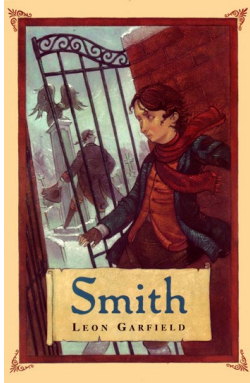


## 1987 Phoenix Award Winner



### ***Smith***

by **Leon Garfield**

(Constable, 1967; Pantheon, 1967; Penguin, 1968; Dell Yearling, 1987)

Scrawny, scroungy 18th century London street urchin Smith picks an old gentleman's pocket of a document, then observes the man killed for the very paper Smith now possesses, whose contents ironically, being illiterate, he cannot read. His efforts to learn to read and to evade the assassins hot on his trail lead him through a convoluted, action-filled, carefully controlled Dickensian plot. It offers a full measure of amazing characters, close encounters, treachery, connivance, and villainy, for grandly entertaining and thematically provocative reading from suspenseful beginning to surprising and thoroughly satisfying conclusion.