

## Along with The Tobin Tree: **More Great Books**

A few thoughts about finding a book:

- Choosing a ‘good’ book is a personal thing. Others can give us suggestions, but it’s all about our own experiences and the point of view we bring along as we read.
- A wonderful way to enjoy a book is to read it with a group, for a shared experience.
- Listening to a book on tape is good, but listening to someone reading aloud is even better.
- Reading fiction is about imagining; picturing the story in your mind. Not everyone does this easily, so it may take some practice.
- A quick www search of a book title may help in deciding what to read.
- They say: Don’t judge a book by its cover. But the covers (front and back) actually do help you decide what to read.
- If fiction isn’t your ‘thing,’ the world of non-fiction is waiting to be discovered!
- Curiosity is a good thing. Wondering can take you to worlds far from your own.

Many wonderful books have been written over the years.

The Newbery Award List begins in 1922. The award was given each year, for an exceptional novel written for children and young adults. As a read-aloud or self-read, these books offer a view of characters:

- facing universal challenges and problems
- as examples of courage, trust, honesty, perseverance, self-reliance
- encouraging growth in themselves and the reader.

Visit [ala.org](http://ala.org). (American Library Association) for the list of **Newbery Medal Winners**.

### **My personal favorites on that list:**

*The Cat Who Went to Heaven* by Elizabeth Coatsworth (1931) a Buddhist cat, love, trust

*Caddie Woodlawn* by Carol Ryrie Brink (1936) a girl on the Wisconsin frontier in 1865

*The White Stag* by Kate Seredy (1938) life on the Hungarian plains, follows *The Good Master*

*Call It Courage* by Armstrong Sperry (1941) a Polynesian boy before written history

*The Matchlock Gun* by Walter Edmonds (1942) a boy in the pre-revolutionary Indian wars

*Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes (1944) the American Revolution

*The Door in the Wall* by Margurite de Angeli (1950) a disabled boy in medieval times

*The Wheel on the School* by Meindert DeJong (1955) Dutch children in a small village

*Rifles for Watie* by Harold Keith (1958) a boy in the Civil War

*The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare (1959) a girl and family in the 1680’s

*Onion John* by Joseph Krungold (1960) a poor man befriended, prejudice

*Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O’Dell (1961) a girl marooned alone

*A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L’Engle (1963) Time travel and courage

*From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E Frankweiler* by E.Konigsburg (1968) siblings, mystery

*The High King* by Lloyd Alexander (1969) Medieval fantasy; part of a series

*Souder* by William Armstrong (1970) A boy and dog

*Summer of the Swans* by Betsy Byars (1971) a girl and her disabled brother

*Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O’Brien (1972) a society of intelligent rats

*Julie of the Wolves* by Jean Craighead George (1973) a girl living with wolves

*The Slave Dancer* by Paula Fox (1974) White boy on a slave ship in Colonial times

*The Grey King* by Susan Cooper (1976) fantasy; a well-known series  
*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor (1977) Black culture and prejudice  
*Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson (1978) friendship and death  
*The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin (1979) a complex mystery  
*Dacey's Song* by Cynthia Voigt (1983) a girl, responsibility, and love of family  
*Dear Mr. Henshaw* by Beverly Cleary (1984) a boy writes about his missing father  
*The Hero and the Crown* by Robin McKinley (1985) complex fantasy (*The Blue Sword* followed)  
*Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan (1986) family, loss of mother, love  
*The Whipping Boy* Sid Fleischman (1987) short, simple story of boy and friend, medieval  
*Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry (1990) escape from WWII Germany  
*Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli (1991) a boy runs to find his true self  
*Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (1992) a boy, a dog, in the southern woods.  
*The Giver* by Lois Lowry (1994) a dystopian society  
*The Midwife's Apprentice* by Karen Cushman (1996) a girl in medieval times  
*Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse (1998) a girl's memoir in poetry form  
*A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park (2002) story of China, culture  
*Holes* by Louis Sachar (1999) a teen boy in detention finds freedom; abuse  
*The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill (2017) dystopian society, fantasy

**Other wonderful books not on the Newbery List (some were honor books)**

*A Summer to Die* Sibling illness and death  
*The War that Saved My Life* England in WWII, displacement, courage, determination  
*The War I Finally Won* The second book is as good as the first!!  
*Pax* Point of view from both the fox and the boy as they search for one another  
*Wolf Hollow* Prejudice and bullying toward a girl who stands up for justice  
*The Bitter Side of Sweet* Children forced to work on chocolate plantation in Africa  
*One for the Murphys* A high school girl's adoption experience well described  
*Brown Girl Dreaming* The life of a black girl, hopes and social issues, in poetry form  
*Waiting for Anya* Helping children escape over Swiss border in WWII  
*The Devil's Arithmetic* Child's account of WWII internment camp in Germany  
*The Cay* Black man teaches blind white boy to survive on a tiny island in the Gulf of Mexico  
*Hatchet* Boy in Canadian wilderness survives on his own  
*The Hundred Dresses* Simple story of prejudice toward poor girl in elementary grade class  
*The Secret Garden* Girl recovers from loss, nature's healing influence  
*Beyond the Bright Sea* Positive relationship of girl and adults, island off New England coast  
*Blackbird Fly* Immigrant girl from Philippines, shunned at school, music and determination  
*Out of Nowhere* High school jock and Somali refugee students; culture and friendship  
*Fish in a Tree* Dyslexic girl learning to read  
*Stone Fox* A boy, a sled-dog, a native man; powerful story of learning, trust, love  
*The Big Wave* A Japanese boy, his friend, and a tsunami; accepting death  
*View From the Cherry Tree* A boy solving a mystery; wonderful story structure.  
*The Great Gilly Hopkins* A girl in foster care; honesty, trust, kindness

## More Background Information

In Tobin's story, John mentions the Hidatsa Tribe (Chapter 21). Further information about that tribe can be found in the book *Waheenee, an Indian Girl's Story*:

### Waheenee, an Indian Girl's Story

By Waheenee, Gilbert L. Wilson, Frederick N. Wilson

#### Synopsis

"I was born in an earth lodge by the mouth of the Knife River, in what is now [North Dakota](#), three years after the smallpox winter." So begins the story of *Waheenee*, a Hidatsa Indian woman, born in 1839 amid a devastated tribe.

In 1906 Gilbert L. Wilson first visited the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and began to study the remnants of the Hidatsa tribe. He returned in 1908, sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History, and for every summer of the next ten years he worked among the Hidatsas, making notes of all he saw. One of his chief informants was Waheenee-wea, or Buffalo-Bird Woman, who told him this, her life story.

Utes: The Mountain People by Jan Pettit, 1990, Johnson Books, Boulder

Black Elk Speaks as told through John G. Neilhardt, 1932, University of Nebraska Press

The Sacred Pipe: Account of the Seven Rites of the Oglala Sioux

recorded and edited by Joseph Epes Brown, 1953, University of Oklahoma Press

Native American Wisdom edited by Kent Nerburn and Louise Menglekoch, 1991, Classic Wisdom Collection, New World Library, Novato, CA.

Land of the Spotted Eagle by Luther Standing Bear, 1933, University of Nebraska Press