

Intermediate

**CYRM RESOURCE GUIDE
INTERMEDIATE
(GRADES 3-6)
2013-2014**

***A Nest for Celeste: A Story About Art,
Inspiration and the Meaning of Home***

by Henry Cole
Katherine Tegen Books, 2010

Turtle in Paradise

by Jennifer L. Holm
Random House Books for Young Readers, 2010

The Unwanteds

by Lisa McMann
Aladdin, 2011

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<p>CALIFORNIA YOUNG READER MEDAL INTERMEDIATE BALLOT</p> <p><i>2013-2014</i></p> <p>_____ <i>A Nest for Celeste: A Story about Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home</i></p> <p>_____ <i>Turtle in Paradise</i></p> <p>_____ <i>The Unwanteds</i></p>	<p>CALIFORNIA YOUNG READER MEDAL INTERMEDIATE BALLOT</p> <p><i>2013-2014</i></p> <p>_____ <i>A Nest for Celeste: A Story about Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home</i></p> <p>_____ <i>Turtle in Paradise</i></p> <p>_____ <i>The Unwanteds</i></p>
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A NEST FOR CELESTE: **A STORY ABOUT ART, INSPIRATION, AND THE MEANING OF** **HOME** **BY HENRY COLE**

PLOT SYNOPSIS

A beautifully illustrated novel about a mouse, her friendship with Audubon's apprentice, and her search for home. Beneath the crackled and faded painting of a horse, underneath the worn and dusty floorboards of the dining room, lives Celeste, a mouse who spends her days weaving baskets, until one day she is thrust into the world above. Here Celeste encounters danger--and love--unlike any she's ever imagined. She dodges a hungry cat and witnesses the brutality of hunting for the first time. She makes friends with a singing thrush named Cornelius, a talkative osprey named Lafayette, and Joseph, Audubon's young apprentice. All the while, Celeste is looking for a new home. Is her home in the toe of a worn boot? Nestled in Joseph's pocket? Or in the dollhouse in the attic, complete with mouse-size furniture perfect for Celeste? In the end, Celeste discovers that home is really the place deep inside her heart, where friendships live.

HOOKS

- If you only had a few moments to leave your home, what would you pack? If you were going to be gone for two years, and had more time, what would you take? Two of the characters in this book encounter just such circumstances. Celeste, a beautiful mouse, and her best friend, Joseph find friendship and hope while facing challenging circumstances.
- How many birds have you ever seen at one time? Can you imagine a flock of birds so large, it would darken the sky, and take nearly two days to pass over? During the time period of this book, this is a display that is anticipated yearly, and is not uncommon in North America.
- Would you consider having a mouse for a friend? If you would, where would you keep it, and how would you care for it? If not, why not? In this story, young Joseph, apprentice to the famous John Audubon, makes just such a friend.

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- What are your thoughts on hunting birds? Would you prefer a camera, binoculars, or a gun for hunting birds? Why? Young Joseph and his best friend Celeste are quite shocked by the means used by Audubon to reproduce the true nature of birds in their natural habitat.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Henry Cole is the illustrator of many beloved books for children, including his own *Jack's Garden* and *On Meadowview Street*. While growing up in Virginia, he enjoyed spending time outdoors, hiking in the woods and pretending he was Audubon. Sometimes he pretended he was an osprey. He still loves being outside, especially in his garden in Florida, where he loves to sketch and write. You can visit Henry online at www.henrycole.net.

WRITING PROMPTS / DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/ RESEARCH IDEAS

- Illianna and Trixie were two bullying rats. What happened to them in the story? How did you feel about that? Have you ever been bullied? How was the situation resolved?
- Joseph was an apprentice to Audubon for a few years. Write about a time you were away from your family. How long were you gone? What were the circumstances? How did you feel?
- Do you have a best friend? Write about a time a friend helped you through a tough time. Or, write about a time you helped a friend through a tough time.
- Some of the birds in this story are now extinct, such as the pigeons that took two days to pass overhead. Research North American birds that are now extinct, explain why they are, and how they might have been saved.
- Each year the Audubon Society sponsors a Christmas Bird Count, in December, and the Great Backyard Bird Count, in February. Visit www.birdcount.org to find out more. Tens of thousands of participants from around the world join the Count for Conservation. It is a fun, free, family-friendly way to discover and help the birds in your community. This is a great class project...check it out!

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CONNECTIONS

George, Jean Craighead. *My Side of the Mountain*. Penguin Group (USA) Inc., 1991.

Gray, William R. *The Curious Naturalist*. The National Geographic Society, 1991.

Howard, Joan. *The Story of John J. Audubon*. Kessinger Publishing, LLC, 2007.

Lewis, Gill. *Wild Wings*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2012

Schaefer, Lola M. *Arrowhawk*. Henry Holt & Company, 2004.

TURTLE IN PARADISE

by Jennifer L. Holm

PLOT SYNOPSIS

Turtle is an 11-year-old girl whose mother is a housekeeper. When she takes a job with a woman who won't allow children, her mother sends her to live with an aunt and several boy cousins in Key West, Florida. It is 1935, and times are hard on everyone. Turtle has to adjust to a very different way of living ... and get along with her rowdy cousins and their friends.

HOOKS

- Have you ever gone to visit relatives you've never met? What if you had to stay there?
- Have you ever been the "new kid"? How did you feel? What did you do to "fit in"?
- Have you ever been to a place that was really different from where you live? How did you feel? Did you like it?

MEET THE AUTHOR

- Three of Jennifer L. Holm's books have been Newbery Honor Books, including *Turtle in Paradise*. She is a New York Times bestselling children's author.
- Ms. Holm was born in California in 1968 and was raised in Pennsylvania. Her father was a pediatrician and her mother was a pediatric nurse. She has four brothers.
- Ms. Holm began writing when she was at Dickenson College in Pennsylvania. After graduating she worked in New York as a broadcast producer of television commercials and music videos.

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- Jennifer Holm has written two graphic novel series with her brother Matthew Holm – the *Babymouse* series and the *Squish* series. She has also written a series called *The Stink Files* with her husband, Jonathan Hamel.
- Her first novel *Our Only May Amelia* not only was a Newbery Honor Book, but it was also turned into a stage play performed in Oregon.
- Ms. Holm lives in northern California with her husband and two children.
- You can visit her at her website at www.jenniferholm.com.

CONNECTIONS

Read other books by Jennifer L. Holm:

Our Only May Amelia. Harper Trophy, 1996.

The Creek. Harper Trophy, 2003.

Boston Jane Trilogy. Harper Collins, 2001 – 2004.

The Stink File Series. Harper Collins, 2004 – 2005.

Middle School Is Worse Than Meatloaf: A Year Told Through Stuff. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007.

Penny from Heaven. Yearling, 2007 (Newbery Honor Book).

Babymouse Series. Random House, 2005 – 2012.

The Trouble with May Amelia. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2011.

Squish Series. Random House, 2010 – 2012.

Eighth Grade is Making Me Sick: Ginny Davis's Year in Stuff. Harper Trophy, 2012.

Learn more about life in Florida:

Draper, Sharon. *The Birthday Storm*. Scholastic, 2009.

Haworth, Danette. *A Whole Lot of Lucky*. Walker, 2012.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *The Piper Reed* series. Henry Holt, 2008.

Learn about the Great Depression:

Cochrane, Patricia A. *Purely Rosy Pearl*. Delacorte Press, 1996.

Cummings, Priscilla. *Saving Grace*. Dutton Children's Books, 2003.

Littlestugar, Amy. *Tree of Hope*. Philomel Books, 1999.

Peck, Richard. *A Year Down Yonder*. Puffin, 2000.

Potato: A Tale from the Great Depression. National Geographic, 1997.

Wells, Rosemary. *Wingwalker*. Hyperion Books for Children, 2002.

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WRITING PROMPTS

- When Turtle describes her mother she says “all she sees is kittens and roses.” What does she mean by this? Do you think this is a good description of her mother?
- Do you think Turtle’s mother made a good decision when she sent Turtle to live with her aunt? Why or why not?
- The life Turtle had before and her new life with her aunt are very different. Describe the differences. Compare them with how your family lives.
- The Diaper Gang was only for boys. How did Turtle get to be a member of the gang?
- Turtle’s mother believed in her boyfriend, Archie. Why do you think he did what he did at the end of the story? Would it have been different if he had stayed?
- If you were to choose one of the characters in this story to be your friend, which one would you choose? Why?
- Have you ever been in a situation like Turtle’s where everything was so different and you had to adapt to new ways of doing things? What did you learn from this experience?
- The Depression was a very difficult time for everyone. Describe some of the things people in the story did to survive.
- What kind of a job do you think you could do to earn money?
- If you were to write another chapter for this book, what do you think would happen next?

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Make a map of Florida. Show where the Florida Keys, and especially Key West, are on your map. Add information about Florida such as the state bird, the state flower, the population, products, etc.

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- Because the Keys are islands, many people make their living from the ocean. Look up these words from the story to see what they mean.

Sponges
Hired hand
Sails and lines
Mutiny
Cistern
Dinghy
Conch

- Do some research to find out what you can about the pirate Black Caesar. Research other pirates. Make a book with your friends about the different pirates you researched. After sharing your book, put it in the class library.
- Get a world map and mark where the different pirates were located. How many were in Florida?
- Make Black Caesar's treasure map following the description in the book.
- Make a character web using the characters on Curry Lane. Draw arrows to show how they are connected. Write about how they feel about each other at the beginning of the story and at the end of the story.
- Turtle was in the Diaper Gang. It was a club that earned candy by changing babies' diapers. Make up a club. Give your club a name, and give all its members nicknames. Decide on something your club could do.
- There were references in the story to movies, radio shows, comic strips and authors from that time period. Look up the names on this list to see what they were about and how the characters in the story felt about them.

Ernest Hemingway
Little Orphan Annie
Shirley Temple
Laurel and Hardy
The Three Stooges
King Kong

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Dracula
Frankenstein
The Shadow
Terry and the Pirates

- Do some research to learn more about the Great Depression.
- A familiar saying during the Depression was “Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.” Make a list of things you and your family could do to save money by following this advice.
- Turtle’s mother promised her a Bellewood home. During the Depression it was possible to buy a house from the Sears or Montgomery Ward catalogues. Research this to see what these homes were like, how you got them, and how much they cost. Compare them to today’s houses.
- Research data on major hurricanes in history. Make a graph or table of the information.
- In California, earthquakes are more of a problem than hurricanes. Make a list of things you should have in your home in order to be prepared for an earthquake.

THE UNWANTEDS

BY LISA MCMANN

PLOT SYNOPSIS

When Alex finds out he is Unwanted, he expects to die. That is the way of the people of Quill. Each year, all the thirteen-year-olds are labeled as Wanted, Necessary, or Unwanted. Wanted get more schooling and train to join the Quillitary. Necessaries keep the farms running. Unwanted are set for elimination. It's hard for Alex to leave behind his twin, Aaron, a Wanted, but he makes peace with his fate--until he discovers that instead of a "death farm," what awaits him is a magical place called Artim. There, Alex and his fellow Unwanted are encouraged to cultivate their creative abilities and use them magically. Everything Alex has ever known changes before his eyes, and it's a wondrous transformation. But it's a rare, unique occurrence for twins to be divided between Wanted and Unwanted, and as Alex and Aaron's bond stretches across their separation, a threat arises for the survival of Artim that will pit brother against brother in an ultimate magical battle.

HOOKS

- What if you were never allowed to draw, paint, sing, dance, or express any artistic qualities whatsoever? What would it be like to live in a society without art? In the land of Quill, expressing your artistic talents could get you killed!
- If you could travel to a land filled with magic, what powers would you hope to have? What would you expect it to look like? Would you want just anyone to be able to come there?
- Twins are said to have special bonds and ways of communicating with each other that non-twins do not. If you had a twin, what sort of adventures can you imagine having with your twin if you could communicate without anyone knowing it?

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MEET THE AUTHOR

Lisa McMann was born in Holland, Michigan on February 27, 1968. Her works include the *Wake* trilogy, *The Unwanteds* series, *Cryer's Cross*, *Dead to You*, *Crash*, and the *Infinity Ring* series. She lives with her family in the Phoenix area. Read more about Lisa at www.LisaMcMann.com.

CONNECTIONS

Read the Sequel to *The Unwanteds*:

McMann, Lisa, *Island of Silence*. Alladin, 2012.

Read more stories about Twins:

Avi, Rachel Vail, *Never Mind!: A Twin Novel*. Harper Trophy, 2005.

Catanese, P.W., *The Mirror's Tale: A Further Tales Adventure*. Alladin, 2006.

Gates, Susan, *Beyond the Billboard*. Harcourt, 2007.

Koller, Jackie French, *The Wizard's Scepter (The Keepers, Book 3)*. Alladin, 2004.

Lerangis, Peter, *Hide and Seek*. Scholastic, 2004.

Rubel, Nicole, *Twice As Nice; What It's Like to Be a Twin*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004.

Read more stories about Magic:

Constable, Kate, *The Waterless Sea*. Random House, 2006.

Cooper, Susan, *The Dark is Rising*. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1999 (2nd in a series of 5 books)

Drake, Emily, *The Magickers*. Daw Books, 2001.

Flavin, Teresa, *The Blackhope Enigma*. Candlewick Press, 2011.

Kerr, Philip, *The Akhenaten Adventure*. Orchard, 2004.

Roberts, Rachel, *The Heart of Avalon*. CDS Books, 2005.

Rowling, J.K., *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Scholastic Press, 2003 (1st in a series of 7 books).

Read more about Creativity:

Tolan, Stephanie S., *Applewhites at Wit's End*. Harper, 2012.

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WRITING PROMPTS

- Alex was designated as an Unwanted because he was accused of drawing a picture on the ground with a stick. Can you imagine living in a world where all creativity was illegal? How would you deal with such a lifestyle?
- The High Priest Justine banned all creativity in Quill. Why do you think she did that? Was this a good idea or not? Why or why not?
- Other leaders throughout history have tried to regulate what their subordinates could learn. How does the creativity ban compare to not allowing slaves to learn to read or not allowing girls to attend school?
- Marcus Today has created a whole new lifestyle by using his magic powers. If you could learn magic, what kinds of things would you like to learn? What would you do with your new skills?
- Aaron and Alex Stowe were identical twins, alike in some ways and very different in others. How do you think it would be to have an identical twin? How would it be to have a fraternal twin?
- Alex really wanted Aaron to come live in Artimè with him, but Aaron refused. How would you feel if you really wanted your brother or sister to go someplace or do something with you and they refused?
- Aaron couldn't believe that Artimè was real. Do you think there was anything Alex could have done to convince him?
- There is a sequel to *The Unwanteds*. If you were writing it, what would happen to Aaron Stowe?
- Quill and Artimè are two very different worlds. Make a Venn diagram comparing Quill and Artimè. What did you find to put in the overlapping part of the circles?
- Marcus Today designed Artimè as a school that encourages creative activities of all kinds. If you could design your own school, what would it be like? What would you call it? Who would be your students? What would they study?

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1. Write an ad for your new school.
 2. Make a Class Schedule for your new school.
 3. Journal a day at your new school.
- The students of Artimè were encouraged to find ways to use common objects as non-lethal weapons. Choose some common objects and invent new ways to use them. Demonstrate your new invention(s) to the class.
 - Alex and Meghan made paper animals as part of their training. Make an animal with origami paper. Give your animal a name and decide which skills and talents it might have if you had the power to make it do things.
 - There were several strange animals living in Artimè. Think of two animals you could combine to make a new animal. Draw a picture of your animal. Give it a name and describe what it can do. Share your new animal with the class. Put everyone's pages into a book and add it to the class library.
 - In Artimè poetry was used as a non-lethal weapon.
 1. Write a poem that could make someone do something you want him or her to do.
 2. Write a poem that could make someone stop doing something you don't want them to do.
 - Meghan was trained to use music as a non-lethal weapon.
 1. Find music you think could be used to put someone to sleep.
 2. Find music you think could be used to make someone dance to exhaustion.
 3. Find music you think could be used to make someone run away.
 4. Play the songs you've chosen for the class to see if they agree with your possible reactions to the music.
 - Will Blair was studying to "become" Aaron Stowe. If you could "become" someone else, who would it be? Show the class how you could act like that person.
 - Alex and Aaron Stowe are identical twins. Make a Venn diagram to compare how they are alike and how they are different.

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- Mr. Today and Justine are fraternal twins. Make a Venn diagram to compare how they are alike and how they are different.
- Make a dictionary of some of the vocabulary used in this story. Put them in alphabetical order.
 1. egregious
 2. ramifications
 3. infraction
 4. eliminated
 5. jeopardize
 6. mourning
 7. witnessed
 8. enraptured
 9. rousing
 10. prevail
 11. deceiving
 12. severed
- Find more vocabulary in the story to add to your dictionary.

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READER'S THEATRE FOR THE UNWANTEDS

(Arranged for Reader's Theater by CYRM Committee Members for classroom use only.)

The Unwanteds

by Lisa McMann

excerpt from the 7th Chapter – Artimè

Narrator 1
Mr. Today

Narrator 2
Meghan

Narrator 3
Samheed

Scene: Mr. Today is explaining Artimè to the newly arrived Unwanteds.

Narrator 1: It took a good deal of the afternoon for the children to thaw. Alex had a small headache, but it seemed to go away once a group of teenagers, who were slightly older-looking than the group of Unwanteds, delivered to them a delicious picnic supper on the lawn by the shore.

Narrator 2: As the children ate, the teenagers formed two rows facing them. A rousing but pleasant noise burst from the nearby bushes, and the group stated words of welcome in a most peculiar way. The tops of nearby trees seemed to swish in the breeze like pom-poms. The Unwanteds had no idea what it all was, as they had never see nor heard anything like it ever before.

Narrator 3: Alex could guess, though, since he had witnessed Meghan's very serious infraction; that what the teenagers were doing was called singing. And though the noise was very fast and loud, it was exciting, and it sounded good to his ears. He looked at Meghan, concerned, knowing how wrong this sort of thing was. But Meghan was enraptured by the performers and didn't notice. The choir bowed politely when the song ended.

Mr. Today: (Applauding loudly) Clap for them! Like this – hands together! Applause! It tells them that you liked it. You did like it, didn't you, Meghan? I'll bet you did.

Meghan: (Eyes wide – glancing around and clearing throat) Yes, very much, sir... thank you. (Tries to smile)

Mr. Today: (Nods encouragingly – then becomes serious) You may express your

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feelings and say what you are thinking here in Artimè. It will be hard, at first. But you are safe to speak your mind, all of you. (Looking wistful and clasping hands in lap) There are some things we should talk about.

Narrator 1: Everyone stopped what they were doing, and all eyes were focused on Mr. Today.

Mr. Today: You already know that your parents and the government of Quill believe you to be eliminated by now. You know they are not mourning for you. They're doing what they do every day, which is to work to build Quill into a place of extreme power and super intelligence. You, dear children, are what they call creative, imaginative. The government, and especially High Priest Justine, wants to eliminate creative thinkers like you – they see creativity as a weakness. After all, it could lead to something horrible ... like magic.

Narrator 2: He smiled, picked a flower, and handed it to Meghan. She hesitated and then took it, and in her hand it turned into a small silver music box. Meghan jumped and sucked in a startled breath.

Mr. Today: Music. When you wind the little key, the music box will play a song. Sometimes you'll hear a song with voices saying something, like we just witnessed here a moment ago.

Meghan: (nodding) Singing.

Narrator 1: She turned the key tentatively, and a few wondrous notes sprang from the box. She was startled, and then her shock melted into a grin.

Mr. Today: Indeed. Singing and dancing. Painting, sculpting, telling wild tales. Theater, playing instruments, writing stories and poems. That is what you are now free to do. – Ah, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

Narrator 2: Mr. Today paused and tapped a finger on his lips as if he were thinking carefully.

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Mr. Today: I have two very serious requests. Because of your creative minds, you have been eliminated, or so think the people of Quill. My first request is this: Please consider the ramifications if you ever decide you want to go back to Quill. If you ever go back, if you ever contact anyone there in any way, your parents or your siblings (glancing at Alex) the governors, or anyone, you risk exposing us all. You take the lives of everyone here in Artimè into your own hands. If discovered, this place, and everyone in it, will be destroyed.

Narrator 3: Alex shivered, even though the day was still warm. He thought about his twin brother, Aaron, and felt a sharp pain run through him, as if half of his own body had been severed from the rest. But he knew that Mr. Today was right. And there was no way he would jeopardize the life of the man who had saved him, or the lives of the others here. Alex nodded very seriously along with the rest of the group. But part of Alex wished that Aaron could have shared in this good fortune.

Mr. Today: My second request, is this. Please take the classes I offer. Train with my warriors and learn how to fight. Because if the High Priest Justine, the governors, or the Quillitary does discover that you have not been eliminated, they will kill me for deceiving them. And then they will kill you once and for all. And if that happens, Artimè will disappear.

Samheed: (sneering) Fight against the Quillitary? Impossible!

Mr. Today: Ah, Samheed. The realm of possibility here in Artimè is only limited by our imaginations. You'll get used to it after a time. But you seem quite disturbed, my friend. Why is it that you think fighting is impossible?

Samheed: (waving arms and glaring) Look at us! In case you don't know, we're the rejects from Quill. We're not strong or intelligent. We're not capable of fighting. We're worthless! And you think we stand a chance against the Quillitary?
(stands up) What you have here is all really impressive, Mr. Today, but come on! You don't seem to have any soldiers except for the group of oversized animals at the gate. No tanks, no weapons – they'll destroy us in about one minute!

Narrator 1: The small smile on Mr. Today's face remained hidden by his hand as

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he stroked his chin and grew thoughtful. “Hmm,” he said, almost as if he expected Samheed to say more... And the boy did.

Samheed: This place is ridiculous. I'm not taking your stupid classes.

Narrator 2: At the word “stupid” and all the words around it, the other children's eyes widened in fear. In Quill an outburst like this was against the law and a most egregious infraction that would seal a child's fate, with no exception.