

2021-2022 Junior Book Nominees

North Carolina Children's Book Award

Baldwin, Cindy. *Where the Watermelons Grow*. New York : Harper, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2018.

Twelve-year-old Della Kelly of Maryville, North Carolina, tries to come to terms with her mother's mental illness while her father struggles to save the farm from a record-breaking drought.

Clements, Andrew. *The Friendship War*. New York : Random House, 2019.

When Grace takes boxes of old buttons from a building her grandfather bought, she starts a fad at school that draws her closer to one friend, but further from another.

Craft, Jerry. *New Kid*. New York : Harper, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2019.

After his parents send him to a prestigious private school known for its academics, Jordan Banks finds himself torn between two worlds.

Gottesfeld, Jeff. *Twenty-one Steps: Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier*. Illus. Matt Tavares. Somerville, Massachusetts : Candlewick Press, 2021.

Keeping vigil at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in Arlington National Cemetery, are the sentinel guards, whose every step, every turn, honors and remembers America's fallen. They protect fellow soldiers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, making sure they are never alone.

Jamieson, Victoria and Omar Mohamed. *When Stars Are Scattered*. New York : Dial Books for Young Readers, 2020.

Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp.

Mackler, Carolyn. *Not If I Can Help It*. New York : Scholastic Press, 2019.

The story of Willa, who has been living with Sensory Processing Disorder but is thrown for a BIG loop when her dad announces he's dating Willa's best friend's mom.

O'Connor, Barbara. *Halfway to Harmony*. New York : Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers, 2021.

Ten-year-old Walter Tipple is grieving his beloved older brother, Tank, when a sassy girl named Posey moves in next door and Banjo, a hot-air balloonist, sets the pair on an adventure.

Reynolds, Jason. *Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks*. Illus. Alexander Nabaum. New York : A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2019.

A collection of ten short stories that all take place in the same day about kids walking home from school.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *Mañanaland*. New York : Scholastic Press, 2020.

Twelve-year-old Max, who loves the legend Buelo tells him about a mythical gatekeeper who can guide brave travelers on a journey into tomorrow, sets out on a dangerous quest to discover if he is true of heart and what the future holds, armed with a treasured compass, a mysterious stone rubbing, and Buelo's legend as his only guides.

Slade, Suzanne. *Swish: The Slam-dunking, Alley-ooping, High-flying Harlem Globetrotters*. Illus. Don Tate. New York : Little, Brown and Company, 2020.

Presents the history of the Harlem Globetrotters, from their inception as a Chicago basketball team and their development into the Globetrotters to their growth into an international phenomenon.