Long Journey: Contemporary Northwest Poets
David Biespiel
Oregon State University Press

David Biespiel begins this collection saying, "There is no such thing as regional poetry." No poet awakes to write a specifically "Northwest" poem. Not every poet here is a native, nor are all of the poems about this fine region, yet a familiar sense of place emerges to define them all as Northwestern.--PNBA Awards Committee

The Whistling Season
Ivan Doig
Harcourt, Inc.

Doig once again masterfully invokes the spirit of early 20th century Montana, revisiting the simplicity that was and mourning the voids left by the inevitable march of time. He reminds us not only to always stop and smell the roses, but to occasionally wish upon a shooting star.--PNBA Awards Committee

God Laughs & Plays
Churchless Sermons in Response to the Preachments of the Fundamentalist Right
David James Duncan
Triad Books

In his wonderfully rich storytelling ways, Duncan explains why the "Christian Right" is wrong in their stranglehold on religion in this country. Humorous and poignant, Duncan hits all the right notes, reminding us that honoring our neighbors and ourselves shouldn't be a political thing.--PNBA Awards Committee

Gemini Summer
Iain Lawrence
Delacorte Press Books for Young Readers

Many of us experience a singular defining moment in our childhood. For Danny Rivers, it came the summer of 1965, amidst the escalating space race and the U.S. build up in Viet Nam. Heavy with loss and dreams dashed, Gemini Summer is ultimately an unforgettable tale of strength and hope.--PNBA Awards Committee

Three Cups of Tea
One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time
Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
Viking

Never felt the urge to scale the world's largest mountain peaks, but have wondered if one person can make a difference in the world? How might the two relate? Mortenson's story proves that wild things are obtainable and his work is a shining example of how to leave a legacy.--PNBA Awards Committee

The Zero
Jess Walter
Regan Books

Imagine a man with huge gaps in his memory trying to make sense of his city and his life five days after 9/11. From the laughable absurdity of celebrity tours of ground zero to the terrifying reality of what one's government may do in times of crisis, the reader slowly recognizes all that our hero has lost--and all that we have lost as well.--PNBA Awards Committee