

**Abraham Lincoln Illinois High School Book Award
Nominees—2006
*Annotated List***

Battle of Jericho -- Sharon Draper
N.Y., Atheneum, c2003

A high school junior and his cousin are elated to be invited to join an elite school club, but as the initiation progresses, they begin to wonder how high a price they will have to pay for membership.

Children of Willesden Lane; Beyond the Kindertransport; a Memoir of Music, Love and Survival -- Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen
N.Y., Warner, c2002

The author's mother escapes Nazi-occupied Vienna via the Kindertransport to England, and once there must try to pursue her musical studies despite her loneliness and her anxiety over her family's fate.

Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time -- Mark Haddon
N.Y., Vintage, c2003

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his family.

Earth, My Butt & Other Big Round Things -- Carolyn Mackler
Cambridge, MA, Candlewick Press, c2003

Feeling like she does not fit in with the other members of her family, who are all thin, brilliant, and good-looking, fifteen-year-old Virginia tries to deal with her self-image, her first physical relationship, and her disillusionment with some of the people closest to her.

Eyre Affair -- Jasper Fforde
N.Y., Viking, c2002

In an alternate Great Britain, though it is 1985, the Crimean War is still in progress, and literature is the basis of "modern" culture. Thus the theft of a Dickens manuscript is a serious crime, and Literary Detective Thursday Next is called in to solve the case.

First Part Last -- Angela Johnson
N.Y., Simon & Schuster, c2003

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.

Girl With a Pearl Earring -- Tracy Chevalier
N.Y., Dutton, c2000

In 17th-century Holland, a peasant girl serving in the household of Jan Vermeer is drawn into the artist's world when she becomes the model for one of his portraits, and the target of his wife's jealousy and suspicion.

Gospel According to Larry -- Janet Tashjian
N.Y., Dell, c2001

Seventeen-year-old Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a web site that is receiving national attention.

Inside Out -- Terry Trueman
N.Y., HarperTempest, c2003

A sixteen-year-old schizophrenic is caught up in the events surrounding an attempted robbery by two other teens who eventually hold him hostage.

King of the Mild Frontier: An Ill-Advised Autobiography -- Chris Crutcher
N.Y., Greenwillow, c2003

Crutcher, author of young adult short stories and novels such as "Athletic Shorts" and "Whale Talk," tells of his youth in Cascade, Idaho, and how he became a writer.

Kite Runner -- Khaled Hosseini
N.Y., Riverhead, c2003

Two Afghan boys, the sons of a wealthy Kabul businessman and his personal servant, are inseparable, until a violent incident perpetrated by neighborhood bullies changes both their lives and destroys their friendship.

Mortal Engines -- Philip Reeve
N.Y., HarperCollins, c2001

In the distant future, when cities move about and consume smaller towns, a fifteen-year-old apprentice is pushed out of London by the man he most admires and must seek answers in the perilous Out-Country, aided by one girl and the memory of another.

Mother, Come Home -- Paul Hornschemeier
Milwaukie, OR, Dark Horse Books, c2003

A graphic novel dealing with the family tragedy of Thomas Tennant, who lost his mother to cancer when he was seven. After her death, as his professor father struggles with his grief, Thomas, occasionally donning a superhero cape and lion mask, fights to keep their lives on track.

My Sister's Keeper -- Jodi Picoult
N.Y., Atria, c2004

When her family asks 13-year Anna Fitzgerald to donate a kidney to her older sister, who suffers from leukemia, she refuses, and sues her parents for custody of her own

body.

Odd Thomas -- Dean Koontz
N.Y., Bantam, c2003

Odd (his real name) is a California short-order cook who has the unfortunate ability to see ghosts and foretell such future events as mass murders -- which causes no end of trouble for Odd and his associates.

Rainbow Boys -- Alex Sanchez
N.Y., Simon Pulse, c2001

Three high school seniors, a jock with a girlfriend and an alcoholic father, a closeted gay, and a flamboyant gay rights advocate, struggle with family issues, gay bashers, first sex, and conflicting feelings about each other.

Stargirl -- Jerry Spinelli
N.Y., Knopf, c2000

A new student turns life at Mica H.S. upside down with her nonconformity, carrying her pet rat to class, singing to classmates to the accompaniment of her ukelele, and generally going about her days with a total disregard for teen conventions and the opinions of her peers.

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers -- Mary Roach
N.Y., Norton, c2003

The author visited medical schools, research labs, and mortuary sciences classes in order to find out what really happens to the bodies donated for scientific research.

Sweetblood: A Vampire Novel -- Pete Hautman
N.Y., Simon Pulse, c2003

After a lifetime of being a model student, sixteen-year-old Lucy Szabo is suddenly in trouble at school, at home, with the "proto-vampires" she has met online and in person, and most of all with her uncontrolled diabetes.

Truth About Forever -- Sarah Dessen
N.Y., Viking, c2004

The summer following her father's death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp, but instead she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief.

Usual Rules -- Joyce Maynard
N.Y., St. Martin, c2003

A Brooklyn teen lives a normal, happy life in her eccentric family's busy household until the day in September, 2001, when her mom heads off to work at the World Trade Center and never comes home.

You Remind Me of You: A Poetry Memoir -- Eireann Corrigan
N.Y., Push, c2002

Autobiographical poems recount events in a teenager's life, including her battles with eating disorders, her time in treatment facilities, and the suicide of her boyfriend.