

**CYRM Resource Guide  
Intermediate Nominees  
(Grades 3-6)  
2010-2011**

***Igraine the Brave***

by Cornelia Funke  
The Chicken House, 2007

***Greetings from Planet Earth***

by Barbara Kerley  
Scholastic Press, 2007

***Zorgamazoo***

by Robert Paul Weston  
Razorbill, 2008



California Young Reader Medal  
**Intermediate Ballot**  
2010-2011

\_\_\_\_\_ *Igraine the Brave*

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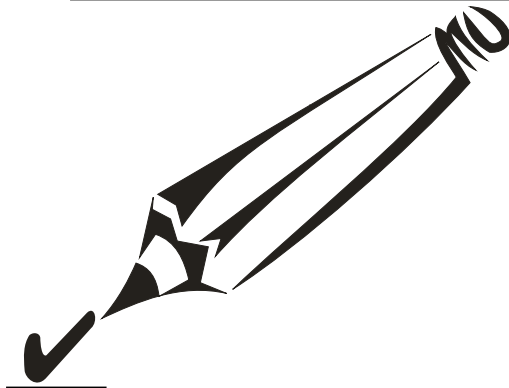
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# ***Igraine the Brave***

by Cornelia Funke



## **Synopsis**

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Igraine dreams of becoming a knight, which will be a challenge because girls don't become knights. She wants to go on great adventures and overcome difficult challenges. However, Igraine's castle is quite boring and doesn't lend itself to much excitement. This all changes on her twelfth birthday when Igraine's parents are accidentally turned into pigs. Not only does Igraine have to figure out how to change them back, but she must now protect the castle from their evil neighbor, Osmund, who is trying to take over the castle and steal the family's magic singing books. Now Igraine has the ultimate adventure ahead of her.



## **Hooks**

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- Did you ever wish you had magical powers?
- What if your family was threatened? To what lengths would you go to protect them?
- Have you ever had to keep a secret?
- Have you ever wanted to do something that others told you that you could not or would not be able to do?

### **Meet the Author—Cornelia Funke**

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Cornelia Funke is the author of the bestselling novels, *The Thief Lord*, *Dragon Rider*, *Inkheart* and *Inkspell*, the Ghostbusters series, and many popular picture books. She lives in Los Angeles, California with her family. She wrote her first story at the age of 35, when she discovered that writing was more fun than drawing the pictures. She has two children, a dog and turtle, and a large collection of dragons made of all sorts of materials.

Her website is:

[www.cornelia-funke.com](http://www.cornelia-funke.com)





### Knights and Knighthood

- Eager, Edward. *Knight's Castle*. Harcourt Brace, 1956.  
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### Middle Ages

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### Magic

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Law, Ingrid. *Savy*. Walton, 2008.  
Reeve, Philip. *Here Lies Arthur*. Scholastic, 2008.  
Sage, Angie. *Magyk*. Katherine Tegen, 2005.



## **Writing Prompts / Discussion Questions for *Igraine the Brave***

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- If you were Igraine, what present would you want for your birthday?
- Would you rather learn to be a knight or a magician? Why?
- What would be the rules of chivalry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Create 5 to 10 new rules of chivalry.
- Create spells to clean your room, do your chores, and something else of your choosing.
- What is the most useful enchantment added to Pimpernel Castle? If you could create enchantments for your school, what would they be?
- Igraine was given the title “the brave” for all her heroic deeds. What title would you give yourself if you were a part of this world? Why?

# ***Greetings from Planet Earth***

by Barbara Kerley



## **Synopsis**

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It's 1977 and 12-year-old Theo is struggling with a class assignment. The Voyager 2 space shuttle will be carrying a message of greetings from Earth into outer space. So Mr. Meyer has assigned each student to come up with a picture and a full minute of sound to answer the age-old question "Who are we?" For many students this is easy, but Theo struggles to come up with an answer. After all, Theo has many unanswered questions himself about his own family. His father went missing after fighting in Vietnam. But because there is a family rule to never speak about his father, Theo has no more information than that. After he receives a gift "from his father" for his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday, Theo starts digging for the truth, and ends up finding more answers, and more questions, than he ever thought he would find.

## **Hooks**

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- Have you ever kept a secret from someone? Has anyone ever kept a secret from you? How did you feel when you found out?
- The main character, Theo, is given the assignment to answer the question, "Who are we?" How would you answer that question?
- Have you ever had to forgive someone for something wrong that they did to you? How were you able to forgive them?
- What do you know about the Vietnam war?

## ***Greetings from Planet Earth***

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### **Meet the Author—Barbara Kerley**

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Barbara Kerley is the award-winning author of the picture books *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins*, a Caldecott Honor Book and an ALA Notable Book, both illustrated by Brian Selznick. About the inspiration for *Greetings From Planet Earth*, she says, “Ever since I was a kid, I’ve looked up at the night sky, feeling part of something bigger. I love the idea of the golden record carrying a tiny snapshot of our world into outer space. That we’re capable of such a hopeful gesture, despite the destructive things we sometimes do, gives me tremendous faith in humanity.” She lives in McKinleyville, California, with her husband and their teenage daughter. This is her first novel.

Her website is:

[www.barbarakerley.com](http://www.barbarakerley.com)





# Connections for *Greetings from Planet Earth*

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## Fathers and Sons

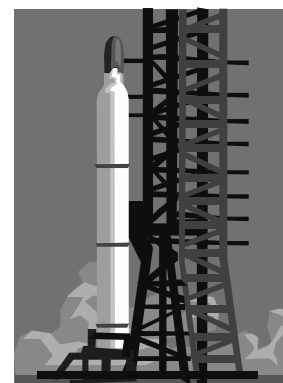
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## Family Problems

- Marsden, Carolyn. *Bird Springs*. Viking, 2007.  
O'Connor, Barbara. *How to Steal a Dog*. Farrar, Strauss, & Giroux; 2007.  
Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *Becoming Naomi León*. Scholastic, 2004.  
Urban, Linda. *A Crooked Kind of Perfect*. Harcourt, 2007.

## Vietnam War

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## **Writing Prompts / Discussion Questions For *Greetings from Planet Earth***

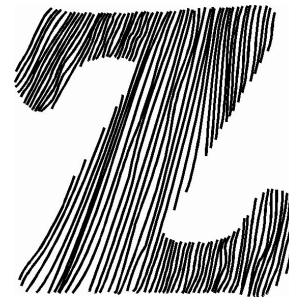
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- Answer the question for yourself: What is the most important thing about Earth?
- Questions posed in class include: Who are we? Where do we live? What can we do? What makes us human? If you were doing the same assignment as Theo, how would you respond?
- Would you want a sister like Janet?
- Theo, Janet, Mom and JeeBee all keep secrets. What are the secrets they keep and why do you think they keep them?
- If you were going to contribute to the Golden Record sent into space do you think we should “send up a message of who we really are, of who we’d like to be?”
- Is there any significance to all the things that break during the course of the story? Does Theo learn anything from all that is broken?

# ***Zorgamazoo***

by Robert Paul Weston



## **Synopsis**

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Katrina Katrell, an orphan girl who lives with her miserable guardian, leads a hum-drum life. This all changes one day while at the subway station, she spots something she cannot believe – a creature covered in fur, who walks like a man and wears a suit! Katrina soon meets this man, Morty the Zorgle, and not only befriends him, but joins him on his quest to find out what has happened to all of the other Zorgles who have been disappearing from their land of Zorgamazoo. Combining adventure, fantasy, and mystery, this novel told in verse is heavy with the dark whimsy that have made Roald Dahl and Neil Gaiman so popular with children.

## **Hooks**

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- Have you ever wished that you could go on a great adventure?
- Do you believe that mythical creatures really exist – unicorns, Bigfoot, the Loch Ness monster?
- What do courage and bravery mean to you?
- Have you ever had to do something that you were scared to do?



## **Meet the Author— Robert Paul Weston**

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Robert Paul Weston holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of British Columbia and divides his time between Toronto and London. *Zorgamazoo* is his first novel. He is busy working on his second book which will be a work of fantasy. Instead of featuring whimsical rhyming verse, it will be quite dark and full of impending doom.

His website is:

[www.Zorgamazoo.com](http://www.Zorgamazoo.com)



## Novels in Verse

- Brown, Susan Taylor. *Hugging the Rock*. Tricycle, 2006.  
Creech, Sharon. *Love that Dog*. HarperCollins, 2001.  
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Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust*. Scholastic, 1997.  
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## Imaginary Creatures

- Dahl, Roald. *The BFG*. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1982.  
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Ibbotson, Eva. *Island of the Aunts*. Dutton, 2000.  
King-Smith, Dick. *The Water Horse*. Crown, 1998.

## Fantasy Adventure

- Coombs, Kate. *The Runaway Princess*. Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux; 2006.  
Easton, Kelly. *The Outlandish Adventures of Liberty Aimes*. Wendy Lamb, 2009.  
Stewart, Paul. *The Edge Chronicles* series. David Fickling Books.

## Writing Prompts / Discussion Questions for *Zorgamazoo*

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- Describe yourself in 6 lines of rhyming verse.
- Imagine you're one of the creatures trapped on the moon. Tell a story of what your life was like before you were captured by the Octamabots. Rhyme, if you can.
- Imagine you're one of the characters and write a diary entry: What has just happened to you, and how are you feeling?
- How are the human world and the underground world similar?
- Are Dulbert Hohummer's actions justified?
- Who is braver, Bortlebee or Katrina? Do you think Morty becomes braver?

