If It Rains Pancakes: Haiku and Lantern Poems by Brian P. Cleary
Explains and demonstrates how to write two types of ancient Japanese poetry: haiku and lanterns.

Hoop Genius: How a Desperate Teacher and a Rowdy Gym Class Invented Basketball by John Coy
Discover the true story of how James Naismith invented basketball in 1891 at a school in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Deep in the Sahara by Kelly Cunnane
An Arab girl of the Sahara who wants to wear a malafa, the veiled dress worn by her mother and older sister, learns that the garment represents beauty, mystery, tradition, belonging, and faith.

A Dance like Starlight: One Ballerina’s Dream by Kristy Dempsey
A young girl growing up in Harlem in the 1950s dreams of becoming a prima ballerina one day, and is thrilled to see a performance of Janet Collins, the first “colored” prima ballerina.

The Scraps Book: Notes from a Colorful Life by Lois Ehlert
Presents a visual survey of Lois Ehlert’s artistic career that reflects on her parents’ support, her early creative experiments, and her behind-the-scenes book-making processes.

Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building by Christy Hale
A collection of concrete poetry, illustrations, and photographs that shows how young children’s constructions are reflected in notable works of architecture from around the world.

The Girl Who Heard Colors by Marie Harris
Because she has a special extra sense called synesthesia, Jillian sees colors whenever she hears sounds.

Lost Cat by Roger C. Mader
Slipper the cat is mistakenly left behind in the commotion when the lady she has always lived with moves in with her daughter’s family. Slipper, the lost cat, sets out to find someone new to adopt.

This is Moose by Richard T. Morris
Director Billy Waddler is trying to film a documentary about moose, but the moose in question has no intention of spending his life in the woods and his animal friends, who have dreams of their own, help him prove his point.

Nelson Mandela by Kadir Nelson
Kadir Nelson tells the story of Mandela, in poignant verse and glorious illustrations. It is the story of a young boy’s determination to change South Africa and of the struggles of a man who eventually became the president of the country by believing in equality for people of all colors.

The Watermelon Seed by Greg Pizzoli
After swallowing a watermelon seed, a crocodile imagines a scary outcome.

A Boy and a Jaguar by Alan Rabinowitz
Rabinowitz, a renowned cat conservationist, reflects on his early childhood struggles with a speech disorder, describing how he only spoke fluently when he was communicating with animals and how he resolved at a young age to find his voice and be their advocate.

The Dark by Lemony Snicket
Laszlo is afraid of the dark which lives in the same big, creaky house as he does, until one night the dark pays him a visit.

Feathers: Not Just for Flying by Melissa Stewart
Young naturalists meet sixteen birds in this elegant introduction to the many uses of feathers.

8 Class Pets ÷ One Squirrel [Divided by] One Dog = Chaos by Vivian Vande Velde
A dog chases a squirrel into an elementary school one night, creating monumental chaos.
Past Monarch Award Winners

2015  The Day the Crayons Quit
       by Drew Daywalt

2014  The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School
       by Laura Murray and Mike Lowery

2013  Rocking in My School Shoes
       by Eric Litwin

2012  Shark vs. Train
       by Chris Barton

2011  Rhyming Dust Bunnies
       by Jan Thomas

2010  Scaredy Squirrel
       by Melanie Watt

2009  Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude
       by Kevin O’Malley

2008  If I Built a Car
       by Chris Van Dusen

2007  Superdog: The Heart of a Hero
       by Caralyn Buehner

2006  My Lucky Day
       by Keiko Kasza

2005  David Gets in Trouble
       by David Shannon

Visit the Monarch Award website at:
www.islma.org/Monarch.htm

Monarch Award
Reading List
2016
Can you read them all?

The Monarch Award was established in 2003 to
promote the joy of reading for children in
kindergarten through 3rd grade.

The winners are chosen by Illinois children in
grades K-3 after reading books from a list of 20 titles.

This is the list of nominees for the 2016 Award.

☐ Building Our House by Jonathan Bean
   A young girl narrates her family’s move from the city to
   the country, where they live in a trailer while they build a
   house from the ground up, with help from relatives and
   friends.

☐ Breaking News: Bear Alert by David Biedrzycki
   In this story (told in the form of a television broadcast),
   bears emerge from hibernation demanding to be fed.

☐ Marisol McDonald and the Clash Bash
   by Monica Brown
   A unique, spunky, multiracial, bilingual girl plans a one-of-a-
   kind birthday party and hopes her abuelita (grandma) will
   be able to come from Peru to join the festivities.

☐ Bad Kitty School Daze by Nick Bruel
   When Kitty’s owners have finally had enough of her bad
   behavior, it’s time to ship her off to obedience school.

☐ A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin by Jennifer Bryant
   This is an illustrated introduction to the life and work of
   artist Horace Pippin, describing his childhood love for
drawing and the World War I injury that challenged his
   career.