

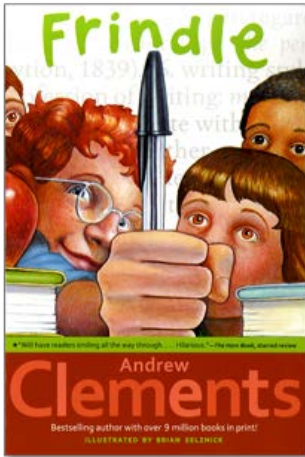
## 2016 Phoenix Award

### *Frindle*

by **Andrew Clements**

(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1996)

Aladdin Paperbacks, 1996



A "frindle"--according to Urban Dictionary, AllWords.com, Merriam-Webster online, and other sources--is a pen. The word first appeared in Andrew Clements's 1996 novel, featuring Nick Allen, whose clever "thought grenades" aim at getting teachers off topic. He meets his match in his fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Granger. When she assigns a report on where the words in dictionaries come from, Nick takes the subject seriously, creating a new word for pen. Soon all the kids are using Nick's neologism. Despite Mrs. Granger's objections, the word frindle quickly gets attention beyond the classroom, throughout the city, the country, and the rest of the world. Clements captures the spirit of authentic learning and celebrates the pleasure and power of language. Frindle also demonstrates how a good teacher can inspire students and, more important, how a single person can change the world. The children's book world--indeed, the whole world--needs more troublemakers like Nick, more decent parents like the Allens, and more "villains" like Mrs. Granger.