

CYRM Resource Book
Picture Books for Older Readers
(Grade 4 and up)
Nominees 2009-2010

Armando and the Blue Tarp School

by Edith Hope Fine & Judith Pinkerton Josephson

illustrated by Hernán Sosa

Lee & Low, 2007

Owney: The Mail-Pouch Pooch

by Mona Kerby

illustrated by Lynne Barasch

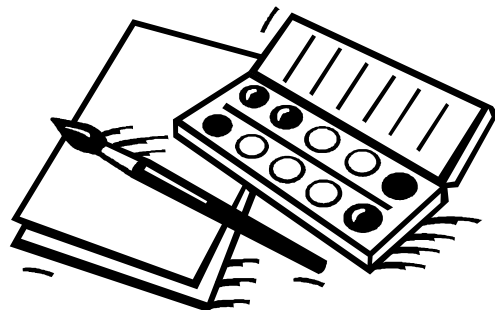
Frances Foster/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008

Willy & Max: A Holocaust Story

by Amy Littlesugar

illustrated by William Low

Philomel/Penguin, 2006



California Young Reader Medal
**Picture Books for Older
Readers Ballot**
2009-2010

_____ *Armando and the Blue
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_____ *Owney: The Mail-Pouch
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_____ *Willy & Max: A
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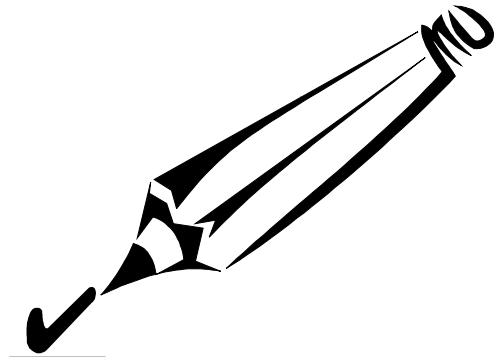
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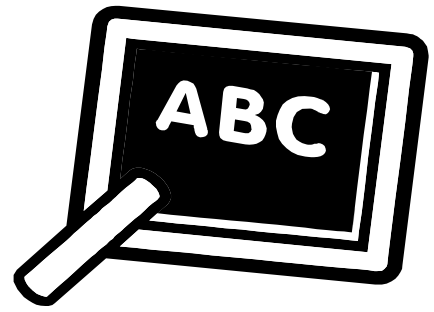
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Armando and the Blue Tarp School

by Edith Hope Fine &
Judith Pinkerton Josephson



Synopsis

This is the moving story of a teacher who brings school to the children who work with their parents as trash pickers at a Tijuana dump. The school is simply a blue tarp and a loving teacher. At first Armando's parents will not allow him time for school because they so desperately need him to work. But ultimately, they come to see the value of school for their son and where it may lead him, as he embraces his love of learning.

Hooks

- Many important things in life cannot be learned from books. Can you think of some examples?
- Do you enjoy learning? What is your favorite thing to learn about?
- How far would you go to learn something?
- Can you imagine owning nothing? What is most important to you?
- If you were in danger of losing everything in a fire, what would you want most to save? Why?
- Each person has at least one gift. What is yours? What makes you feel good about yourself?

Meet the Authors – Edith Hope Fine and Judith Pinkerton Josephson



Edith Hope Fine and Judith Pinkerton Josephson are full time writers of children’s books. They collaborate together teaching and writing the “Nitty Gritty Grammar” books and maintain the Grammar Patrol website.

Edith Hope Fine grew up reading books under the covers with a flashlight and is still crazy about books! She has taught school, tutored, run after-school programs, and published many kinds of writing— newspapers, magazines, books. She has written 14 books, including four with her colleague Judith Josephson. When she is not writing, she is swimming or walking, baking or making soup, watching old-time movies, having fun with her family, e-mailing friends around the country, doing Sudokus, composting and recycling. She is also working toward, “fairness and justice for all on this small blue marble we call home.”

When she was younger, Judith Pinkerton Josephson loved to scribble stories on small pieces of paper. She was fascinated with horses, read every horse book she could find, and spent hours imagining what wild horses were like. As an adult, observations of her own children helped inspire her writing and poetry. This led to writing for magazines, newspapers and books. When she is not writing, she enjoys playing the violin, singing, reading, cooking, baking bread, swimming, biking, walking, sewing and knitting, and spending time with her family.

To find out more about the authors and the inspiration for their book, please visit:
www.bluetarpschool.com



Meet the Illustrator – Hernán Sosa

Hernán Sosa was born in Argentina and raised in Paraguay. He received his degree in Visual Communications from The Colorado Institute of Art. He is currently working as a children’s book illustrator and as a graphic designer, focusing mostly on magazines. Mr. Sosa and his wife currently live in Denver, Colorado.

To see more of his artwork, please visit his website at:
<http://coroflot.com/hernansosaiillustration>

Connections for *Armando and the Blue Tarp School*



Love of School and Learning

Howard, Elizabeth Fitzgerald. *Virgie Goes to School with Us Boys*. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2000.

Jeffers, Oliver. *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*. Philomel, 2007.

Park, Frances and Ginger. *The Royal Bee*. Illustrated by Christopher Zhong-Yuan Zhang. Boyds Mill Press, 2000.

Recorvitis, Helen. *My Name is Yoon*. Illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000.

Helping Others

Houston, Gloria. *My Great-Aunt Arizona*. Illustrated by Susan Condie Lamb. HarperCollins Publishers, 1992.

Milway, Katie Smith. *One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Difference*. Kids Can Press, 2008.

Mora, Pat. *Tomás and the Library Lady*. Illustrated by Raul Colon. Alfred Knopf: 1997.

Nivola, Claire. *Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangori Maathai*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2008.

Personal Empowerment

Connor, Leslie. *Miss Bridie Chose a Shovel*. Illustrated by Mary Azarian. Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

Foreman, Michael. *Mia's Story: A Sketchbook of Hopes and Dreams*. Candlewick Press, 2006.

Walker, Alice. *There is a Flower at the Tip of My Nose Smelling Me*. Illustrated by Stefano Vitale. HarpersCollinsPublishers, 2006.

Woodruff, Elvira. *Small Beauties: The Journey of Darcy Heart O'Hara*. Illustrated by Adam Rex. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

Discussion Questions/Activities for ***Armando and the Blue Tarp School***



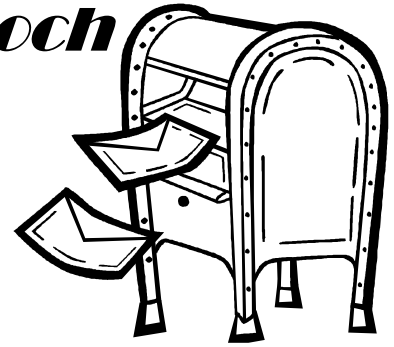
- Armando and Papá work to pick up trash from the dumps. Gather some items that are about to be thrown away and place them on a table. Choose an item, identify it and explain how it is used. Think of other ways you could use the same item.
- Armando wanted to learn more than anything but his family needed the money that he and his father made working. What kind of work do you do around your house? Do you collect an allowance? Think of ways you could contribute to your family.
- Armando worked at learning the words that Señor David taught at the school. Can you think of something you had to work at in order to become a better student?
- Armando's painting gets published. Chose and article from the newspaper and make an illustration for it.
- The newspaper article brought donations that went toward constructing a permanent school. Can you think of a project your class could do to help others?



Owney: The Mail-Pouch Pooch

by Mona Kerby

illustrated by Lynne Barasch



Synopsis

This is the true story of a stray dog who adopted the Albany Post Office in the state of New York, as his home. He loved the people who worked there, the wool of their postal uniforms and the bags of mail. Not only did Owney protect the mail locally, he traveled America by mail train and then ultimately circled the world. This is one dog that really got around, but he never forgot where home was. He always ended up back at the Albany Post Office.

Hooks

- If you could go behind the scenes where would it be? Would it be a restaurant, an amusement park, a fire station, a post office or a library?
- What is your favorite way to travel? By car, bike, train, plane, or scooter? Have you ever been on a train? Could you imagine going by yourself all across the United States on a train?
- Have you ever known an animal that was deeply loyal to a person or a place? What kind of animal was it? How did it show its loyalty?
- Is there someplace you love going back to?
- Have you ever been adopted by a stray animal?

Meet the Author—Mona Kerby



Mona Kerby grew up in Fort Worth, Texas where she graduated from Richland High School. After she went to college, she became a kindergarten teacher and then a librarian at Little Elementary School in Arlington, Texas. She and her husband live in Maryland where Mrs. Kerby is a teacher at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. She is a professor and the coordinator of the graduate school Library Media Program. She is passionate about reading, quality school library collections, and protecting students' first amendment rights to libraries, books, and ideas.

To learn more about Mona Kerby and her work visit her homepage at:
<http://monakerby.com/index.htm>



Meet the Illustrator – Lynne Barasch

Lynne Barasch was born in New York City and grew up in Woodmere, Long Island. She attended the Rhode Island School of Design and holds a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Parsons School of Design. She lives in New York City where she often shares her books and talents with the students in her daughter's classroom.

To learn more about Lynne Barasch and to see her many awards visit her website at:
<http://www.lynnebarasch.com/index.htm>



Loyal Relationships between Animals and People

Armstrong, Jennifer. *Magnus at the Fire*. Illustrated by Owen Smith. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2005.

Hesse, Karen. *The Cats in Krasinski Square*. Illustrated by Wendy Watson. Scholastic Press, 2004.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Cracker!: The Best Dog in Vietnam*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Albert*. Illustrated by Jim LaMarche. Silver Whistle/Harcourt Brace, 2001.

Newman, Leslea. *Hachiko Waits*. Illustrated by Machiyo Kodaira. Henry Holt & Co., 2004.

Postal Service/Special Journeys Involving Mail

Fleming, Candace. *Boxes for Katje*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003.

Kottke, Jan. *A Day with a Mail Carrier*. Children's Press, 2000.

Shea, Kitty. *Out and About at the Post Office*. Illustrated by Becky Shipe. Picture Window Books, 2004.

Strom, Kellie. *Sadie the Air Mail Pilot*. David Fickling Books, 2007.

Tunnell, Michael O. *Mailing May*. Illustrated by Ted Rand. Greenwillow Books, 1997.

Trains

Cushman, Karen. *Rodzina*. Clarion Books, 2003.

Kuklin, Susan. *All Aboard: A True Train Story*. Orchard Books, 2003.

Lehman, Barbara. *Trainstop*. Houghton Mifflin, 2008.

National Railway Museum. *Big Book of Trains*. DK Pub., 1998.

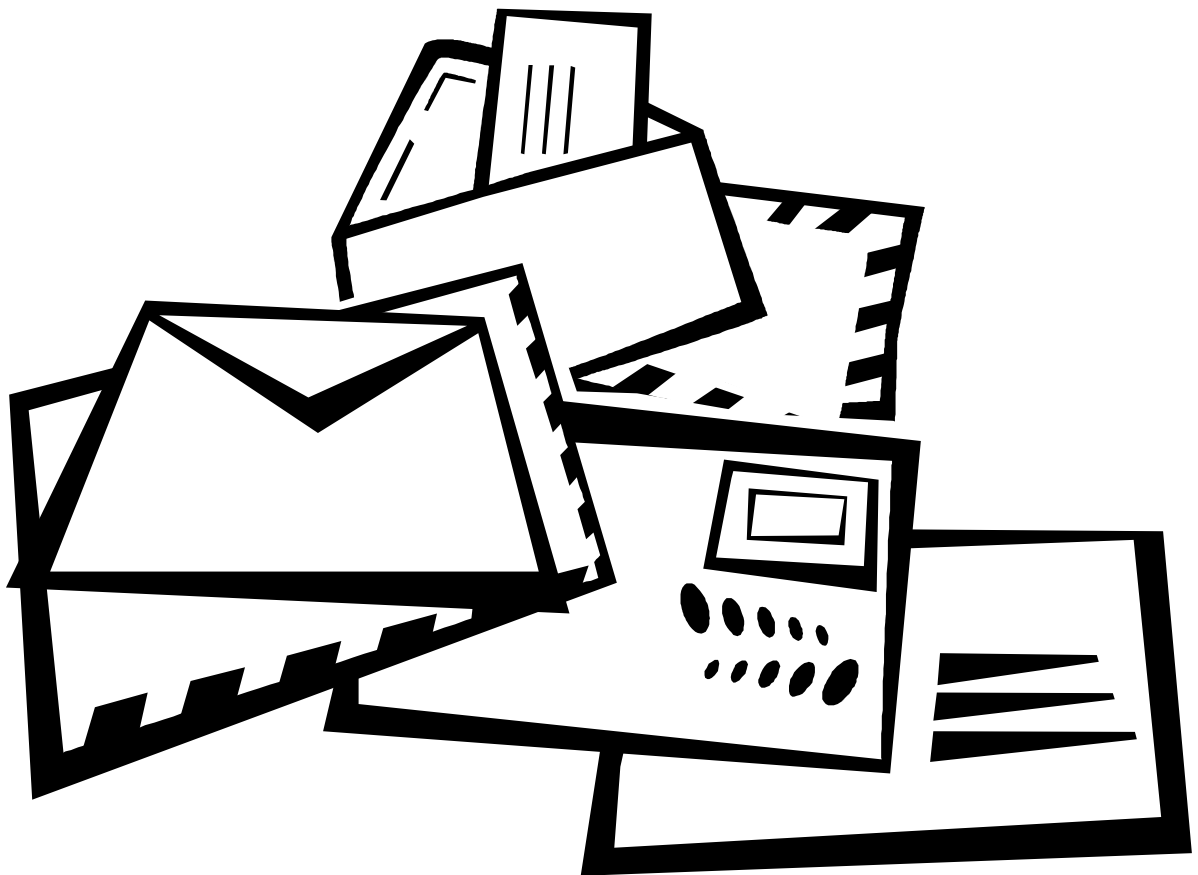
Simon, Seymour. *Seymour Simon's Book of Trains*. HarperCollinsPublishers, 2002.

Discussion Questions/Activities for

Owney, the Mail Pouch Pooch



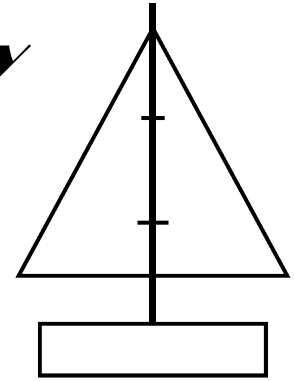
- Owney traveled throughout the world, picking up medals and Souvenirs. Take a map of the world and put a pin in the areas where Owney visited and collected medals.
- Chose someplace Owney went that you would like to visit. What would you see and do there?
- Owney was fascinated with the blue wool uniforms of the mail office personnel. Make a list of other jobs where employees must wear a uniform. Why do you think so many jobs require uniforms? Choose one uniform and explain why it is needed.
- Could Owney's story happen nowadays? Why or why not?



Willy & Max: A Holocaust Story

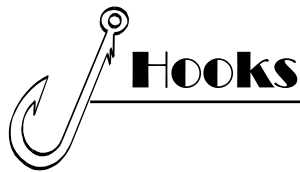
by Amy Littlesugar

illustrated by William Low



Synopsis

This is the story of a forever friendship between two young boys in Antwerp, Belgium, just before World War II. Max's Jewish father purchases a beautiful painting from Willy's father. He ultimately must leave it with Willy's family for protection once the troubles for the Jews begin. This same trouble also interrupts the special friendship between the two boys. Eventually, the painting is hidden by Willy in a statue which is taken by the Nazis. The painting is preserved for many years in the statue until it is rediscovered in America with a picture of Willy and Max taped to the back. It is finally returned to Willy late in his life. Max has died, but Willy meets with Max's family and gives them the picture. He discovers that just as he never forgot Max, Max never forgot him. Max and Willy are never directly reunited after the war, but their friendship lives on, as does the beautiful, stolen painting that finally comes home.



- What do you know the Holocaust?
- What would you do if someone trusted you with something precious to protect? How would you save it? Where could you hide it?
- Have you ever had a special friend you lost because of distance? How would you keep up a friendship if you were far apart?
- How does it feel to have a friend who is very different from you? Or a friend who is just like you? Are your friends mostly like you or mostly different than you?
- During the Holocaust, Jews were killed simply for being who they were. They were forced to wear a yellow Star of David and lived in fear of persecution and death. What would your hopes be for the way we treat people now?

Meet the Author – Amy Littlesugar



Amy Littlesugar has written at least 10 picture books since 1994. She is most known for her work with Floyd Cooper, illustrator, in the books *Freedom School, Yes!* and *Shake Rag: From the Life of Elvis Presley*. Amy Littlesugar enjoys writing stories that take us back to other times and other places. Her stories explore Native American heritage, Afro- and Anglo-American roots, Puritan New England, and Europe.

Amy Littlesugar currently lives in Maryland with her family.



Meet the Illustrator – William Low

William Low was born in the Bronx, a borough of New York City, in the back seat of a taxi cab. He grew up in the Bronx exploring with a camera, much like a tourist in his hometown. He still uses his camera and is always taking pictures, using light, color, and composition in interesting ways. He earned his Bachelor's of Fine Arts from the Parsons School of Design and has become one of the premier illustrators and painters of books, winning numerous awards. He is currently transitioning to digital media and many people are surprised to realize that his work is not done with traditional art materials.

To explore his award winning artwork and see his children's book illustrations, visit his website at:

<http://www.williamlow.com/books/index.html>

Connections for *Willy and Max:* *A Holocaust Story*



True & Unusual Friendship

Fox, Mem. *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge*. Illustrated by Julie Vivas.
Kane/Miller Book Publishers, 1985.

Hatkoff, Isabella, Craig Hatkoff and Dr. Paula Kahumba. *Owen and Mzee:
Language of Friendship*. Illustrated by Peter Greste. Scholastic Press, 2007.

Tingle, Tim. *Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship*. Illustrated by Jeanne
Rorex Bridges. Cinco Puntos Press, 2006.

Williams, Karen Lynn and Khadra Mohammad. *Four Feet, Two Sandals*.
Illustrated by Doug Chayka. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2007.

World War II and the Holocaust

Ayer, Eleanor H. *Parallel Journeys*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1995.

Bunting, Eve. *Terrible Things: An Allegory of the Holocaust*. Illustrated by Stephen
Gammell. Jewish Publication Society, 1989.

Hoestlandt, Jo. *Star of Fear, Star of Hope*. Illustrated by Johanne Kang. Translated
by Mark Polizzotti. Walker, 1995.

Polacco, Patricia. *The Butterfly*. Philomel Books, 2000.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *I Never Saw Another Butterfly:
Children's Drawings and Poems from Terezin Concentration Camp, 1942-1944*.
Schocken Books, 1993.

Writing Prompts/Discussion Questions for *Willy and Max: A Holocaust Story*



- The two main characters share much in common. Use a character map to assist you to help you develop a better understanding of the characters. Be sure students include qualities such as courage or loyalty and the actions which support those characteristics.
- Using a quickwrite strategy have the students write about any prior knowledge they have of the Holocaust. The amount of time given is short, roughly 1-5 minutes. The purpose is to quickly get ideas down, to write down any thoughts that come into the writer's head. It is important that the writer be freed from conventions of spelling and grammar.
- Willy's parents owned an antique shop in Antwerp, Belgium, locate where Antwerp, Belgium on a map. Find how close it is to the border of Germany. Look where other cities mentioned in the story are located.
- Much of the artwork stolen from Jewish families during the Holocaust has been recovered and returned to its rightful owners, but that has not always been possible. What would you do if you found something valuable and you did not know to whom it belonged?
- Willy and Max became best friends. Have students write facts about what makes a best friend. Make a poster showing which qualities are most important in a friend. Graph students responses to see what students feel is most important. Tell how friends demonstrate these qualities.

