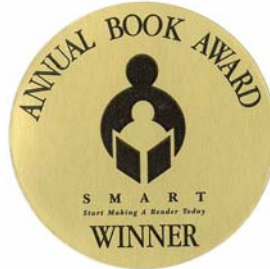


## SMART Selects Five Nominees for Ninth Annual Book Award



*Books are read by thousands of young Oregonians*

Portland, 22 January 2008 – Every winter, after the calendar has turned to a new year, SMART introduces nominees for its SMART Book Award to be read and voted on by thousands of little readers throughout Oregon.

This year marks the ninth annual SMART Book Award. Nominated books encompass a range of stories from a hippopotamus with the hiccups, to an enterprising and hungry cat and more.

The 2008 nominees are:

- ***Awful Ogre's Awful Day*** written by Jack Prelutsky. "How awful is this green-haired, one-eyed ogre? So awful his name is Awful Ogre. Fortunately, he takes some time out of his awfully busy ogre schedule to describe his routine, poem by poem, from the moment his pet rattlesnake awakens him to a touching bedtime scene." – *From Amazon.com*
- ***The Hiccupotamus*** written by Aaron Zenz. "What could be worse than a chronic case of the hiccups? How about a hippo with a chronic case of the hiccups? How about a hippo who falls on his bottom when he's got 'em?!" – *From the author's website*
- ***Six-Dinner Sid*** written by Inga Moore. "In Sid's neighborhood on Aristotle Street, the residents don't talk to one another. So it's simple for Sid, a six-dinner cat, to make six different people think he belongs to them." – *From Amazon.com*
- ***Bark, George*** written by Jules Feiffer. "When George's mother tells her son to bark, he meows. She patiently explains that 'Cats go meow. Dogs go arf. Now, bark, George.' But he quacks! Then oinks. Then moos." – *From Amazon.com*
- ***I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato*** written by Lauren Child. "Lola is a very fussy eater. Carrots are for rabbits and peas are 'too small and too green.' One day, after rattling off her long list of despised foods, she ends with the vehement pronouncement, 'And I absolutely will never not ever eat a tomato.' Not convinced, Lola's older sister Charlie has an idea." – *From Amazon.com*

While other children's choice awards are selected by children who may already be enthusiastic readers, the SMART Book Award is selected by students who need extra reading support and are just discovering the joy of reading. Intended for kindergarten through third graders, nominated books are selected for quality of storyline as well as illustration.

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*For Immediate Release*



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Voting is conducted by “secret ballot” and the results are sent in a wax-sealed envelope to all schools, to be opened at a main awards ceremony in Portland during the week of April 21.

For more details on the SMART Book Award, including past nominees and winners, visit [getsmartoregon.org/award.html](http://getsmartoregon.org/award.html).

**About SMART® (Start Making A Reader Today)**

SMART is a nonprofit that envisions an Oregon where every child can read and is empowered to succeed. We engage community volunteers to read one-on-one with K-3 children who need literacy support. Participating children also receive new books each month to keep and read with their families. Since 1992, thousands of SMART volunteers have been inspiring little readers through storytelling. Together with support from the community, we are building brighter futures for Oregonians big and small. Volunteer or donate today. Visit [www.getsmartoregon.org](http://www.getsmartoregon.org) or call 1-877-598-4633.

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