The Extensive Reading Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of its Language Learning Literature Award for books published in 2012.

Young Learners

*Uncle Jack and the Meerkats*

Author: Jane Cadwallader  
Publisher: ELI Publishing  
Illustrator: Gustavo Marzali  

Judges’ Comment: This story is good for young learners because it is a nice mixture of adventure, fantasy and reality, with an animal conservation angle. It also has a cool family theme and intelligent child characters. Well-written, nice design and fun to read.

On-line voters comments:  
This book tells a very simple story, but it indeed teaches us a lot. What we learn from the book is that we should treat animals kindly and never try to keep them as pets.

I really like this book. It is quite worthy of being read by the youth. This book particularly makes difference in inspiring us to protect the animals and our environment.

This story has a brilliant educational meaning - protecting animals from being hurt by the cruel people and loving the whole world even anything alive.

Beginners

*Arman's Journey*

Author: Philip Prowse  
Illustrator: Paul Dickinson  
Publisher: Cambridge University Press  
ISBN: 978-0-521-18496-0

Judges’ comment  
This original story is filled with adventure that compels the reader through to the end. The content is especially relevant for adult learners — touching on conflict, economics, prejudice, and romance. The illustrations are supportive of the meaning. There are no exercises to distract from the story.

On-line voter’s comment:  
It is good because it has unique background, and I enjoyed his journey, quite adventurous.

Elementary

*Harry's Holiday*

Author: Antoinette Moses  
Publisher: Cambridge University Press  
Illustrator: Mikela Prevost  

Judges’ comments: This is an intriguing book, with an excellent plot. The reader is kept on edge, wondering what will happen to Harry. Will he get to go on a holiday?
On-line voter’s comment:
This is a very good book which reflects very common social problems. First
Sometimes we are unwilling to tell others about something in our home, especially
some shabby things. Second, nowadays, many companies just cheat consumers to
believe them. And after I finish reading this book, I understand something. So it is a
very meaningful book. It is much more profound than it appears to be. It has a happy
ending which give us a sense of happiness and hope. The illustrations in this book is
very good which go well with the whole story and can arouse readers’ interest in
reading it. The cover of the book is also very good which reflects Harry's strong
desire to have a journey for his family. But, maybe it should strengthen the sense of
happiness. Besides, the plot should be more complex so it can be more attractive. On
the whole, it is a book which is worthy of being read.

Intermediate
A Christmas Carol
Author: Charles Dickens
Retold by: Sean Michael Wilson
Illustrator: Mike Collins
Publisher: National Geographic Learning, a part of Cengage Learning
ISBN: 9781424042876

Judge's Comments: This version of A Christmas Carol is one graphic novel which has
the rare combination of excellent artwork and skillful retelling that can engage readers
from start to finish. Graphic novels have the potential to attract students who might
not find regular graded readers appealing, and this is a good example of how to make
a graphic novel work as a graded reader.

Selected Student Comments:

Great artwork. Most of us know the story, but this was original, and the ghosts were
excellent.

I found this book really amazing. I have heard of this book and have frankly tried to
read this novella many a time but never felt like it. I have even seen the BBC movie
version but never read the book. I should say that this Graphic Novel version is totally
readable and this is the book that I read first in this series of books. I found the
glossary with the pronunciation very useful. I would love to read the other classic
comics in this series.

Upper-Intermediate and Advanced
Joe Faust
Author: Frank Brennan
Illustrator: Redbean Design Pte Ltd (Layout and Illustration), Eric Foenander (Cover)
Publisher: National Geographic Learning, a part of Cengage Learning
ISBN: 978-1-4240-1796-6

Judges comment:
This is a gripping story, and a moral tale for our times that speaks across different cultures and societies. As one reader put it, this is a “good story that sends across a very important, influential message”. It is a clever up-dating of the legend of Doctor Faustus, relevant to us all. The Devil has many disguises...