

**CYRM Resource Book
Intermediate Nominees
(Grades 3-6)
2008-2009**

Clementine

by Sara Pennypacker

Hyperion Books for Children, 2006

Phineas L. MacGuire ... Erupts!

by Frances O'Roark Dowell

illustrated by Preston McDaniels

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2006

Sheep

by Valerie Hobbs

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006



California Young Reader Medal
Intermediate Ballot
2008-2009

_____ *Clementine*

_____ *Phineas L. MacGuire*
... *Erupts!*

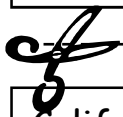
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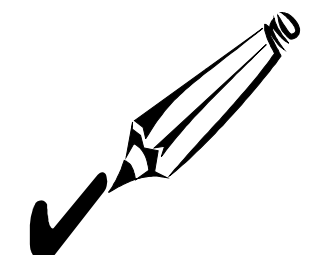
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Clementine

by Sara Pennypacker



Synopsis

Clementine is not a bad kid, she is just a rambunctious one with lots of ideas in her head. In addition, Clementine does not always think before she acts, but no one could say her heart isn't in the right place. Luckily for Clementine, her unusual parents never get too flustered; they do try to help Clementine see that not every idea should be acted on. Clementine consistently gets herself sent to Principal Rice's office when her helpful ideas go hilariously awry.

Hooks

- Can you remember something you did when you were younger that seemed reasonable, but you got into trouble for it? Tell about it.
- Have you ever cut your own hair?
- What is a bad child?
- What is an easy child?
- How many different vegetables can you name?

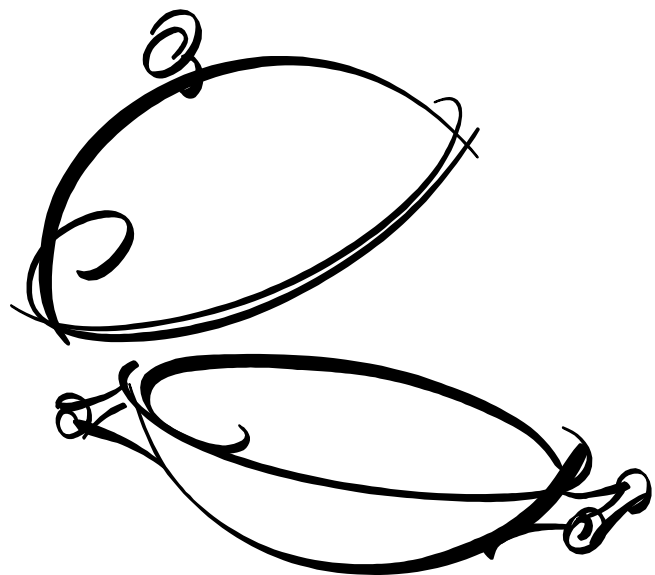
Meet the Author—Sara Pennypacker



Sara Pennypacker didn't always mean to be an author; she was certain for the longest time that she would play shortstop for the Boston Red Sox. Maybe she still will. Up until ten years ago, she was a serious watercolor artist. Now she observes and discusses things with her children, which invariably make their way into the *Clementine* books.

For more information, see:

Margolis, Rick. (2007, April). "The Fruits of Her Labor." *School Library Journal*, 53 (4), 35.
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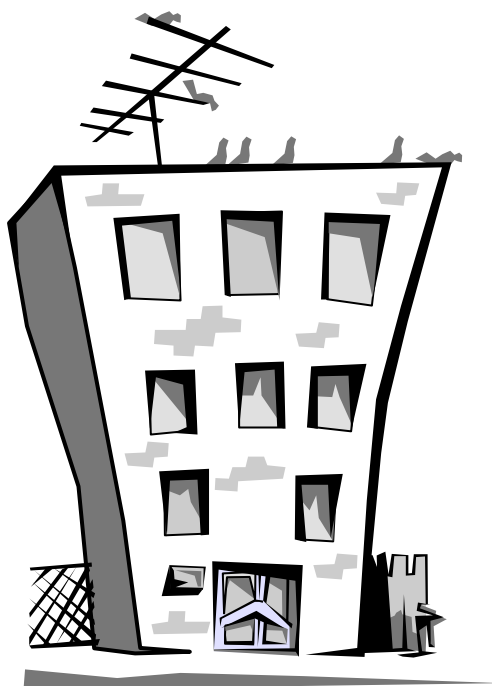
Pigeons Website

www.pleasebekind.com/pigeon.html

Writing Prompts / Discussion Questions for *Clementine*



- Are you the easy child or the hard child in your family? Explain how you are easy and/or hard for your parents.
- Clementine does a lot of things that get her in trouble. Is she a bad kid? Use examples to explain your answer.
- When Clementine has a bad day or is very upset, her father lets her ride the service elevator (an elevator reserved for workers). Is there something you like to do when you are upset? What helps you calm down and feel better?
- Why do you think Clementine won't call her little brother by his name? Why does she call him vegetable names?



Phineas L. MacGuire ... Erupts!

by Frances O’Roark Dowell



Synopsis

Phineas L. MacGuire, considers himself to be a boy-scientist extraordinaire. Known as Mac by his friends and classmates, he is deeply disappointed when his best friend moves away right after school starts, and everyone has already made best friends for the year. Phineas’ hopes to win the fourth grade science fair are further dashed when he gets assigned to the new Mac in the room, Mac R. Mac R joined the class late and proceeded to alienate the entire class. Luckily for Mac, Mac R is a great artist. It also turns out that his name is really Ben. When Ben admits that he blew it with his new class, Mac hatches a plan to reintroduce Ben to the class. The scientific method is used to solve a number of problems in this story and everyone learns a little more about science and each other.

Hooks

- Have you ever had a best friend move away?
- Do you ever act stupid when you are nervous or in a new situation? Tell about it.
- Think about kids you think are popular. What makes them popular?
- Do you ever say you are allergic to something?



Meet the Author—Frances O’Roark Dowell

A poet since she was six or seven years old, Frances O’Roark Dowell started writing stories when she was almost thirty. She majored in English in college, but worked at a variety of jobs before becoming an author for young people, such as a motel housekeeper, a legal secretary, and an arts administrator. She writes every night on her laptop after her children go to bed. Her first novel, *Dovey Coe* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2000), was well received and won the Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Juvenile Novel (2001) and the William Allen White Award (2003). Another of her books, *Chicken Boy* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2005), was an ALA Notable Book for Children (2006) and a Notable Book of the English Language Arts (2006).

For more information, see:

<http://www.francesdowell.com/>

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Connections for *Phineas L. MacGuire ... Erupts!*



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Volcanoes - Website

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Writing Prompts / Discussion Questions For *Phineas L. MacGuire ... Erupts!*



- Why do you think Ben (Mac R) acted so annoying in his new class?
- Brainstorm as many areas of science as you can. Which areas of science interest you? What do you want to learn more about?
- If Phineas is so logical, how can he think he's allergic to a color?
- Think about something that bothers you. How could you use logic and observations to solve this problem?



Sheep

by Valerie Hobbs



Synopsis

Follow the struggles of a born and bred sheep dog as he struggles to survive away from his beloved sheep and home farm. Told from the point-of-view of the dog, *Sheep* will provide children with a new perspective on pets and the lives the homeless. Along the way the main character meets kindness, death, trickery, and cruelty. With nothing but the courage he was born with and a dream, he searches for the life he once knew, gathering names and adventures as he goes. Throughout the story, readers long for the sheep dog to find a permanent home. They won't be disappointed.

Hooks

- Do you have a pet?
- What happens to dogs without owners?
- If you were a dog, what kind of owner or home would you want?
- Many dogs work. What kinds of work can dogs do?
- What makes dogs happy? Sad?



Meet the Author—Valerie Hobbs

Valerie Hobbs spent her childhood in urban New Jersey, but moved to rural California during high school. Her art imitates her life in her first novel, *How Far Would You Have Gotten If I Hadn't Called You Back*, (Orchard Books, 1995) when the protagonist, sixteen-year-old Bronwyn Lewis, experiences the same unpleasant uprooting. Hobbs became a high school English teacher on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, then a lecturer in writing at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She has written eleven books, which often explore darker life experiences and choices in adolescence. When not writing a book a year, she enjoys golf, hiking, travel, and poker. Another of Hobbs's notable books is *Sonny's War* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002).

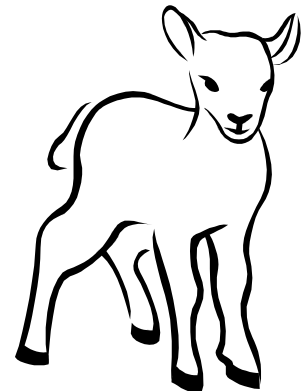
For more information, see:

<http://www.valeriehobbs.com/>

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- Browning, Bel. *Animal Welfare*. Raintree, 2003.
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Writing Prompts / Discussion Questions for *Sheep*



- Why didn't the author tell more about the happy ending?
- Imagine you are a dog with a person like you as the owner. Tell about yourself from a dog's perspective.
- If Jack had stayed with the little girl, Penelope, what would his days be like?
- Why do you think Snatch didn't want to take Jack along on the train?
- Were Hollerin and Snatch good guys or bad guys? Use examples to explain your answer.
- Why do you think Tiffany didn't run away with Jack?
- How did Jack's interference on the last day of Adoption Week help Luke get adopted?

