

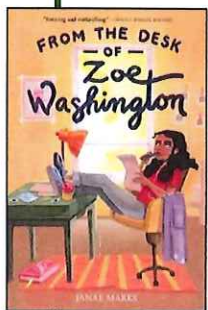
2023 Nutmeg Book Award Intermediate Nominees Grades 4-6



Finding Langston

by Lesa Cline-Ransome

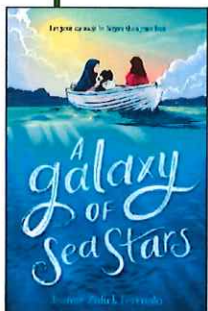
Langston's life has been upended. His mother died and his father moved them from rural Alabama to the city streets of Chicago. Bullied at school, Langston finds solace in the integrated public library where he discovers the poetry of his mother's favorite poet, Langston Hughes.



From the Desk of Zoe Washington

by Janae Marks

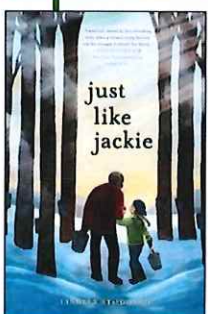
Zoe dreams of becoming a baking star, but her dreams take second place when she receives a letter from her imprisoned father, a man she has never met. The letter sets in motion her quest to find the truth and prove her father's innocence, while trying to create an original cupcake recipe.



A Galaxy of Sea Stars

by Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo

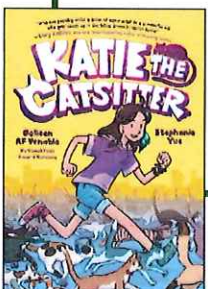
Izzy wishes things could go back to normal: her mom would come home, her dad wouldn't invite refugees from Afghanistan to live with them, and her best friends would never change. It turns out change can be a good thing and new friendships can be found in the most unlikely places!



Just Like Jackie

by Lindsey Stoddard

Robinson Hart tries to be like the man she is named after, Jackie Robinson, but it is almost impossible to keep it together at home and school. Caring for her Grandpa is becoming more difficult as his memory fades, and now she is stuck with her nemesis in group guidance.



Katie the Catsitter

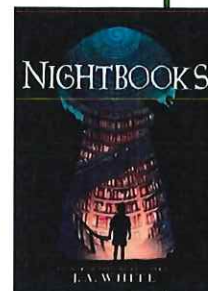
by Colleen AF Venable,
illustrated by Stephanie Yue

What was looking to be a boring summer turns into anything but when Katie takes on a job caring for her mysterious neighbor's cats. Shouldn't be that hard, right? But, it turns out there are 217 of them—and these are no ordinary cats!

Nightbooks

by J. A. White

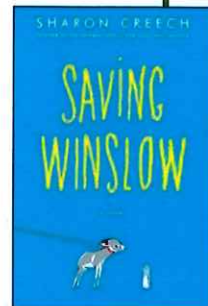
Alex is obsessed with anything scary. Then he gets trapped in a witch's world and must entertain her with a scary story every night. Working with another trapped child, they devise a plan to escape, but the house holds many of its own scary secrets.



Saving Winslow

by Sharon Creech

Louie's dad brings home an ailing baby donkey and he is determined to save him. Taking care of Winslow keeps his mind off of his brother Gus in the Army. Louie is determined to make sure this little donkey survives.



The Silver Arrow

by Lev Grossman

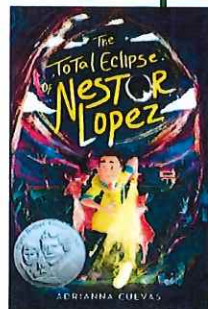
When Katie is surprised on her birthday with a real steam locomotive from her mysterious uncle, she has no idea of the adventures awaiting her and her brother. On a magical journey along with some talking animals, their resourcefulness helps them reach their destination, and might even help save the world!



The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez

by Adrianna Cuevas

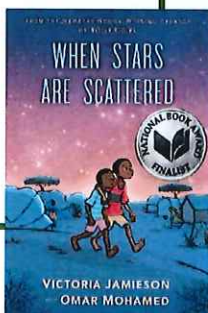
Nestor Lopez is a Cuban-American boy who can talk to animals. With his dad overseas, Nestor and his mom move in with his grandma. Animals start disappearing and his grandma is unfairly accused of being a tula vieja -- a witch! Nestor will have to use his powers and stop the real tula vieja before the solar eclipse.



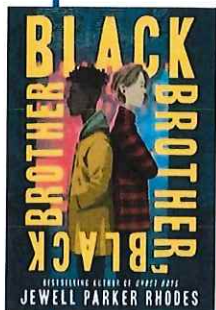
When Stars Are Scattered

by Victoria Jamieson &
Omar Mohamed

Omar and Hassan live in a refugee camp. Hassan is nonverbal and relies on Omar for everything. When Omar has the chance to attend school, he knows that it will change both of their lives. But to do this, Omar has to leave Hassan, his only remaining family, every day.



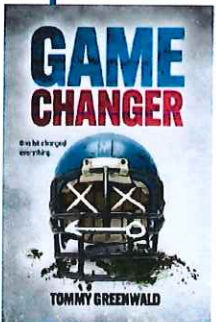
2023 Nutmeg Book Award Middle School Nominees Grades 7-8



Black Brother, Black Brother

by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Biracial brothers Donte and Trey attend Middlefield Prep, an almost entirely white school. Trey presents as white, while Donte presents as black. When Donte is unjustly suspended, he begins to realize that life is not always fair. The unlikely world of fencing provides Donte with unique opportunities to learn more about himself and those around him.



Game Changer

by Tommy Greenwald

Teddy Youngblood lies in a coma after receiving a devastating hit at football camp. His teammates know what really happened, but will they find the strength to tell the truth? Details are slowly revealed as his friends, teammates, and coach visit Teddy and his grieving family.

The Line Tender

by Kate Allen

After twelve-year-old Lucy's mother dies, she is able to find meaning and comfort by pursuing the work of her marine biologist mother. This thoughtful novel reveals the depths of grief and loss coupled with moments of laughter and redemption.

Look Both Ways

by Jason Reynolds

Ten interconnected stories detail what happens after school lets out and kids are walking home. Skateboards, handshakes, and standing up to bullies are just a few of the detours faced on the way home.

The Magic Fish

by Trung Le Nguyen

Tien and his mom can't always find the right words, so they express themselves to one another by sharing fairy tales. His mother has a hard time opening up about her trauma coming to the United States, and Tien wanders a road of self discovery as he solidifies his identity. The two navigate their separate lives while communicating their perspectives within layers of fables.

96 Miles

by J. L. Esplin

When brothers John and Stew realize that it is impossible for their father to return home, they must attempt to survive on their own. Fear, danger, violence, and illness follow after a dramatic disaster hits. Will the brothers' resourcefulness, loyalty, and determination keep them safe?

Nowhere Boy

by Katherine Marsh

Ahmed doesn't belong in Brussels, not after he lost his family while fleeing war-torn Syria. American-born Max doesn't belong in Brussels either, but not being able to speak French is the least of his worries when Max finds a Syrian refugee living in his basement. Two worlds collide in this story of unlikely friendship, hope, and courage.

The Parker Inheritance

by Varian Johnson

While visiting family in Lambert, South Carolina over the summer, Candace uncovers a decades-old mystery involving her grandmother. She sets out with the help of a quiet neighbor, Brandon, to uncover the past while learning about historical injustices that happened in the town.

Suggested Reading

by Dave Connis

Clara Evans has earned a spot at an elite high school through a scholarship opportunity. But when the books that influenced her begin mysteriously disappearing from the school's shelves, Clara learns how far she and others are willing to go to give books to those who need them.

Superman Smashes the

Klan by Gene Luen Yang, art

by Gurihiru

Teens Roberta and Tommy Lee just moved to Metropolis, the city protected by Superman. After their family house is targeted by the Klan, Roberta and Tommy must help Superman foil the Klan's plot and defeat racism and hatred.

