

2021 FINALISTS



Best Picture Book Duo

- **Nancy Churnin and Felicia Marshall**, creators of *Beautiful Shades of Brown* (Creston Books)
- **Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin**, creators of *Click Clack Goodnight* (Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers)
- **Jane Yolen and Mark Teague**, creators of *How Do Dinosaurs Show Good Manners?* (Scholastic)
- **Carrie Lara and Christine Battuz**, creators of *The Heart of Mi Familia* (Magination Press)
- **Minh Lê and Dan Santat**, creators of *Lift* (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
- **Sarah Janco and Blayne Fox**, creators of *The Merry Christmas Mittens* (Brown Books Kids)

Best Picture Book Page

- **All Along the River**, by Magnus Weightman; illus. Magnus Weightman (Clavis Publishing)
- **All Because You Matter**, by Tami Charles; illus. Bryan Collier (Scholastic)
- **The Alphabet's Alphabet**, by Chris Harris; illus. Dan Santat (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
- **Arlo The Lion Who Couldn't Sleep**, by Catherine Rayner; illus. Catherine Rayner (Peachtree Publishing Company Inc.)
- **Babbit and Joan, a Rabbit and a Phone**, by Denise Turu; illus. Denise Turu (Flyaway Books)
- **How to Spot an Artist**, by Danielle Krysa; illus. Danielle Krysa (Prestel Publishing)

Favorite Early Reader Series

- **Billie B. Brown Series** by Sally Rippin; illus. Aki Fukuoka (Kane Miller, A Division of EDC Publishing)
- **Elephant and Piggie Like Reading! Series** by Ryan T. Higgins and Mo Willems (Disney Publishing Group)
- **Feel Better Books Series** by Leah Bowen and Holly Brochmann; illus. Shirley Ng (Magination Press)
- **Little People, BIG DREAMS Series** by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara; illus. Sophie Beer (Quarto Group)
- **Little Monster Series** by Helen Ketteman; illus. Bonnie Leick (Two Lions)
- **The Magnificent Makers Series** by Theanne Griffith; illus. Reggie Brown (Random House Children's Books)

Favorite Illustrated Character

- **Bentley Bee** from *Bee Heartful*, by Frank J. Sileo; illus. Claire Keay (Magination Press)
- **Little Blue Truck** from *Little Blue Truck's Valentine*, by Alice Schertle; illus. Jill McElmurry (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers)
- **Nibbles the Book Monster** from *Nibbles: Colors*, by Emma Yarlett; illus. Emma Yarlett (Kane Miller, A Division of EDC Publishing)
- **Ms. Johnson** from *The Noisy Classroom*, by Angela Shanté; illus. Alison Hawkins (West Margin Press)
- **Old Dog** from *This Old Dog*, by Martha Brockenbrough; illus. Gabriel Alborozo (Levine Querido)
- **The Princess in Black** from *The Princess in Black and the Giant Problem*, by Shannon Hale, Dean Hale; illus. LeUyen Pham (Candlewick Press)

Best Book of the Year: K - 2nd Grade

- **Bedtime for Sweet Creatures**, by Nikki Grimes; illus. Elizabeth Zunon (Sourcebooks)
- **Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away**, by Meg Medina; illus. Sonia Sánchez (Candlewick Press)
- **Every Color of Light**, by Hiroshi Osada; illus. Ryoji Arai (Enchanted Lion Books)
- **I Am Every Good Thing**, by Derrick Barnes; illus. Gordon C. James (Penguin Young Readers)
- **I Talk Like a River**, by Jordan Scott; illus. Sydney Smith (Holiday House)
- **We Are Water Protectors**, by Carole Lindstrom; illus. Michaela Goade (Macmillan Children's Publishing Group)

Best Book of Facts

- **50 Adventures in the 50 States**, by Kate Siber; illus. Lydia Hill (Quarto Group)
- **Brave. Black. First.**, by Cheryl Hudson; illus. Erin K. Robinson (Random House Children's Books)
- **Hop To It: Poems to Get You Moving**, by Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong; illus. Franzi Paetzold (Pomelo Books)
- **I Ate Sunshine for Breakfast**, by Michael Holland; illus. Phillip Giordano (Nobrow (US) Inc./Flying Eye Books)
- **Kate the Chemist: The Big Book of Experiments**, by Kate Biberdorf (Penguin Young Readers)
- **A Search for the Northern Lights**, by Elizabeth Rusch and Izzi Rusch; illus. Cedar Lee (West Margin Press)

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Best Graphic Novel

- **Big Nate: The Gerbil Ate My Homework**, by Lincoln Peirce (Andrews McMeel Universal)
- **Class Act**, by Jerry Craft; illus. Jerry Craft (HarperCollins Children's Books)
- **Investigators**, by John Patrick Green (Macmillan Children's Publishing Group)
- **Max Meow Book 1: Cat Crusader**, by John Gallagher (Random House Children's Books)
- **Phoebe: Camping with Unicorns**, by Dana Simpson (Andrews McMeel Universal)
- **When Stars Are Scattered**, by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed; illus. Victoria Jamieson and Iman Geddy (Penguin Young Readers)

Favorite Author

- **Jacqueline Woodson**, author of *Before the Ever After* (Penguin Young Readers)
- **Dav Pilkey**, author of *Cat Kid Comic Club* (Scholastic)
- **Jeff Kinney**, author of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid #15: The Deep End* (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- **Trudi Trueit**, author of *Explorer Academy: The Star Dunes* (National Geographic Kids Books)
- **Jason Reynolds**, author of *Look Both Ways* (Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers)
- **Chris Grabenstein**, author of *The Smartest Kid in the Universe* (Random House Children's Books)
- **Rick Riordan**, author of *The Tower of Nero* (Disney Publishing Group)

Best Book of the Year: 3rd - 4th Grade

- **Beetle & the Hollowbones**, by Aliza Layne; illus. Aliza Layne (Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers)
- **Girl on a Motorcycle**, by Amy Novesky; illus. Julie Morstad (Penguin Young Readers)
- **Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera**, by Candace Fleming; illus. Eric Rohmann (Holiday House)
- **Paper Boat, The: A Refugee Story**, by Thao Lam; illus. Thao Lam (Owlkids Books)
- **Skunk and Badger**, by Amy Timberlake; illus. Jon Klassen (Algonquin Books)
- **Ways to Make Sunshine**, by Renée Watson; illus. Nina Mata (Bloomsbury Children's Books)

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Best Book of the Year: 5th - 6th Grade

- **All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team**, by Christina Soontornvat (Candlewick Press)
- **Efrén Divided**, by Ernesto Cisneros (HarperCollins Children's Books)
- **Fighting Words**, by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (Penguin Young Readers)
- **Loretta Little Looks Back: Three Voices Go Tell It**, by Andrea Davis, Pinkney; illus. Brian Pinkney (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
- **Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy**, by 15 Muslim Voices; eds. S.K. Ali and Aisha Saeed (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- **Twins**, by Varian Johnson; illus. Shannon Wright (Scholastic)

Best Book Creator Digital Presence

- **Nic Stone**, creator of *Dear Justyce* (Random House Children's Books)
— Tw @getnicced; IG @nicstone
- **Adam Silvera**, creator of *Infinity Son* (HarperCollins Children's Books)
— Tw @AdamSilvera; IG @adamsilvera
- **Leigh Bardugo**, creator of *The Lives of Saints* (Macmillan Children's Publishing Group)
— Tw @LBardugo; IG @lbardugo
- **Maggie Tokuda-Hall**, creator of *The Mermaid, the Witch and the Sea* (Candlewick Press)
— Tw @emteehall; IG @maggietokudahall
- **Sabaa Tahir**, creator of *A Sky Beyond the Storm* (Penguin Young Readers) and *A Thief Among the Trees: An Ember in the Ashes* Graphic Novel (BOOM! Studios) — Tw @sabaatahir; IG @sabaatahir
- **Traci Chee**, creator of *We Are Not Free* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers)
— Tw @tracichee; IG @tracicheeauthor

Best Fantasy World Builder

- **Suzanne Collins**, author of *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes. A Hunger Games Novel* (Scholastic)
- **Cassandra Clare**, author of *Chain of Gold* (Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers)
- **F.C. Yee**, author of *Avatar, The Last Airbender: The Shadow of Kyoshi* (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- **Sabaa Tahir**, author of *A Sky Beyond the Storm* (Penguin Young Readers)
- **Helena Dahlgren**, author of *Soul Riders: Jorvik Calling* (Andrews McMeel Universal)
- **Melissa de la Cruz**, author of *The Queen's Assassin* (Penguin Young Readers)

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Favorite Book Cover

- **All Boys Aren't Blue**, by George M. Johnson (Macmillan Children's Publishing Group) — cover illustration by Charly Palmer, design and lettering by Cassie Gonzales
- **Camper Girl**, by Glenn Erick Miller (Regal House Publishing / Fitzroy Books) — cover by C.B. Royal
- **Fangs**, by Sarah Anderson (Andrews McMeel Universal) — cover by Sarah Anderson
- **Felix Ever After**, by Kacen Callender (HarperCollins Children's Books) — cover art by Alex Cabal, design by Chris Kwon
- **Legendborn**, by Tracy Deonn (Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers) — cover illustration by Hillary Wilson
- **What if...? A Poppenohna Land Adventure**, by Carrie Turley (Lawley Publishing) — cover by Lara Law

Favorite True Story

- **The Black Friend: On Being a Better White Person**, by Frederick Joseph (Candlewick Press)
- **Blood and Germs: The Civil War Battle Against Wounds and Disease**, by Gail Jarrow (Boyd's Mills & Kane / Astra Publishing House)
- **Finish the Fight!**, by Veronica Chambers and The Staff of The New York Times (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers)
- **No Voice Too Small: Fourteen Young Americans Making History**, by Lindsay H. Metcalf, Keila V. Dawson, and Jeanette Bradley; illus. Jeanette Bradley (Charlesbridge)
- **This Is Your Time**, by Ruby Bridges (Random House Children's Books)
- **We Had to Be Brave: Escaping the Nazis on the Kindertransport**, by Deborah Hopkinson (Scholastic)

Best Book of the Year: Teen

- **Dragon Hoops**, by Gene Luen Yang; illus. Gene Luen Yang (Macmillan Children's Publishing Group)
- **Everything Sad Is Untrue (A True Story)**, by Daniel Nayeri (Levine Querido)
- **Raybearer**, by Jordan Ifueko (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- **The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh**, by Candace Fleming (Random House Children's Books)
- **Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-Winning 'Stamped from the Beginning'**, by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
- **We Are Not Free**, by Traci Chee (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers)

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