

2011  
SASKATCHEWAN

# WILLOW AWARDS

YOUNG READERS' CHOICE



THE  
WILLOW  
AWARDS

**SYRCA**  
The Willow Awards Inc.

**GOLD PATRON**  
**PotashCorp**  
Helping Nature Provide

**SILVER PATRONS**  
**conexus**  
**SaskEnergy**

**BRONZE PATRONS**



**EVRAZ**



Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Education

**LEADER-POST**  
The StarPhoenix



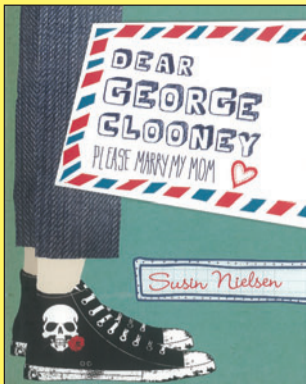
United Library Services

**LDM**  
FOODS

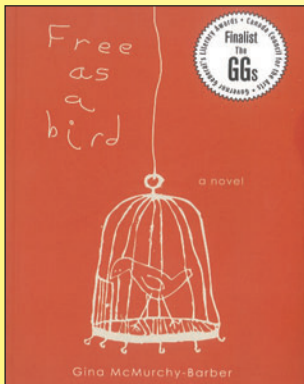


**McKercher LLP**  
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

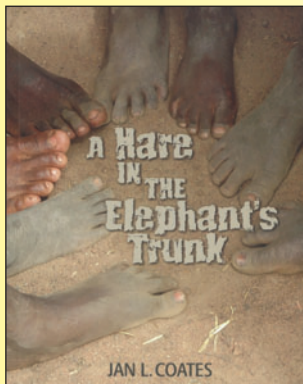
## Snow Willow (gr. 7-9)



**Dear George Clooney Please Marry My Mom**  
by Susin Nielsen  
Tundra Books, ©2010



**Free as a bird**  
by Gina McMurchy-Barber  
Dundurn Press, ©2010



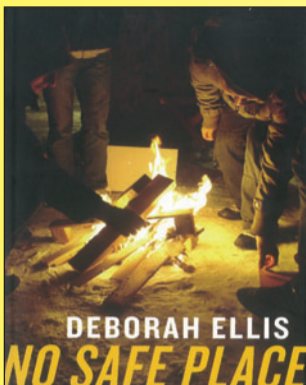
**A Hare in the Elephant's Trunk**  
by Jan L. Coates  
Red Deer Press, ©2010



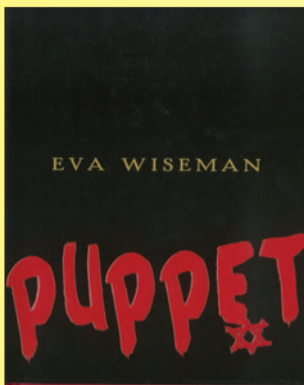
**Haunted**  
by Barbara Haworth-Attard  
HarperTrophyCanada, ©2009



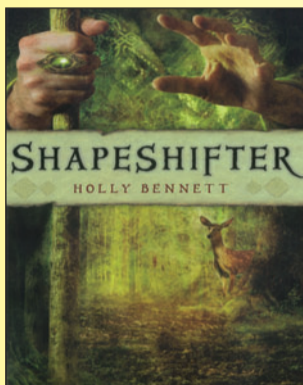
**Home Truths**  
by Jill MacLean  
Dancing Cat Books, ©2010



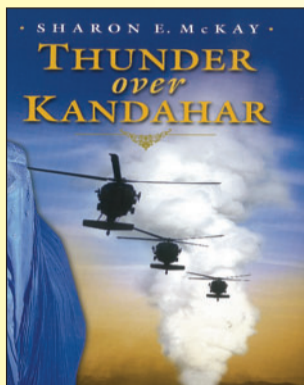
**No Safe Place**  
by Deborah Ellis  
Groundwood Books, ©2010



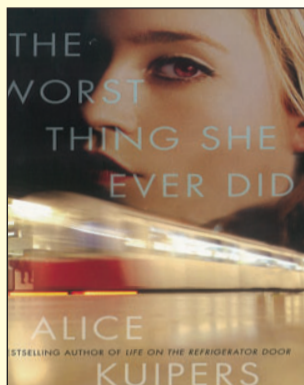
**Puppet**  
by Eva Wiseman  
Tundra Books, ©2009



**Shapeshifter**  
by Holly Bennett  
Orca Book Publishers, ©2010

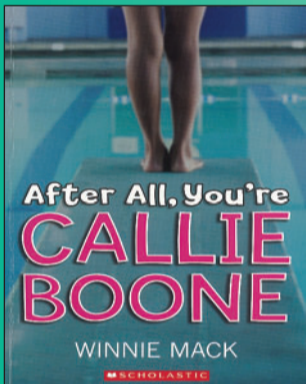


**Thunder over Kandahar**  
by Sharon E. McKay  
annick press, ©2010

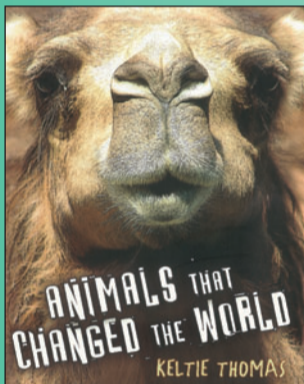


**The Worst Thing She Ever Did**  
by Alice Kuipers  
HarperTrophyCanada, ©2010

## Diamond Willow (gr. 4-6)



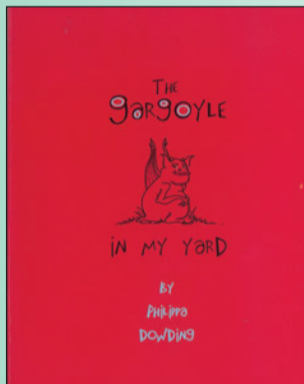
**After All, You're Callie Boone**  
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Scholastic Canada Ltd., ©2010



**Animals That Changed the World**  
by Keltie Thomas  
annick press, ©2010



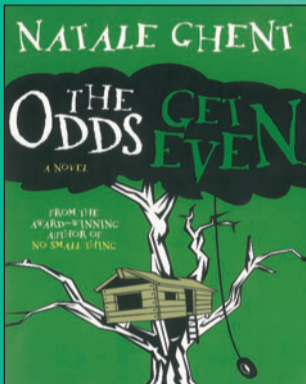
**fatty legs**  
by Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton  
annick press, ©2010  
ISBN 9781554512461 (pbk)



**The Gargoyle in My Yard**  
by Philippa Dowding  
Napoleon Publishing, ©2009



**The Midnight Curse**  
by L.M. Falcone  
KCP Fiction, ©2010



**The Odds Get Even**  
by Natale Ghent  
HarperTrophyCanada, ©2009



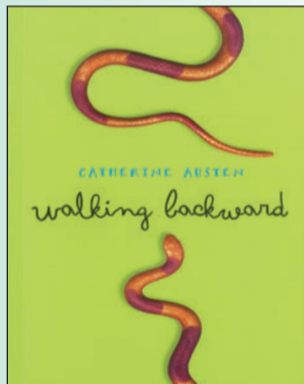
**Ortega**  
by Maureen Fergus  
KCP Fiction, ©2010



**Stolen Child**  
by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch  
Scholastic Canada Ltd., ©2010



**Tumbleweed Skies**  
by Valerie Sherrard  
Fitzhenry & Whiteside, ©2010



**walking backward**  
by Catherine Austen  
Orca Book Publishers, ©2009

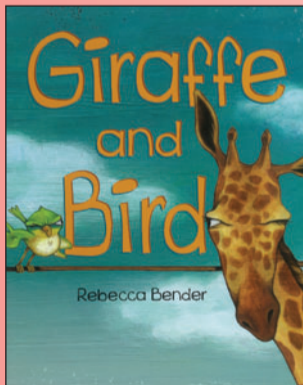
## Shining Willow (gr. K-3)



**Clever Rachel**  
by Debby Waldman  
Illustrated by Cindy Revell  
Orca Book Publishers, ©2009



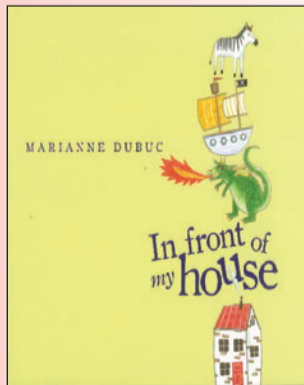
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Orca Book Publishers, ©2009



**Giraffe and Bird**  
by Rebecca Bender  
Dancing Cat Books, ©2010



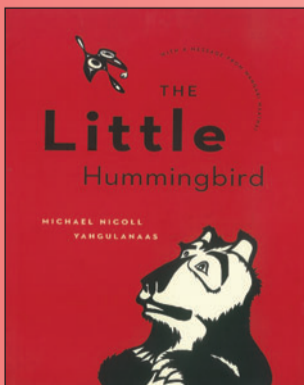
**The Imaginary Garden**  
by Andrew Larsen  
Illustrated by Irene Luxbacher  
Kids Can Press, ©2009



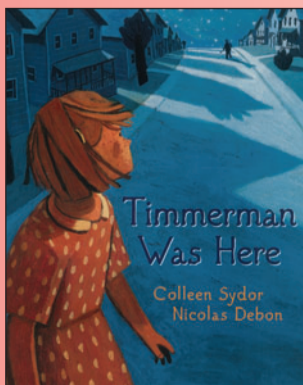
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Kids Can Press, ©2010



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by Kenneth Oppel  
Illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher  
HarperCollins, ©2009



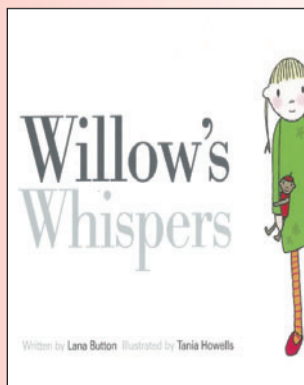
**The Little Hummingbird**  
by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas  
Greystone Books, ©2010



**Timmerman Was Here**  
by Colleen Sydor  
Illustrated by Nicolas Debon  
Tundra Books, ©2009



**Viola Desmond Won't be Budged!**  
by Jody Nyasha Warner  
Illustrated by Richard Rudnicki  
Groundwood Books, ©2010



**Willow's Whispers**  
by Lana Button  
Illustrated by Tania Howells  
Kids Can Press, ©2010

# 2011

## Who Can Vote

Saskatchewan students must read or have heard read the minimum number in each category to vote for that award.

**Snow Willow Award:**  
At least 3 of the 10 titles.

**Diamond Willow Award:** At least 4 of the 10 titles.

**Shining Willow Award:**  
At least 5 of the 10 titles.

**Voting Deadline:**  
**February 29, 2012**

**To Vote Go To:**  
[www.willowawards.ca](http://www.willowawards.ca)

**Mail Ballots To:**  
807 Nesslin Court  
Saskatoon, SK S7J 4V2

**Find at:**  
[www.willowawards.ca](http://www.willowawards.ca)

- Online Voting Ballots
- Vote Summary Forms
- Book sticker order form
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  - Newsletter
  - Student projects
  - Learning activities
  - Author biographies
  - Book reviews
  - Comment feature



THE  
WILLOW  
AWARDS

**SYRCA**  
The Willow Awards Inc.

**GOLD PATRON**  
  
PotashCorp  
Helping Nature Provide

**SILVER PATRONS**  
  


**BRONZE PATRONS**  
  
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Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Education  
  
  
  
  


## Snow Willow Award Nominees - Read at least 3

### Dear George Clooney Please Marry My Mom

by Susin Nielsen  
Tundra Books, ©2010  
ISBN 9780887769771 (hc)  
Violet's parents are divorced. Her dad has married a young actress, and her mom is searching for love. Violet reacts with anger and teenage humour. Her mom is having trouble finding a decent man, so Violet decides to take control by helping her snag George Clooney.

### Free as a bird

by Gina McMurphy-Barber  
Dundurn Press, ©2010  
ISBN 9781554884476 (pbk)  
Ruby Jean has Down Syndrome. When her grandmother dies, she is sent to live in an institution for developmentally disabled people, where she must endure isolation, boredom and every kind of abuse. She can hardly remember if she's ever been happy, but finds a way to learn patience and perseverance.

### A Hare in the Elephant's Trunk

by Jan L. Coates  
Red Deer Press, ©2010  
ISBN 9780889954519 (pbk)  
In 1987, soldiers invade Jacob's village in Sudan. This is a story based on the Lost Boys of Sudan and their seven years of struggle – starvation, attacks by wild animals and war – on their journey to freedom and education in Ethiopia. Jacob is the founder of Wadeng Wings of Hope.

### Haunted

by Barbara Haworth-Attard  
Harper Trophy Canada, ©2009  
ISBN 9780002008211 (pbk)  
Just after the First World War, bones are unearthed from a shallow grave in backwoods Ontario. Discovered with the bones is a ring that is familiar to Dee, and since she has "the Sight" or the ability to see spirit apparitions, she is pulled into a terrifying mystery.

### Home Truths

by Jill MacLean  
Dancing Cat Books, ©2010  
ISBN 9781897151969 (pbk)  
Brick is almost fifteen. He is saving money to leave home when he turns sixteen, to escape his abusive father. Brick tries to protect his four-year-old sister, but is she really his responsibility? Can he recognize that his own behaviour is starting to look like his father's?

### No Safe Place

by Deborah Ellis  
Groundwood Books, ©2010  
ISBN 9780888999740 (pbk)  
Three orphan teens have each escaped their homelands (Russia, Romania and Iraq) and meet on a smuggler's boat crossing the English Channel to their final destination and freedom. These modern-day illegal migrants tell their stories, as they each seek a better life in the world's rich, safe countries.

### Puppet

by Eva Wiseman  
Tundra Books, ©2009  
ISBN 9780887768286 (hc)  
In 1882, a young Hungarian girl dies. A young Jewish boy is forced to testify against his father, who is accused of the murder. This story recounts a trial of "blood libel", wherein Jews were falsely accused of murdering Christian children for the ritualistic use of their blood.

### Shapeshifter

by Holly Bennett  
Orca Book Publishers, ©2010  
ISBN 9781554691586 (pbk)  
A woman trapped in the body of a deer. A dark sorcerer in relentless pursuit. A mysterious child found alone on the slopes of a great mountain. Set in the wild, magical landscape of Iron-Age Ireland, this is a fantastic tale of evil, courage and the healing power of love.

### Thunder over Kandahar

by Sharon E. McKay  
annick press, ©2010  
ISBN 9781554512669 (pbk)  
English-born Yasmine moves with her parents back to their homeland of Afghanistan. She finds herself separated from her family, and befriends a village girl. Together they endure a harrowing journey to the border, as they try to escape the horrors of the Taliban regime.

### The Worst Thing She Ever Did

by Alice Kuipers  
Harper Trophy Canada, ©2010  
ISBN 9781554680207 (pbk)  
Sophie is having a hard time dealing with the tragedy, as is her mother. She just needs to forget what happened last summer. Her therapist wants her to record her thoughts in a diary. She just wishes people would leave her alone, and she definitely will never ride a train again.

## Diamond Willow Award Nominees - Read at least 4

### After All, You're Callie Boone

by Winnie Mack  
Scholastic Canada Ltd., ©2010  
ISBN 9780545986236 (pbk)  
Callie is having the worst summer of her life. She has lost her best friend and has been publicly humiliated at the pool. The only things that keep her going are the diving practices with her father and a secret Olympic dream. When Hoot moves next door, he teaches her the true meaning of friendship.

### Animals That Changed the World

by Keltie Thomas  
annick press, ©2010  
ISBN 9781554512423 (pbk)  
Animals have impacted our world since they first set foot, paw, and hoof on Earth. They have trampled and chowed down whole fields, killed millions of people as "secret agents" of disease, and even separated the rich from the poor. Animals have changed the course of history.

### fatty legs

by Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton  
annick press, ©2010  
ISBN 9781554512461 (pbk)  
Margaret wants to learn to read more than anything else in the world, but she will have to sacrifice living with her family to do it. When Margaret chooses school, her strong spirit evokes dislike from one nun, The Raven, but respect from another. Will Margaret manage to survive?

### The Gargoyle in My Yard

by Philippa Dowding  
Napoleon Publishing, ©2009  
ISBN 9781894917827 (pbk)  
Twelve-year-old Kathryn has a dilemma – what to do when a 400-year-old gargoyle moves into her backyard and causes trouble. No one else knows he's alive. After Kathryn and her parents get to know the gargoyle, will they decide to let him stay, or to help him leave for good?

### The Midnight Curse

by L.M. Falcone  
KCP Fiction, ©2010  
ISBN 9781554533589 (hc)  
Charlie and his sister Lacey learn of their great-uncle Jonathan's death. No one had heard from him in years prior to his death. Now, his poor relatives are about to inherit everything: a couple of ghosts, an eccentric spell-casting neighbour, a tragedy from the past, and worst of all, a deadly family curse.

### The Odds Get Even

by Natale Ghent  
Harper Trophy Canada, ©2009  
ISBN 9781554684120 (pbk)  
Best friends Boney, Itchy and Squeak are the "Odd" kids, a bit different from everybody else. They hang out in their treehouse in Boney's backyard, hiding from the bully, Larry Harry. The "Odds" have had enough, and they're plotting to use their knowledge of science to get even, and to end Larry's reign of terror.

### Ortega

by Maureen Fergus  
KCP Fiction, ©2010  
ISBN 9781554534746 (hc)  
Ortega is a gorilla, taken from his mother as a baby by scientists, who taught him to talk, read and write. Now they want to send him to school. Ortega is scared – positive his classmates will think he's a freak. School is actually working out, until the unthinkable happens. Can Ortega's friends save him?

### Stolen Child

by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch  
Scholastic Canada Ltd., ©2010  
ISBN 9780545986120 (pbk)  
Nadia moves to Canada at the end of World War Two, after spending five years in a Displaced Persons' camp. She has troubling memories about a Nazi family, but she sings Ukrainian lullabies. She lives with Marusia and Ivan, but if they're not her real parents, then who is Nadia really?

### Tumbleweed Skies

by Valerie Sherrard  
Fitzenry & Whiteside, ©2010  
ISBN 9781554551132 (pbk)  
Ellie has no choice but to stay with her grandmother on the farm while her dad takes a temporary job as a traveling salesman. Ellie's Grandma Acklebee is tough and bitter. How will Ellie cope for the whole summer, stuck out in the middle of the prairie with a grandmother who appears to hate her?

### walking backward

by Catherine Austen  
Orca Book Publishers, ©2009  
ISBN 9781554691470 (pbk)  
Josh's mother has died in a car accident. His father is building a time machine in the basement, and his little brother talks to Power Rangers. Josh tries to understand death by researching how people around the world deal with it, and this helps him to make sense of the intense grief he is feeling.

## Shining Willow Award Nominees - Read at least 5

### Clever Rachel

by Debby Waldman  
Illustrated by Cindy Revell  
Orca Book Publishers, ©2009  
ISBN 9781554690817 (hc)  
In this retelling of a Jewish folktale, Jacob tries to stump Rachel with his best riddles, but he fails repeatedly. When a young woman in need of help presents them with the trickiest riddles of all, they learn they must work together to solve them, rather than compete against each other.

### Fred and Pete at the Beach

by Cynthia Nugent  
Orca Book Publishers, ©2009  
ISBN 9781554691265 (hc)  
Fred and Pete are two dogs with very different personalities. Fred is a worrier and Pete is impulsive. When they are left at home for misbehaving, they are sure they can get to the beach on their own. After many misadventures, they finally make it to the beach and find their owner.

### Giraffe and Bird

by Rebecca Bender  
Dancing Cat Books, ©2010  
ISBN 9781897151846 (hc)  
It's true that getting along can be difficult. Bird and Giraffe say they cannot stand each other. One day Giraffe loses his patience and Bird is fed up, too. "Scram!" says Giraffe. "Get lost!" says Bird. And so they do. But without each other, how will Bird and Giraffe weather the coming storm?

### The Imaginary Garden

by Andrew Larsen  
Illustrated by Irene Luxbacher  
Kids Can Press, ©2009  
ISBN 9781554532797 (hc)  
Theo's Poppa has to move from his little house with a garden to an apartment with only a balcony. Poppa says the balcony is too windy for growing flowers. That's when Theo and Poppa decide to make an imaginary garden – a painted mural on the wall of the balcony.

### In front of my house

by Marianne Dubuc  
Kids Can Press, ©2010  
ISBN 9781554535880 (hc)  
This circular story is filled with inventive twists that show a child's fantasy taking flight. It begins and ends in a tidy front yard and winds its way through magical lands. Readers are encouraged to follow spatial patterns of thought and image that often lead to surprises.

### The King's Taster

by Kenneth Oppel  
Illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher  
Harper Collins, ©2009  
ISBN 9780002007009 (hc)  
Max is both the cook's dog and the king's taster. He loves his job, especially when the new king will not eat his meals and Max gets the leftovers. But when the king threatens the cook, Max goes to work to discover the surprising secret reason for the king's lack of appetite.

### The Little Hummingbird

by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas  
Greystone Books, ©2010  
ISBN 9781553655336 (hc)  
The great forest is on fire and the fleeing animals are terrified. But Hummingbird flies to the stream and back, over and over again, carrying a single drop of water to put on the fire. This is a parable for environmental responsibility, and also for life.

### Timmerman Was Here

by Colleen Sydor  
Illustrated by Nicolas Debon  
Tundra Books, ©2009  
ISBN 9780887768903 (hc)  
The girl had not intended to like Timmerman, the new boarder who took over her Grandfather's room, but he is kind and gentle, and not easy to dislike. When rumors fly about Timmerman's nighttime activities, the girl is torn. Spring brings a surprising answer to the mystery.

### Viola Desmond Won't be Budged!

by Jody Nyasha Warner  
Illustrated by Richard Rudnicki  
Groundwood Books, ©2010  
ISBN 9780888997791 (hc)  
Viola Desmond was a black woman who took a stand against segregation in Nova Scotia in 1946, by refusing to accept that being black meant she couldn't sit where she wanted to in the movie theatre. Her determination gave strength to her community.

### Willow's Whispers

by Lana Button  
Illustrated by Tania Howells  
Kids Can Press, ©2010  
ISBN 9781554532803 (hc)  
Willow's soft, shy voice goes unheard by everyone at school, causing her all kinds of trouble. She thinks she has the perfect solution, and although it helps her for awhile, it doesn't last the day. Will Willow find the courage to speak up and finally make herself heard?