire** by Kristin Cashore (sequel to Graceling, fantasy)
- **Flash Burnout** by L.K. Madigan (realistic contemporary, male protagonist interested in photography)
- **Forest of Hands and Teeth** by Carrie Ryan (supernatural, horror)
- **Hate List** by Jennifer Brown (realistic contemporary, school shooting)
- **Hold Still** by Nina LaCour (realistic contemporary, suicide recovery)
- **House of Many Ways** by Diana Wynne Jones (fantasy, sequel to Howl’s Moving Castle)
- **If I Stay** by Gayle Forman (realistic contemporary)
- **Leviathan** by Scott Westerfeld (steam punk, alternative history)
- **Liar** by Justine Larbalestier (supernatural, werewolves)
- **Marcelo in the Real World** by Francisco X. Stork (realistic contemporary, autistic protagonist)
- **Miles Between** by Mary Pearson (local author, realistic contemporary, road trip)
- **Monstrumologist** by Rick Yancey (historical, horror)
- **Rampant** by Diana Peterfreund (fantasy, killer unicorns)
- **Reformed Vampire Support Group** by Catherine Jinks (humorous supernatural)
- **Shiver** by Maggie Stiefvater (supernatural, werewolves)
- **Silver Phoenix** by Cynthia Pon (fantasy, Chinese mythology)
- **Treasure Map of Boys: Noel, Jackson, Finn, Hutch, Gideon--and me, Ruby Oliver** by E. Lockhart (sequel to The Boyfriend List, humorous chick lit)
- **Tricks** by Ellen Hopkins (realistic contemporary, 5 separate stories intertwine to challenge perceptions)
- **Wintergirls** by Laurie Halse Anderson (realistic contemporary, anorexia)

**TEEN NON-FICTION**

- **Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope** by Kamkwamba & Mealer
- **Charles and Emma: the Darwin’s Leap of Faith** by Deborah Heiligman
- **Chasing Lincoln's Killer** by James L. Swanson
- **Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice** by Phillip Hoose (civil rights memoir)
- **I Can't Keep My Own Secrets: Six-Word Memoirs by Teens Famous & Obscure** by Smith & Fershleiser
- **Stitches** by David Small (graphic novel, memoir)
- **Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland** by Sally M. Walker