

Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award 2022-2023 Nominee List

Aaligator!

Author: Judith Henderson

Illustrator: Andrea Stegmaier

Summary: While on a walk through the forest, a boy encounters an alligator which is stuck, hungry, and lonely. The boy befriends the alligator, and the town is not happy about it.

Amara and the Bats

Author and Illustrator: Emma Reynolds

Summary: Amara loves bats, so when she learns there are none near her new home due to habitat loss, she overcomes her feelings of helplessness and inspires her community to take action. Includes facts about bats and bat houses.

Butterflies are Pretty Gross!

Author: Rosemary Mosco

Illustrator: Jacob Souva

Summary: Butterflies are beautiful and quiet and gentle and sparkly . . . but that's not the whole truth. Butterflies can be GROSS. And one butterfly in particular is here to let everyone know! Talking directly to the reader, a monarch butterfly reveals how its kind is so much more than what we think.

Claude: The True Story of the White Alligator

Author: Emma Bland Smith

Illustrator: Jennifer M. Potter

Summary: Claude is the story of the California Academy of Sciences' beloved albino alligator, from his birth in Louisiana to his present-day life in his swamp at the Academy. Claude is a celebrity alligator and the mascot for San Francisco's California Academy of Sciences.

Don't Hug Doug (He Doesn't Like It)

Author: Carrie Finison

Illustrator: Daniel Wiseman

Summary: Doug prefers not to be hugged, but there are a variety of other ways his loved ones can show him affection.

The First Blade of Sweetgrass

Author: Suzanne Greenlaw

Illustrator: Nancy Baker

Summary: A modern Wabanaki girl is excited to accompany her grandmother for the first time to harvest sweetgrass for basket making.

The Floating Field

Author: Scott Riley

Illustrators: Nguyen Quang and Kim Lien

Summary: On a tiny Thai island without room for a soccer field, a group of resourceful teen boys gathers scraps and works together to build a floating field so they can play the game they love.

Fluffy McWhiskers: Cuteness Explosion

Author: Stephen W. Martin

Illustrator: Dan Tavis

Summary: Fluffy McWhiskers is so cute that anyone who sees her instantly explodes, making it difficult for the little cat to find a single friend.

Help Wanted! Must Love Books

Author: Janet Summer Johnson

Illustrator: Courtney Dawson

Summary: Shailey loves bedtime until her father gets distracted by a new job, so she advertises for a replacement 'Bedtime Storyteller' and finds herself interviewing her favorite fairytale characters.

The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess

Author and Illustrator: Tom Gauld

Summary: When a wooden robot prince forgets to say the magic words that turn his sister from a log into a princess she is thrown away, so he goes on an epic journey to find her and bring her back.

My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World

Author: Malcolm Mitchell

Illustrator: Michael Robertson

Summary: Henley hates to read, so his homework assignment to bring in his favorite book seems an impossible challenge--until his mother shows him a box of books, he made himself when he was younger.

The Mysterious Sea Bunny

Author and Illustrator: Peter Raymundo

Summary: As an inch-long sea bunny makes its way slowly across the ocean floor, readers discover that there is a lot more to this sea slug species than meets the eye--which comes in handy when a predator swoops in!

Norman Didn't Do It! (Yes, He Did!)

Author and Illustrator: Ryan T. Higgins

Summary: Norman, a porcupine whose best friend is a tree named Mildred, begins to feel jealous when another tree grows close to Mildred and acts out against the tree new.

The Old Man and the Penguin: A True Story of Friendship

Author: Julie Abery

Illustrator: Pierre Pratt

Summary: Told in rhyming verse, this is the touching true story of an oil-soaked penguin, the man who rescues him and an unlikely friendship.

Room for Everyone

Author: Naaz Khan

Illustrator: Mercè López

Summary: Musa and his sister travel to a Zanzibar beach in a shared minibus which, despite Musa's protests, gets loaded with everything from a man and his bicycle to ten swimmers.

Seven Golden Rings: A Tale of Music and Math

Author: Rajani LaRocca

Illustrator: Archana Sreenivasan

Summary: In ancient India, a boy named Bhagat travels to the Rajah's city, hoping to ensure his family's prosperity by winning a place at court as a singer.

Sloth and Squirrel in a Pickle

Author: Cathy Ballou Mealy

Illustrator: Kelly Collier

Summary: Sloth and Squirrel are good friends, but when Squirrel gets them jobs as pickle packers to earn money for a new bike, things do not go according to plan.

Someone Builds the Dream

Author: Lisa Wheeler

Illustrator: Loren Long

Summary: Celebrates the skilled women and men who work to see the plans of architects, engineers, and designers brought to life.

Ten Beautiful Things

Author: Molly Beth Griffin

Illustrator: Maribel Lechuga

Summary: Lily is moving into her grandmother's farm in Iowa, and she is sad about all the changes necessary in her life-- but on the long drive her grandmother challenges her to find ten beautiful things that they can share together.

XO, Exoplanet

Author: Deborah Underwood

Illustrator: Jorge Lacera

Summary: When Jupiter notices a planet circling a far star, he enlists the other planets in our solar system to send a letter, but soon there is a disagreement on which, exactly, is the exoplanet.