

## **Junior Book Nominees**

### **2020-2021 North Carolina Children's Book Award**

**Chokshi, Roshani. *Aru Shah and the End of Time*. Los Angeles : Disney/Hyperion, 2018.**  
Twelve-year-old Aru stretches the truth to fit in at her private school, but when she is dared to prove an ancient lamp is cursed, she inadvertently frees an ancient demon.

**Conner, Leslie. *The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle*. New York : Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2018.**  
As he grieves his best friend Benny's death, Mason and his friend Calvin, who are targeted by the neighborhood bullies, create an underground haven for themselves, but when Calvin goes missing Mason finds himself in trouble.

**Fleming, Candace. *Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera*. Illus. Eric Rohmann. New York : Neal Porter Books, an imprint of Holiday House, 2020.**  
Get up close and personal with Apis, one honeybee, as she embarks on her journey through life.

**Hannigan, Kate. *Cape*. New York : Aladdin, 2019.**  
Soon after being recruited by the mysterious Mrs. Boudica to join a secret military intelligence operation, Josie, Mae, and Akiko discover their superhero abilities and use them to thwart a Nazi plot to steal the ENIAC computer.

**Lord, Cynthia. *Because of the Rabbit*. New York : Scholastic Press, 2019.**  
On the last night of summer, Emma and her Maine game warden father rescue a small domestic rabbit stuck in a fence; the very next day Emma starts fifth grade after years of being home schooled. She is paired with Jack who does not seem to fit in with anyone--except they share a love of animals.

**Marks, Janae. *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*. New York : Katherine Tegen Books, 2020.**  
This book follows Zoe Washington after she receives an unexpected letter on her twelfth birthday from the incarcerated father she's never met and her courageous journey to uncover the truth about his crime.

**Park, Linda Sue. *Prairie Lotus*. Boston ; New York : Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020.**  
In Dakota Territory in the 1880s, half-Chinese Hanna and her white father face racism and resistance to change as they try to make a home for themselves.

**Wang, Jenny. *Stargazing*. New York : First Second, 2019.**  
Growing up in the same Chinese-American suburb, perfectionist Christine and artistic, confident, impulsive Moon become unlikely best friends, whose friendship is tested by jealousy, social expectations, and illness.

**Wolf, Allan. *The Day the Universe Exploded My Head: Poems to Take You Into Space and Back Again*. Illus. Anna Raff. Somerville, Massachusetts : Candlewick Press, 2019.**  
A collection of humorous poems about stars, planets, moons, and other astronomical wonders.

**Woodson, Jacqueline. *Harbor Me*. New York : Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018.**  
When six students are chosen to participate in a weekly talk with no adults allowed, they discover that when they're together, it's safe to share the hopes and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world.