

Maine Regional Library System
33rd Annual Reading Round-Up of Children's and Young Adult Literature
April 27, 2023

MAINE EXAMINATION COLLECTION OF CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT BOOKS

Cream of the Crop

Total books: 65

KEY

L	Library binding	[GN]	Graphic Novel
R	Reinforced trade binding	[M]	Maine Author, Illustrator, Setting
T	Trade binding		

PICTURE BOOK FICTION [total books in this category: | 19 |

Barnett, Mac. *John's Turn*. Candlewick Press. 9781536203950, R \$17.99 (preK-Gr 2). It's John's turn to get up and share something with his entire school, and he couldn't be more excited to share his love of dance with his peers. Some kids snicker and sneer, but John stays firm, confident, and brave. There are many things to love about this book—a young boy celebrating his love of dancing, a supportive family, and John's ability to stay true to what he loves and share it with confidence. Watercolor illustrations by Kate Berube help bring the story to life and really convey John's emotions. This is a great book to share with anyone who loves dance or who needs encouragement to be themselves.

Brew-Hammond, Nana Ekua. *Blue: A History of the Color As Deep As the Sea and As Wide As the Sky*. Knopf. 9781984894366, T [M] \$18.99 (Gr K-6). "I feel blue," "once in a blue moon," "out of the blue," "she sings the blues." The color blue has become more than just a selection in the crayon box. Noted author Nana Ekua and Maine illustrator Daniel Minter have combined their talents to offer the reader the long and rich history of what has become a color, a rare occurrence, an expression of surprise, and a music genre. A detailed text with plenty of space for Minter's vivid, lush illustrations make this a fascinating and stunning book to be read for pleasure, in art classes, or in history classes. Back matter includes an author's note, more facts, and additional sources.

Briseño, Stephen. *The Notebook Keeper: A Story of Kindness from the Border*. Random House Studio. 9780593307052, T \$17.99 (Gr K-3). Based on a true story, this book tells the tale of a young girl's experience as a refugee. When Noemi and her mom reach the U.S./Mexico border, they meet a group of refugees waiting to cross the border and start a new life, including Belinda, the notebook keeper. Everyday Belinda meets all of the newcomers, records their names in her notebook, gives them each a number, and shares kind words and hope. Belinda explains that once her number is called, she will need to find another notebook keeper, someone who is patient and kind. Noemi, following Belinda's example, shows kindness to all those around her. A timely and gentle story to introduce the topic of immigration with kindness and compassion. Magdalena Mora's pencil and gouache illustrations in a pastel palette add a soft touch.

Courtney, Karla. *Poppy's House*. Walker. 9781536211528, T \$17.99 (preK-Gr 3). Narrated by a little girl who takes a boat ride each summer to the island where her grandfather "Poppy" lives, this simple story details their daily routine of baking bread, gardening, and reading by lantern light. This is a warm story of the bond between young and old and the joy of a quiet, traditional life. Madeline Klopper's illustrations of colored pencils and gouache fit the mood of the story.

Edwards, Michelle. *Me and the Boss: A Story About Mending and Love*. Anne Schwartz Books. 9780593310670, T \$18.99 (Gr K-3). A story about the sometimes complicated, sometimes simple love between older and younger siblings. The love and struggles between Lee and his big sister Zora, "The Boss," feel familiar and vital. It is a day in the life of these siblings. They go to the library together, where a craft project highlights the difference an age-span can make in the finished project. Lee learns to have patience with himself, and to have faith in his own abilities. A loving support system is in place, from a kind librarian, loving parents, and "The Boss" herself. The spare prose and warm, vivid illustrations by April Harrison work together beautifully. This would make a wonderful read aloud in a public or school library setting. As an added bonus, the back matter contains instructions for a simple embroidery project.

Fong, Pam. *Once Upon a Forest*. Random House Studio. 9780593380147, T \$17.99 (preK-Gr 2). This wordless picture book is a tender story of an unidentified furry animal who lives with their bird in the woods, pleasantly gardening in silence until they see smoke on the horizon and watch a helicopter arrive to quickly quash the danger of a forest fire. The two friends take some seedlings and go assess the damage and help rebuild the forest. This art requires no words. The pictures are intricate, with soft line drawings of color reserved for the new plant growth that appears throughout the book, and add to the gentle nature of the story. Good for anyone learning how to read a graphic novel, or for an environmentally-minded child (or adult).

Hare, John. *A Mouthful of Minnows*. Greenwillow Books. 9780063093225, T \$17.99 (preK-Gr 2). Alphonso is an alligator snapping turtle, and when he sets off to find breakfast, he is thwarted by an adorable group of minnows and their grandmother. What starts as a hunt for Alphonso turns into a kind-hearted gesture towards new friends. While unlikely to ever occur in the natural world, the kindness that Alphonso shows to his new school of friends is lovely. The acrylic paint illustrations add to the story as Alphonso's face is full of emotions. The back pages talk more about alligator snapping turtles and their unique tongues and fishing techniques. This is a great book for sharing with nature lovers and those who enjoy kind stories.

Hesse, Amy. *Granny and Bean*. Candlewick. 9781536214048, R \$18.99 (preK-Gr 3). Author Hesse, in a simple, lilting, rhyming text, takes the reader along with Granny and Bean on their beach walk on a cold, cloudy, windy, and rainy day. The beach is full of sights and sounds that the two experience along with the reader. Noted illustrator Charlotte Voake, who spent summers along the shore, adds that windswept feel to the story with illustrations done in mixed media. With many stories about a sunny day at the beach, this story gives another view of a beach outing.

Kline, Logan S. *Finding Fire*. Candlewick Press. 9781536213027, R \$18.99 (preK-Gr 2). A cave-dwelling family loses their fire one evening, and while everyone is saddened over the loss, one brave child volunteers for the journey to bring fire back to the village. The child's journey is wrought with setbacks, but he remains determined to succeed. This wordless book is full of adventure and compassion. The illustrations are colorful, fluid, and bring movement and emotion to the story. Share this book with kids who love art, adventure, and humor.

LaCour, Nina. *Mama, Mommy, and Me in the Middle*. Candlewick Press. 9781536211511, R \$17.99 (preK-Gr 2). A biracial, same-sex couple lives with their child, and the story begins by detailing their routines. When Mommy goes on a work trip, the child begins to struggle with the changes to these routines. When Mommy finally comes home, the child isn't immediately happy, and her parents help her process her emotions. This is a gentle story about family and emotions. The mixed media illustrations by Kaylani Juanita are beautiful and really bring the story to life. Best for one-on-one sharing.

Molk, Laurel. *Knitting For Dogs*. Random House Studio. 9786593434581, T \$17.99 (preK-Gr 3). Izzy loves to make things and is good at whatever she attempts. With her dog Max for support in her endeavors, she takes up knitting, and expects success. But while scarves and hats are not a problem, her attempts at sweaters are not successful. As these failed attempts pile up, it is a trip to the dog park with Max that gives her mistakes new life. An upbeat story of problem solving and determination told in a funny and creative way. The text is light as are Molk's illustrations of watercolor and ink. Readers come away with two realities: everyone makes mistakes and mistakes can lead to something better.

Mountford, Karl James. *Circles in the Sky*. Candlewick. 9781536224986, R \$18.99 (Gr 1-5). This beautifully illustrated picture book uses a palette of muted reds and greens to augment a gentle story about the process of understanding and dealing with death. Using the imagery of the sun and moon in the sky, and the death of a bird in the forest, Mountford creates an original folktale where moth teaches fox about the cyclical nature of living and dying, and the simple beauty of remembering those who are no longer with us. Can be offered to those seeking stories about loss or in a unit on folktales.

Perdomo, Juliana. *Sometimes, All I Need Is Me*. Candlewick. 9781536218046, R \$17.99 (Gr K-5). This is a beautiful, calm book of affirmation and self-love. This book celebrates togetherness alongside independence for everything the main character loves to do with someone, they are also able to do on their own. Perdomo's illustrations are simple and bold, making it a great read for a younger audience or for a large group setting. The main character is a person of color, and the words and illustrations hint that they may be Latinx. The beautiful colors and setting appear almost like stamps. A great introduction to self-reliance, flexibility, and confidence.

Schroeder, Kristen. *So Much Snow*. Random House Studio. 9780593308202, T \$18.99 (preK-Gr 2). This gorgeous book features various animals as a large snow storm begins, grows, and becomes a blizzard. Despite the pile of snow, the book is never scary. Eventually the snow melts and it becomes spring-y again... But wait? Is that another snowflake? With beautiful illustrations by Sarah Jacoby that utilize white space effectively and text that rhymes and repeats, this book is a fun read aloud for story time or one-on-one sharing.

Van Dusen, Chris. *Big Truck, Little Island*. Candlewick Press. 9781536203936, R [M] \$17.99 (Gr K-3). What happens when a truck gets stuck on a narrow island road blocking traffic in both directions? It takes a community to come up with a creative solution that works for everyone. Van Dusen's signature bright colorful illustrations compliment the rhyme and rhythm of this story of kindness, empathy, and community. Loosely based on a local Maine news story, this sweet tale would fit in equally well with either a truck or kindness/community storytime. 2024 Chickadee Award Nominee.

Văn, Mượn Thị. *I Love You Because I Love You*. Katherine Tegen Books. 9780062894595, R \$17.99 (preK-Gr 2). This book is a celebration of love in all of its forms. Each two-page spread has two connected lines paired with gorgeous illustrations. "I love you because you let me make mistakes. Because I love you, no mistake is ever too great." While the text is important, the illustrations by

Jessica Love really make the book. The mixed media (mostly painted) illustrations are extremely detailed and colorful; without them, the story would fall flat. The people and families depicted are very diverse, and the expressions conveyed on their faces are life-like and bring emotion to the story. This story is best for one-on-one sharing with a loved one.

Wyatt, Edwina. *Sometimes Cake*. Candlewick Press. 9781536217810, R \$17.99 (preK-Gr 3). Birthdays are celebrated, as are holidays, and other big moments in one's life, but author Wyatt encourages the reader to celebrate the small things: the color orange, Tuesdays, monkeys, and friends. Friends Audrey and Lion do just that, make note of the small moments and celebrate them, always offering balloons, confetti, and CAKE! The text is simple and direct, and Tamsin Ainslie's illustrations of watercolor and pencil lines are light, airy, and whimsical, giving the story a dreamy quality.

Yacowitz, Caryn. *Shoshi's Shabbat*. Candlewick. 9781536216542, R [M] \$18.99 (preK-Gr 3). The value of rest, gratitude, and communing with nature practiced on the Shabbat is explained via this charming picture book. Based on a traditional Jewish folk tale, this book provides readers with a historical understanding of the day of rest. An older farmer declares that he is retiring from plowing his fields, so he sells his reliable ox to a new, younger neighbor. On the seventh day, Shoshi the ox refuses to work. The text explores the interaction of humans and animals while exposing the joys of taking a restful day each week. Illustrations by Kevin Hawkes bring the story to life.

Zommer, Yuval. *Lights That Dance in the Night*. Doubleday. 9780593563137, T \$18.99 (preK-Gr 3). Charged particles from the sun that collide with the Earth's atmosphere narrate their journey across the Arctic sky explaining how they bring wonder and joy to every creature of land, sea, and sky that lie in the northern regions. A simple, rhyming cadence: "sashayed and swayed", "swirled and twirled," "whales that sing and bells that ring," is fun to read and to hear, while big, bright illustrations have a folktale feel to them. The Northern Lights seem to dance across the pages. It is a story that ensures those who experience a long winter a promise of warmth and light. Use in science and geography units and folktale stories.

EARLY READERS [total books in this category: [5]

Atinuke. *Too Small Tola and the Three Fine Girls*. Candlewick Press. 9781536225174, R \$15.99 (Gr K-3). In this early chapter book, second in the Too Small Tola series, Tola, an adorably spunky young girl, lives with her Grandmommy and two older siblings in Lagos, Nigeria. Each chapter in this book presents a problem that must be solved, and Tola with her limitless energy, big heart, and sense of humor helps to find a solution. Young readers will relate with Tola's thoughts and actions as well as learn about Nigerian culture. A mix of traditional text as well as black and white illustrations add both to the enjoyment of the story as well as aid the reader's comprehension. Perfect for fans of the Jojo Macoons and Yasmin series..

Hest, Amy. *Billy and Rose: Forever Friends*. Candlewick Press. 9781536214192, R \$16.99 (Gr K-3). Billy the goat and Rose the pig live next door to each other and although they are best friends, they often see things differently. In four short stories, young readers see how the friends work out their differences without losing their friendship. The text reflects a gentle kindness in their disagreements and solutions and the soft watercolor and pen illustrations by Kady MacDonald Denton give emerging readers added support they might need to understand each story. As with Toad and Frog, Mr. Putter and Tabby, and Little Bear, this new pair will leave the reader satisfied and hoping for more stories.

Mosco, Rosemary and Binglin Hu. *Expedition Backyard: Exploring Nature from County to City*. RH Graphics. 9780593127346, T \$17.99 (Gr K-3). Friends Mole and Vole spend each day with their nature journal in hand looking for and documenting their travels in their forest backyard. While investigating the contents of a box, they are accidentally moved to the city and discover a new set of adventures. They make a new home and continue to add new entries to their journal. Young readers will discover the wonder of nature no matter where you live. Full spreads and pages of three-to-four panels are easy to follow. Activities are found in the back and include guides for drawing, nature journals, composting, and ways to prevent birds from flying into windows. This is a story of friendship, adapting to new situations, and an introduction to the wonders of nature in your own backyard.

Roth, Jonathan. *Rover and Speck: This Planet Rocks*. Kids Can Press. 978-1525305665, T [GN] \$14.99 (Gr 1-4). This graphic novel, the first of a new series by the author of "Beep and Bob," is delightful. Rover crash lands on a planet, and due to a broken antenna, he has no way to communicate with his ship. He rescues a robot, Speck, whom he finds a little annoying but who he allows to accompany him on the exploration of this new planet. When they make their first big discovery, rock creatures!, their mission turns into escape! The easily understandable and colorful illustrations accompany a fast-moving plot, humorous moments, and endearing characters. The asides in boxes throughout the story contain scientific facts. End matter includes a draw-your-own-rover activity and an overview of some real-life rovers. With its popular topic, clever wit, and accessible science, this series promises to be a hit with young readers.

Tabor, Corey R. *Sir Ladybug*. HarperCollins US. 9780063069060, T \$12.99 (preK-Gr 2). Small and shy but mighty, Sir Ladybug loves to play video games and bake cakes. But when a fellow bug is in trouble, Sir Ladybug, along with his best friends a roly poly named Pell (his herald) and Sterling the snail (his squire), is always up for a quest. When a panicked Beetle asks Sir Ladybug to save his friend Caterpillar from a monster, a hungry chickadee, it's up to Sir Ladybug to save the day. Told in four short chapters, with comic interludes and illustrated panels, this playful, funny, and engaging early reader leaves the reader wanting to turn the page to see what will happen next. First in the Sir Ladybug series.

PICTURE BOOK NONFICTION [total books in this category: [7]

Acevedo, Elizabeth. *Inheritance: A Visual Poem*. Quilt Tree Books. 9780062931948 T \$16.99 (Gr 7-9). *Inheritance* can be described as a love letter, in the best possible way: a declaration of love for the hair which the author is far too often told to “fix,” and of pride in her culture and history. At once a scathing critique of Eurocentric beauty standards and a celebration of self-love, this ode to hair as a symbol of identity is both deeply personal and fiercely political. While written for the YA crowd, *Inheritance* is appropriate for all ages, from children to adults. As a note, the poem was originally called “Hair” and is available as a spoken word performance on YouTube; we would highly recommend providing a link to Acevedo’s reading, with a note on the book itself for patrons who might borrow it.

Novgorodoff, Danica. *Alexander von Humboldt: Explorer, Naturalist, and Environmental Pioneer*. Crown Books for Young Readers. 9781524773083 T \$17.99 (Gr 2-5). This picture book biography blends sparkling text and captivating illustrations to tell the life story of Alexander von Humboldt, known as the Father of Ecology for his scientific work demonstrating interconnectedness of living things within an ecosystem. Quotes from Humboldt’s personal narratives are woven through the text and illustrations. The author is careful to tell his story without generalizing the Indigenous peoples he encounters, and she acknowledges that many primary accounts were Eurocentric. The book is rich in back matter with timelines, quotation sources, maps, and notes on the text. This is a wonderful example of how a picture book biography can provide information for a deep dive about a subject while still delivering the story in an accessible way. This book would be a great read-aloud for younger children, and could be used with students through fifth grade.

Smith, Emma Bland. *The Gardener of Alcatraz: A True Story*. Charlesbridge Publishing. 9781623541606, R \$16.99 (Gr 2-5). Elliott Michener, convicted counterfeiter, is sent to Alcatraz in the 1940s, where he becomes a gardener; this transforms Michener, and his passion for his purpose transforms the environment at Alcatraz. The book, based on extensive reviews of primary sources, looks at the penitentiary system through the lens of Michener’s experience at Alcatraz. The back matter includes a timeline bibliography of Michener and Alcatraz, as well as a brief history of the island, its gardens, and the federal penitentiary there. The gouache illustrations by Jenn Ely show Michener’s effect on Alcatraz, changing from a gray palette to one infused with color from the plants and flowers that he grows on the island. While it is unusual for picture books to look at former felons, it is important and needed: approximately half of all persons in state and federal prisons are the parents of minor children. A story where the reader is allowed to empathize with the subject is important.

Stewart, Melissa. *Tree Hole Homes: Daytime Dens and Nighttime Nooks*. Random House. 9780593373316, T \$18.99 (preK-Gr 3). Have you ever seen a hole in a tree and wondered who lives there? In this beautifully illustrated nonfiction picture book, Stewart invites the reader to imagine what it would be like to live inside a tree. Each full-page spread shares interesting and unique facts about different tree hole dwelling animals, including mammals, birds, and amphibians. Illustrator Amy Hevron creates pictures using acrylic and marker on wood merged digitally into a collage; this style gives the tree in each spread an earthy look perfect for highlighting animals living there. The backmatter gives more information about each animal highlighted in the book. It just may surprise you who live in tree hole homes. Great addition to wild animal storytime or an animal research unit.

Vernick, Audrey. *All-Star: How Larry Doby Smashed the Color Barrier in Baseball*. Clarion Books. 9781328482979, T \$17.99 (Gr 1-5). Vernick uses the concept that the second person to do something is often forgotten though they face many of the same difficulties as the first person to tell the story of Larry Doby, the second Black man to be signed by Major League Baseball in the 1940s. Vernick walks the reader through Larry’s childhood as he dreamed of becoming a big-league baseball player at a time when there were none. After Jackie Robinson was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers, Doby was signed by the Cleveland Indians. He faced much of the same backlash and racism, and he persisted. The message of the book is that change can happen, and it can feel slow, and it can be painful, but we all need to be part of it and work for it. The illustrations by Cannaday Chapman have a layered, collage-like quality in a color palette perfectly suited to the time period. The inclusion of an author’s note and photograph of a poignant moment mentioned in the book are excellent.

Walker, Sally M. *Out of This World: Star-Studded Haiku*. Candlewick. 9781536203561, R \$18.99 (Gr K-3). A nonfiction picture book that describes objects and phenomena in space through haiku poetry. Topics covered range from the Big Bang to the Curiosity Rover and Hubble Telescope to planets in the solar system. Detailed illustrations by Matthew Trueman are a beautiful mix of various media and art methods. Backmatter includes a glossary, links to explore, and brief descriptions of different objects in space.

Wilson, Mark. *The Snowy Owl Scientist*. Clarion. 9780358329596. T \$18.99 (Gr 4-up). Each June, on the northern slope of Alaska, in its northernmost town, the hunt begins for nesting Snowy Owls. These owls have been coming to this particular region to nest for thousands of years. In one of the latest selections of the Scientists in the Field series, wildlife photojournalist Denver Holt has been gathering data on the snowy owl to ensure its future amid climate change and human encroachment. Young scientists will not only come away with a wealth of information on this incredible bird, but will realize the need to protect both the species and its habitat. The text is engaging and

conversational but it is the photographs that will hold the reader's attention. Sidebars offer additional information and what to do if one finds an injured owl. Back matter includes a glossary, references, and an index. This is STEAM at its best and can be used in science curriculums, units on birds, ecosystems, and the survival of a species.

CHAPTER BOOK NONFICTION [total books in this category: [5]

Bowen, Fred. *Hardcourt: Stories from 75 Years of the National Basketball Association*. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 9781534460430, T \$19.99 (Gr 4-6). This is a beautifully illustrated, comprehensive history of the NBA. From the inception of the game in a YMCA gym in the late 19th century to the present day NBA, this book is full of information. The watercolor illustrations by James E. Ransome elevate the book even further, bringing the emotions and motion of the game to life throughout. Hand this book to any basketball enthusiast.

Gao, Laura. *Messy Roots: A Graphic Memoir of a Wuhanese American*. Balzer & Bray. 9780063067776, T [GN] \$22.99 (Gr 10-12). Gao shares her experiences in this timely and riveting coming-of-age account of moving from Wuhan to Texas. She faces lifelong challenges with racism, homophobia, and navigating her relationship with her parents. As is the case for many preteens, adolescents, and young adults, Gao's developing sense of self often conflicted with her parents' and society's expectations. Recommended for high schoolers, this book will resonate with all kids in some ways, but provides an important voice for today's Asian American youth.

Hood, Susan and Dawson, Greg. *Alias Anna: A True Story of Outwitting the Nazis*. HarperCollins. 9780063083899, T \$19.99 (Gr 4-6). This biography is written in verse by an outstanding author in conjunction with the son of pianist Zhanna Arshanskaya. Although the time period was before and during WWII, there is a strong tie to the current situation in the Ukraine. Juvenile readers may well find comfort that two piano prodigies escaped the Nazis. Both sisters were strong young girls who managed to flee while using their musical abilities before immigrating to America. Add this biography to middle school collections and place it on the shelves in public libraries. Librarians will know which students and teachers will appreciate Alias Anna.

Lang, Karen. *Become an App Inventor: The Official Guide from MIT App Inventor: Your Guide to Designing, Building, and Sharing Apps*. MITePress. 9781536219142, T \$22.99 (Age 12 & up). MIT App Inventor is a free web-based program for creating apps to run on smartphones and tablets. Any middle or high school student who has had a chance to code with Scratch should recognize the similarities and feel comfortable moving to App Inventor. With colorful graphics, simple instructions, and stories of young coders interspersed throughout, this accessible guide will have students using block code to create six different apps including a maze game, a piano, and even a chat bot.

Schreier, Eliot. *Queer Ducks (and Other Animals): The Natural World of Animal Sexuality*. Katherine Tegen Books. 9780063069497, T \$15.99 (Gr 9-12). With comics, transcripts of interviews with real scientists, and ten chapters of content based on years of research, *Queer Ducks* is an exploration of the sexuality spectrum within the larger animal world. Using a conversational yet factual tone, Schreier introduces readers to the vast diversity of queer behavior found in species such as doodlebugs, bonobos, dolphins, deer, and more. A fascinating and affirming read. References, glossary, and further reading sections included.

CHAPTER BOOK FICTION [total books in this category: [27]

Alfageeh, Sara, and Nadia Shammam. *Squire*. Quill Tree Books. 9780062945853, T [GN] \$21.99 (Gr 10-12). When the Bayt-Sajji Empire offers teens from their conquered territories to enlist in a squire training program, Aiza jumps at the chance. It is an opportunity to not only gain honor, but full citizenship and all the benefits that come with it. She must be careful though to hide her Ornu heritage as it is sure to make her a target of discrimination. Aiza struggles with her training and begins a secret mentorship with the groundskeeper Doruk who not only improves her swordsmanship, but imparts the grim realities of war. After a surprising turn of events, Aiza must determine what it means to be a part of a history and what it means to fight for justice. With attractive illustrations and a spirited heroine to root for, this graphic novel is an engaging and insightful look at colonization and prejudice. A must for all high school and public libraries.

Arango, Andrea Beatriz. *Iveliz Explains It All*. Random House. 9780593563984, \$16.99 (Gr 5-8). Iveliz is a poet, and this is her notebook. It was begun as a place to process her depression, anger, grief, and, most of all, loneliness following the sudden death of her father. Into the midst of this difficult time, her mother brings her grandmother to live with them in the US from her native Puerto Rico, a grandmother who doesn't understand or support Iveliz's use of medications or therapy to manage her feelings, and whose own symptoms of Alzheimer's are making daily life an ever-increasing challenge. This candid novel-in-verse is occasionally interspersed with Spanish, which non-speakers will easily be able to understand through context. Recommended for middle schoolers who like to read about tough topics and to those who have experienced mental health issues. Resources for those seeking mental health help are included at the end.

Arnold, Marie. *I Rise*. HarperCollins. 9780358449041, T \$17.62 (Gr 8 & up). Ayo's mother, Rosalie Bosa, is the founder of "See Us" – an activist, a social justice warrior in Harlem, and a force to be reckoned with. Ayo's whole life has been spent working side-by-side for the cause with her mom. But now Ayo is in high school and just wants to be a "normal" teenager. Tragically though, her mom is shot during a protest, and Ayo must decide whether her future includes taking over her mother's life work. This novel is a stunning look at systemic racism, police brutality, and a close up look at what it is to grow up Black in America, set against the backdrop that is the beauty of Harlem. Ayo's voice is powerful, and the references to Black art, music, and poetry make the story that much richer. A must have for every library's YA section.

Barnhill, Kelly. *The Ogress and the Orphans*. Algonquin Young Readers. 9781643750743, T \$19.95 (Gr 4-6). A once-lovely town filled with a library, school, park, and kindly, decent people who look after the orphans and care for each other has become a town filled with distrust and meanness. They turn to their new mayor who gives only empty promises. When an orphan goes missing, the mayor turns the townspeople on the kindly ogress who lives on the outskirts of town. It seems only the orphans, their caretakers, and some clever crows can save the town from themselves and the almost-too-perfect mayor. Barnhill weaves a solid and satisfying fantasy that will keep readers turning pages to see if the town and its people can be saved. With themes of good vs evil, kindness and generosity, and the power of love to overcome obstacles make this a thought-provoking read.

Brown, Eric J. *All That's Left In the World*. Balzer & Bray. 9780063054974, T \$17.99 (Gr 7-9). Set in post-Covid times, the world has experienced an even more devastating pandemic that has wiped out about 90% of the population. Andrew is all alone and traveling through the woods when he accidentally steps in a bear trap. He somehow manages to hobble his way to a nearby cabin, where he meets Jamison. Andrew and Jamie are fast friends, and they quickly come to depend on one another. As they travel down the east coast, with evolving goals along the way, they share experiences and meet people that change their lives as well as their connection to each other. For high school-aged fans of post-apocalyptic fiction, adventure, and queer romance, *All That's Left In the World* will be a huge hit.

Christmas, Johnnie. *Swim Team*. HarperAlly. 9780063056770, T [GN] \$24.99 (Gr 3-6). When puzzle-loving Bree and her father move from Brooklyn to Florida, she is nervous but excited to start her new middle school and join the math club. However, when she realizes that the only available elective is swim class, Bree panics. Embarrassed that she has never learned to swim and afraid that her new friends will find out, Bree searches for excuses to skip swim class. When her elderly neighbor, Etta, saves Bree from drowning and offers to teach her how to swim, Bree gains confidence, skills, and new friendships. Bree joins her school's underfunded swim team and brings the team and Etta together to help her swim team beat their rivals and preserve Etta's legacy. Recommended for graphic novel enthusiasts, particularly those who loved *Hoops* and *The Tryout*.

Collier, Nicole D. *Just Right Jillian*. Versify. 9780358434610, T \$16.99 (Gr 3-6). A timely coming-of-age story about social anxiety and empowerment. All the 5th grade girls at Jemison Elementary wear 'invisible' colors like tan, blue and gray. It's not because they have to, it's not a school uniform, it's just that no one wants to stick out, including shy and creative Jillian. But when Jillian purposely loses a math contest to the most popular girl in class just because it is what everyone expects, she gets frustrated at her own silence. Remembering her grandmother's advice to be 'loud and proud,' Jillian slowly gains the courage to show herself and others that she is unique. This book would be a fantastic classroom read aloud.

Compestine, Ying Chang. *Morning Sun in Wuhan*. Clarion Books. 9780358572053, T \$16.99 (Gr 4-6). It's January 2020, and Mei lives in Wuhan with her father. Mei loves to cook, and she often cooks for her father, a doctor who works long hours at the local hospital. As Covid-19 progresses, Mei's father isn't able to come home at all, and Mei begins cooking for and supporting her community in whatever ways she can. This book provides insight into the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic at the very epicenter of it all. It is a well-written and engaging story about community and the strength we can find from trusting and working together. Not recommended for anyone who has pandemic anxiety or trauma, but for those who are ready to read about the pandemic, this is a wonderful way to bring about empathy and understanding from an often underrepresented perspective in youth literature.

Comrie, Courtne. *Rain Rising*. Harper Collins. 9780063159730, T \$16.99 (Gr 5-7). Rain loves her family—her mom and her brother are her constants, and they help keep her strong though she's hiding a deep sadness inside. When her brother is attacked during a college visit, all the feelings and emotions she's been hiding for so long start to surface. A teacher she trusts welcomes her to an after school circle group, and through this safe space combined with more formal therapy, both Rain and her brother find healing. This is a beautiful novel in verse. It covers many difficult topics—difficult family relationships, racism, self esteem, self harm, and more, and it does so in an age-appropriate manner and with respect for the characters. This is a great book for kids who love books in verse and realistic fiction.

Culley, Betty. *The Natural Genius of Ants*. Crown Books. 9780593175774, T [M] \$16.99 (Gr 5-7). Ten-year-old Harvard Corson's father is a doctor who has made a deadly mistake and lost his footing. A summer vacation in his dad's childhood village of Kettle Hole, Maine might just spark hope for the Corson family and bring his dad back to himself. Culley skillfully transports the reader to summertime in rural Maine, where life is simple, and healing can begin. Not unlike the glass ant farm filled with carpenter ants, the people of Kettle Hole care for their own. Both playful and serious, the book addresses hard topics in a tender way, showing that every family navigates their own struggles. Filled with friendship, family, forgiveness, and ant facts.

Fraistat, Ann. *What We Harvest*. Delacorte Press. 9780593382165, T \$18.99 (Gr 8 & up). The small town of Hollow's End has been home to several farming families for generations, each producing miracle crops or livestock that attract tourists in droves. But now a silvery blight has taken over the farms. The blight is not only destroying the crops, it's turning humans and animals into terrifying zombified creatures. When the blight comes for Wren's farm and her parents suddenly disappear, she must turn to her ex-boyfriend Derek for help as they desperately try to save their family's legacies. Thoroughly creepy and full of suspense, this look at greed and family secrets will enthrall readers from start to finish.

Hill, Jonathan. *Tales of a Seventh-Grade Lizard Boy*. Walker. 97815326216509, T [GN] \$24.99 (Gr 4-7). Tommy and his family, who are lizard people, have had to flee their subterranean world due to a lack of resources. They do everything that they can to fit in with their human neighbors, including sending Tommy to middle school. Unfortunately, Tommy struggles with the social and cultural issues of

middle schoolers everywhere until he becomes friends with Dung, a new Vietnamese student, and Scarlett, a social outcast. This graphic novel would be a great suggestion for anyone struggling to be themselves, anyone looking to understand the experience of those living in a new country, or anyone simply looking for an engaging middle school sci-fi drama. Tommy works through a lot, and even when his behavior is difficult, it's hard not to root for him.

Kaufman, Sashi. *Sardines*. Quill Tree Books. 9780062995618. T [M] \$16.99 (Gr 4-7). A heartwarming middle grade novel about the power of friendship and positive thinking. Lucas is slightly adrift - his beloved older brother, Charlie, is dead, his mother has left to get "help", and his father is distant and withholding. Before leaving, Lucas's mom signed him up for the middle school after care program, and it is here that he finds friendship, connection, and healing. Between games of Sardines, a reverse hide-and-seek, Lucas and the other members of after care -- new kid Finn, athlete Cat, popular Anna, and earnest but goofy Robbie -- work together to make wishes come true, some simple, some complicated. Maine author Kaufman has crafted a story that is perfect for a classroom read aloud and that will have readers cheering for the rag-tag group as they come up with creative ways to lift up and support one another. Fans of realistic fiction and authors like Linda Mullaly Hunt, R.J. Palacio, and Erin Entrada Kelly will love this book.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Those Kids From Fawn Creek*. Greenwillow. 97800062970367, T \$17.99 (Gr 4-6). Nothing ever changes in Fawn Creek - nothing. The same students that were in your class last year are in your class this year, the jock, the bully, the quiet one, and the popular kids. This is what Greyson Broussard thinks until Orchid walks in and the class will never be the same. Orchid has no agenda and makes no judgments about her classmates. When Orchid finds herself in need of help, each of her classmates must make a decision about who they really are and how they want to be treated. Themes of bullying, friendship, self acceptance, and family are offered to the reader, challenging them to find themselves in this story.

Machias, Jules. *Fight + Flight*. Quill Tree Books. 9780063053946, T \$16.99 (Gr 5-8). Told from dual perspectives. Feisty Avery is dealing with the pain and frustration of her Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, and soft-spoken Sarah is suffering from panic attacks following the death of her aunt and whose point of view is shared through her journal entries. While Avery has been developing a crush on Sarah for a while, the two truly bond during a terrifyingly realistic active shooter drill at school and the aftermath of the event as they both come to grips with the effect the incident has had on them. This is an excellent read for middle schoolers who enjoy books about tough topics. In addition to the girls' health problems, issues with family, friends, and even faith come into play which will give most readers something to ponder and relate to. No doubt the anxiety of active shooter drills will be all too familiar for students.

Magras, Diane. *The Secret of the Shadow Beasts*. Dial Books. 9780735229327, T [M] \$17.99 (Gr 3-7). Beware the gloaming, that time just as sun sets and night has yet to fall; this is when the shadow beasts roam Brannland in Magras's fast-paced novel for middle grade readers. Magras has created a world that combines touches of gaming, Dungeons & Dragons, coming-of-age, and adventure quests all in one. The heroine, Nora, meets a diverse cast of characters imbued with plenty of flaws and missteps, but also with empathy and a capacity to learn from their mistakes. Magras allows her characters to discuss their feelings and to problem solve when things don't go according to plan. She also allows them to use their strengths to kick monster butt! This book will appeal to gamers, fantasy and sci-fi lovers, and those who appreciate a rip-roaring adventure in which the kids save the land.

McNicoll, Elle. *Show Us Who You Are*. Crown. 9780593562994, T \$16.99 (Gr 4-6). Cora doesn't have many friends; she is autistic and gets overwhelmed in certain situations. Adrien has ADHD and can relate to a world that isn't always accepting of the neurodiverse. The two meet and become good friends, but their new friendship is tested when Adrien gets in an accident and is put into a coma. Heartsick, Cora is offered a hologram of Adrien, so lifelike, it is like he was never injured. Adrien's father is the head of the company that offers these lifelike holograms to families who have lost a loved one. But when Cora sees Adrien, she realizes that all those traits and quirks that make Adrien who he is have been erased. Cora sets out to stop the company and discovers that her neurodivergent brain might be the key. Family, identity, and respect are woven into this suspenseful read that offers insight into what being neurodiverse is like in a world that doesn't quite get you.

Medema, Dante. *Message Not Found*. Quill Tree Books. 978000062954431, T \$16.74 (Gr 9-12). When Bailey's best friend Vanessa dies in a car accident Bailey struggles to make sense of the death. Bailey "borrows" an AI app from her mom and programs a virtual version of Vanessa she names V so they can continue to exchange text messages. Will she uncover the secrets Vanessa kept from her? Written in a unique mix of text messages, notes, and brief chapters, older readers will scarf down this timely YA thriller/mystery in one sitting.

Oppel, Kenneth. *Ghostlight*. Knopf Books for Young Readers. 9780593487938, T \$17.99 (Gr 5-8). Suspense, supernatural creatures, and a tight storyline make this newest novel by Oppel a winner. Gabe lands a summer job telling stories while taking tourists on tours of Toronto Island. This novel quickly reveals the underlying historical ghost tales of a long-dead lighthouse keeper and his daughter, which becomes the mystery that Gabe and his friends set out to solve, particularly when one of the ghosts appears to Gabe and asks for his help. A great, fast-moving story written with humor, a dash of romance, one very wicked and villainous ghost, and plenty of heart.

Parsons, Mark. *The 9:09 Project*. Delacorte Press. 9780593309759, T \$18.99 (Gr 8-12). Jamison, a teen boy whose mother died a few years ago, worries that he is forgetting her, so he begins an art project where he takes photos at 9:09 PM every day at the same place. Parsons' description of the photos, quotes by Dorthea Lange, and the way that Jamison uses photography to form relationships and connections with other people keep the novel interesting and compelling. The themes of grief and healing are woven throughout. This book is a suggested purchase for libraries where YA realistic fiction is popular.

Soontornvat, Christina. ***The Last Mapmaker***. Candlewick Press. 9781536204957, R \$17.99 (Gr 4-6). Sai works for the famous mapmaker Paiyoon in the kingdom of Mangkon. Now that Mangkon has won a long-time war, the Queen wants to explore her newly conquered territory and arranges for boats to search for the never-seen continent in the Southern Hemisphere. Paiyoon signs on as mapmaker on a ship and arranges for Sai to travel with him. Sai jumps at the opportunity as she comes from a poor background with a grifter for a father. She's worried that her apprenticeship will come to an end when she turns 13 and does not receive a lineal necklace from her family representing her ancestry. *The Last Mapmaker* is a solid middle-grade pick with plenty of adventure.

Standish, Ali. ***Yonder***. HarperCollins. 9780062985682, T \$19.99 (Gr 4-6). Set in 1943, in the small Appalachian town of Foggy Gap, Danny Timmons's father is away fighting in World War II and Danny thinks a lot about what it means to be brave. School, his paper route, and helping his pregnant mother keep Danny pretty busy but when Jack Bailey, Danny's hero, goes missing, Danny is determined to find him. In his search, Danny learns that there is a lot more to both Jack and the residents of Foggy Gap than he realizes. A powerful, heart-warming historical drama with themes of prejudice, abuse, and bravery. Recommended for fans of *Wolf Hollow*.

Stewart, Erin. ***The Words We Keep***. Delacorte Press. 9781984848871 L \$21.99 (Gr 9-12). After "The Night on the Bathroom Floor" where Lily found her sister, Alice, in a pool of blood, bleeding from her wrists, Lisy has taken it upon herself to hold her family together by being "perfect"—perfect grades, winner on her track team, not a care in the world. But the reality is that Lily is breaking down on the inside, and some of it is making its way into her life. Stewart handles depression, suicide, anxiety, bi-polar disorder, and self-harm with genuine and honest storytelling that so many teens will relate to. This book is a must-purchase to help teens feel like they can talk about their own struggles and maybe feel that they are not alone. A few resources are shared in an author's note at the end.

Sutanto, Jesse Q. ***Well, That Was Unexpected***. Delacorte Press. 9780593433973, T \$18.99 (Gr 9-12). After Sharlot (an Indo-American living in California) is caught in a compromising position with her boyfriend, and George (part of an extremely wealthy family in Jakarta, Indonesia) is walked in on by his father and sister in an equally embarrassing act of self-love, their parents – his dad, her mom – unknowingly catfish each other on a dating app on behalf of their respective teen. The novel, told in alternating POV from both Sharlot and George, has laugh-out-loud moments, and covers relevant topics. Great for teens who like lighthearted realistic fiction.

Warga, Jasmine. ***A Rover's Story***. HarperCollins US. 9780063113923, T \$19.99 (Gr 4-6). This heartwarming science fiction is told through the voice of Resilience (Res for short), a Mars rover, as he is being built, tested, and then sent to explore Mars. Though Res is a robot, as he learns how to function, he also gains an awareness, curiosity, and emotional attachment to the humans around him. Through his communication with other machines (including a cell phone and another rover), Res is told that these emotions are a weakness and that facts and logic are needed to be successful. Res proves that emotions are just as valuable as logic in completing his mission and living up to his name. Perfect pairing with nonfiction books like *The Mighty Mars Rover* and *Curiosity*. A 2024 MSBA nominee.

Werlin, Nancy. ***Healer and Witch***. Candlewick Press. 9781536219562, R \$18.50 (Gr 5-8) Sylvie comes from a long line of healers and as she gets older, she realizes that she may possess the same power as her grandmother. However, grandmother dies before she can teach Sylvie how to harness her power for good, so Sylvie sets off on a perilous journey to find a mentor who can help her. Martin, the son of the local farrier follows her and together they must use their wits to survive not only the elements but dangerous people they meet along the way. Set in 16th-century France, this story is compelling, well-written, and full of surprises along with very strong female characters.

Yee, Lisa. ***Maizy Chen's Last Chance***. Random House. 9781984830258, T \$16.99 (Gr 4-6). Beautifully crafted realistic fiction with a thread of historical fiction woven through it. When her grandfather gets sick, eleven-year-old Maizy and her mom leave their Los Angeles home to spend the summer with her grandparents in Last Chance, Minnesota. Maizy helps out with the family restaurant, gets to know her grandparents, and learns to navigate small town life. She also learns about her great-great grandfather, Lucky Chen, who immigrated to America from China in 1869. Maizy is fascinated by Lucky's life, his helping to build the railroad, then working as a cook in San Francisco, and about the prejudices that Chinese immigrants faced in America. Backmatter includes an authors' note and information about Chinese immigration to the U.S. in the late nineteenth century. Recommended for fans of *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang or *From the Desk of Zoe Washington* by Janae Marks.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CREAM OF THE CROP COMMITTEE

Kristi Favaloro - Teen Services Librarian, Skidompha Library
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2023 National Award Winners

Award books listed here may or may not be included in the “Cream of the Crop” list.

American Indian Youth Literature Award - Announced in even years and established to identify and honor the very best writing and illustrations by and about American Indians. Awarded biennially; next awards will be given in 2024.

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature - Award promotes Asian/Pacific American culture and heritage and is awarded based on literary and artistic merit.

Picture Book Winner: *From the Tops of Trees*, written by Kao Kalia Yang, illustrated by Rachel Wada

Picture Book Honor Book: *Nana, Nenek & Nina*, written and illustrated by Liza Ferneyhough

Children’s Literature: *Maizy Chen’s Last Chance*, written by Lisa Yee

Children’s Honor Book: *Troublemaker*, written by John Cho with Sarah Suk

Young Adult Literature: *Himawari House*, written and illustrated by Harmony Becker

Young Adult Honor Book: *The Silence that Binds Us*, written by Joanna Ho

Caldecott Medal – Awarded to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

Winner: *Hot Dog*, illustrated and written by Doug Salati

Honors: *Ain’t Burned All The Bright*, illustrated by Jason Griffin, written by Jason Reynolds

Berry Song, illustrated and written by Michaela Goade

Choosing Brave: How Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till Sparked the Civil Rights Movement, illustrated by Janelle

Washington, written by Angela Joy

Knight Owl, illustrated and written by Christopher Denise

Charlotte Zolotow Award – Awarded for outstanding writing in a picture book for children in the birth-through-seven age range published in the United States.

Winner: *Me and the Boss: A Story About Mending and Love* by Michelle Edwards

Children’s Literature Legacy Award - Honors an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have made, over a period of years, a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children through books that demonstrate integrity and respect for all children’s lives and experiences.

James E. Ransome. His award-winning works include *Uncle Jed’s Barbershop*, which won the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Award, 1994 and *The Creation*, recipient of the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award, 1995. In addition, Ransome has received the IBBY Honor Award for *The Creation*, and the NAACP Image Award for *Let My People Go*.

Coretta Scott King Award – Recognizes outstanding books for young adults and children by African American authors and illustrators that reflect the African American experience.

CSK Author Award

Winner: *Freewater*, written by Amina Luqman-Dawson

Honors: *Star Child: A Biographical Constellation of Octavia Estelle Butler*, Ibi Zoboi

The Talk, written by Alicia D. Williams, illustrated by Briana Mukodiri Uchendu

Victory. Stand!: Raising My Fist for Justice, written by Tommie Smith and Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile

CSK Illustrator Award

Winner: *Standing in the Need of Prayer: A Modern Retelling of the Classic Spiritual*, illustrated by Frank Morrison, written by Carole Boston Weatherford

Honors: *Me and the Boss: A Story About Mending and Love*, illustrated by April Harrison, written by Michelle Edwards

Swim Team, illustrated and written by Johnnie Christmas

Victory. Stand!: Raising My Fist for Justice, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile, written by Tommie Smith and Derrick Barnes

Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award:

We Deserve Monuments, Jas Hammonds

Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award:

Choosing Brave: How Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till Sparked the Civil Rights Movement, illustrated by Janelle Washington, written by Angela Joy

Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Dr. Claudette McLinn. Dr. McLinn is the founder and executive director of the Center for the Study of Multicultural Children’s Literature (CSMCL). She is a retired district supervising librarian for the LA Unified School District with over 34 years of experience, a former bookseller and a much sought-after book award juror/presenter.

Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media Award – Awarded to a digital media producer that has created distinguished digital media for an early learning audience.

Winner: *Alma's Way* produced by Fred Rogers Productions

Margaret A. Edwards Award – Recognizes an author and his/her body of work for outstanding contribution to young adult literature.

Jason Reynolds, whose books include: *Long Way Down*, *Ghost*, *All American Boys*, and *When I Was the Greatest*, among other titles.

Mildred L. Batchelder Award – Awarded to an American publisher for a children's book considered to be the most outstanding of those books originally published in a foreign language in a foreign country and subsequently translated into English and published in the United States.

Winner: *Just a Girl: A True Story of World War II*, originally published in Italian as *Una Bambina E Basta. Raccontata Agli Altri Bambini E Basta*, written by Lia Levi, illustrated by Jess Mason, translated by Sylvia Notini

Honors: *Different: A Story of the Spanish Civil War*, written by Mónica Montañés, illustrated by Eva Sánchez Gómez, translated by Lawrence Schimet

Dragonfly Eyes, written by Cao Wanxuan, translated by Helen Wang

João by a Thread, written and illustrated by Roger Mello, translated by Daniel Hahn

Newbery Medal – The most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

Winner: *Freewater*, Aminca Luqman-Dawson

Honors: *Iveliz Explains It All*, Andrea Beatriz Arango

The Last Mapmaker, Christina Soontornvat

Maizy Chen's Last Chance, Lisa Yee

Odyssey Award - Awarded for best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults, available in English in the United States.

Winner for Children: *Stuntboy, in the Meantime*, written by Jason Reynolds, narrated by Guy Lockard, Nile Bullock, Angel Pean, and a full cast

Winner for Young Adults: *The Honeys*, written by Ryan La Sala, narrated by Pete Cross

Honors: *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, written and narrated by Mac Barnett

Demon in the Wood Graphic Novel, written by Leigh Bardugo, adapted by Gareth Scott, narrated by Ben Barnes and a full cast

Inheritance: A Visual Poem, written and narrated by Elizabeth Acevedo

The First Helping (Lunch Lady Books 1 & 2), written by Jarrett J. Krosoczka, narrated by Kate Flannery and a full cast

Printz (Michael L.) Award – Awarded for a book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature.

Winner: *All My Rage*, Sabaa Tahir

Honors: *Scout's Honor*, Lily Anderson

Icebreaker, A.L. Graziadei

When the Angels Left the Old Country, Sacha Lamb

Queer Ducks (And Other Animals): The Natural World of Animal Sexuality, Eliot Schrefer

Pura Belpré – Presented to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.

Children's Author Award

Winner: *Frizzy*, written by Claribel A. Ortega, illustrated by Rose Bousamra

Honors: *The Coquíes Still Sing*, written by Karina Nicole González, illustrated by Krystal Quiles

The Notebook Keeper: A Story of Kindness from the Border, written by Stephen Briseño, illustrated by Magdalena Mora

Tumble, written by Celia C. Pérez

Young Adult Author Award

Winner: *Burn Down, Rise Up*, written by Vincent Tirado

Honors: *Breathe and Count Back From Ten*, written by Natalia Sylvester

High Spirits, written by Camille Gomera-Tavarez

The Lesbiana's Guide to Catholic School, written by Sonora Reyes

Illustrator Award

Winner: *Where Wonder Grows*, illustrated by Adriana M. Garcia, written by Xelena González

Honors: *The Coquíes Still Sing*, illustrated by Krystal Quiles, written by Karina Nicole González

A Land of Books: Dreams of Young Mexihcah Word Painters, illustrated and written by Duncan Tonatiuh

Magic: Once Upon a Faraway Land, illustrated and written by Mirelle Ortega

Phenomenal AOC: The Roots and Rise of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, illustrated by Loris Lora, written by Anika Aldamuy Denise

Srta. Quinces, illustrated and written by Kat Fajardo

Still Dreaming/Sequimos Sonando, illustrated by Magdalena Mora, written by Claudia Guadalupe Martinez, translated by Luis Humberto Crosthwaite

Robert F. Sibert Medal – Honors the most distinguished informational book published in English in the preceding year for its significant contribution to children's literature.

Winner: *Seen and Unseen: What Dorothea Lange, Toyo Miyatake, and Ansel Adams's Photographs Reveal About the Japanese American Incarceration*, written by Elizabeth Partridge, illustrated by Lauren Tamaki

Honors: *Choosing Brave: How Many Till-Mobley and Emmett Till Sparked the Civil Rights Movement*, written by Angela Joy, illustrated by Janelle Washington

A Seed Grows, written and illustrated by Antoinette Portis

Sweet Justice: Georgia Gilmore and the Montgomery Bus Boycott, written by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

The Tower of Life: How Yaffa Eliach Rebuilt Her Town in Stories and Photographs, written by Chana Stiefel, illustrated by Susan Gal

Schneider Family Book Award – Honors an author or illustrator for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences.

Children's Winner (birth-age 8): *Listen: How Evelyn Glennie, a Deaf Girl, Changed Percussion*, written by Shannon Stocker, illustrated by Devon Holzwarth

Children's Honor Book: *In the Blue*, written and illustrated by Erin Hourigan

Middle Grade Winner (age 9-13): *Wildoak*, written by C.C. Harrington

Middle Grade Honor Book: *Hummingbird*, written by Natalie Lloyd

Honestly Elliott, written by Gillian McDunn

Teen Winner (age 14-18): *The Words We Keep*, written by Erin Stewart

Teen Honor Book: *Breathe and Count Back From Ten*, written by Natalia Sylvester

Stonewall Book Award - Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children's & Young Adult Literature Award – Given annually to English language children's and young adult books of exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experience.

Children's Winner: *Love Violet*, written by Charlotte Sullivan Wild, illustrated by Charlene Chua

Honors: *In the Key of Us*, written by Mariama J. Lockington

Kapaemahu, written by Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, Dean Hamer, and Joe Wilson, illustrated by Daniel Sousa

The Real Riley Mayes, written and illustrated by Rachel Elliott

Strong, written by Rob Kearney and Eric Rosswood, illustrated by Nidhi Chanani

Young Adult Winner: *When the Angels Left the Old Country*, written by Sacha Lamb

Honors: *I Kissed Shara Wheeler*, written by Casey McQuiston

Kings of B'more, written by R. Eric Thomas

Man o'War, written by Cory McCarthy

The Summer of Bitter and Sweet, written by Jen Ferguson

The Sydney Taylor Book Award - Given annually to outstanding books for children and teens that authentically portray the Jewish experience.

Picture Book Winner: *The Tower of Life: How Yaffa Eliach Rebuilt Her Town in Stories and Photographs*, written by Chana Stiefel, illustrated by Susan Gal

Picture Book Honors: *Big Dreams, Small Fish*, written and illustrated by Paula Cohen

The Very Best Sukkah: A Story From Uganda, written by Shoshana Nambi, illustrated by Moran Yogev

Sitting Shiva, written by Erin Silver, illustrated by Michelle Theodore

Middle Grade Winner: *Aviva Vs. the Dybbuk*, written by Mari Lowe

Middle Grade Honors: *Honey and Me*, written by Meira Drazin

Black Bird, Blue Road, written by Sofiya Pasternack

Ellen Outside the Lines, written by A.J. Sass

Young Adult Winner: *When the Angels Left the Old Country*, Sacha Lamb

Young Adult Honors: *My Fine Fellow: A Delicious Entanglement*, written by Jennieke Cohen

Some Kind of Hate, written by Sara Darer Littman

Eight Nights of Flirting, written by Hannah Reynolds

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award – Honors the author of the most distinguished contribution to the body of American children's literature known as 'beginning reader books' published in the United States during the preceding year.

Winner: *I Did It*, written and illustrated by Michael Emberley

Honors: *Fish and Wave*, written and illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier

Gigi and Ojji, written and illustrated by Melissa Iwai

Owl and Penguin, written and illustrated by Vikram Madan

A Seed Grows, written and illustrated by Antoinette Portis

William C. Morris Award – Honors a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens and celebrating impressive new voices in young adult literature.

The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen, written by Isaac Blum

YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults – Honors the best nonfiction book published for young adults ages 12 -18.

Winner: *Victory. Stand!: Raising My Fist for Justice*, written by Tommie Smith and Derrick Barnes