

Junior Book Nominees 2023 North Carolina Children's Book Award

Alston, B. B.. *Amari and the Night Brothers*. New York : Balzer + Bray, 2021.

Thirteen-year-old Amari, a poor Black girl from the projects, gets an invitation from her missing brother to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs and join in the fight against an evil magician.

Applegate, Katherine. *Willodeen*. New York : Feiwel and Friends, 2021.

When the annual migration of hummingbirds, a source of local pride and income, dwindles and no one knows why, Willodeen, armed with a magical birthday gift, speaks up for the animals she loves and vows to uncover this mystery.

Bruchac, Joseph. *Rez Dogs*. New York : Dial Books for Young Readers, 2021.

Twelve-year-old Malian lives with her grandparents on a Wabanaki reservation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Faruqi, Saadia and Laura Shovan. *A Place at the Table*. Boston : Clarion Books, 2020.

A timely, accessible, and beautifully written story exploring themes of food, friendship, family and what it means to belong, featuring sixth graders Sara, a Pakistani American, and Elizabeth, a white, Jewish girl taking a South Asian cooking class taught by Sara's mom.

Gibson, Roberta. *How to Build an Insect*. Illus. Anne Lambelet. Minneapolis : Millbrook Press, 2021.

Visit a whimsical workshop and follow along as we learn How To Build an Insect. Conversational text and playful illustrations introduce readers to insect body parts in this charming picture book.

Korman, Gordon. *Unplugged*. New York : Balzer + Bray, 2021.

Relates, in multiple voices, the adventures of a group of youngsters at an electronics-free wellness camp where wealthy, spoiled Jett, leads other campers in trying to stop a criminal.

Levine, Sara. *Flower Talk: How Plants Use Color to Communicate*. Illus. Masha D'yans. Minneapolis : Millbrook Press, 2019.

Features a cantankerous talking cactus as a narrator, revealing to readers the significance of different colors of flowers in terms of which pollinators (bees, bats, birds, etc.) different colors "talk" to.

McAnulty, Stacy. *The World Ends in April*. New York : Random House Books for Young Readers, 2019.

When seventh-grader Eleanor reads an article online claiming that an asteroid will hit Earth in April, she starts an underground school club to prepare kids for the end of the world as we know it.

Parry, Rosanne. *A Wolf Called Wander*. New York : Greenwillow Books, 2019.

A young wolf cub, separated from his pack, journeys 1000 miles across the Pacific Northwest, dealing with forest fires, hunters, highways, and hunger before finding a new home. Based on the true story of a wolf called OR-7.

Stone, Nic. *Clean Getaway*. New York : Crown Books for Young Readers, 2020.

For the life of him, William "Scoob" Lamar can't seem to stay out of trouble--and now the run-ins at school have led to lockdown at home. So when G'ma, Scoob's favorite person on Earth, asks him to go on an impromptu road trip, he's in the RV faster than he can say FREEDOM.

Timberlake, Amy. *Skunk and Badger*. Illus. Jon Klassen. Chapel Hill, NC : Algonquin Young Readers, 2020.

The last thing Badger wants is a roommate, and certainly not Skunk, but since the house does not belong to him he does not have a choice; and soon everything in Badger's quiet and ordered life studying rocks is turned upside down -- but after he drives Skunk and his chickens away, Badger starts to miss his roommate and sets out to find him and make amends.

Venable, Colleen AF. *Katie the Catsitter*. Illus. Stephanie Yue. New York : Random House Children's Books, 2021.

Twelve-year-old Katie's dreading the boring summer ahead, until she realizes the mysterious neighbor who hired her to catsit is one of the city's greatest supervillains.