

## Washington Children’s Choice Picture Book Award 2026-2027 Nominee List

**Awesome Earth: Concrete Poems Celebrate Caves, Canyons & Other Fascinating Landforms**

Author: Joan Bransfield Graham

Illustrator: Tama Garcia

Summary: A collection of concrete poems that illustrate various landforms on Earth.

**Broken**

Author and Illustrator: X Fang

Summary: What do you do when you accidentally break something? Mei Mei imagines the worst when she breaks her Ama’s favorite cup. When Mimi, an innocent cat, is blamed for the crime, Mei Mei has to decide whether or not to tell the truth.

**Cranky, Crabby Crow (Saves the World)**

Author and Illustrator: Corey R. Tabor

Summary: Crow has a secret, and it’s not that he’s cranky and crabby. He’s concentrating on saving the world!

**The Day the Books Disappeared**

Author: Joanna Ho and Caroline Kusin Pritchard

Illustrator: Dan Santat

Summary: Arnold accidentally wishes away all of the books in his classroom that aren’t about his favorite topic: airplanes. But when his favorite books disappear, too, he learns to listen to what his friends enjoy about their favorite topics.

**The Day Leap Soared**

Author: Blair Braverman

Illustrator: Olivia When

Summary: Leap is about to join the other sled dogs for her first run. Each of the other sled dogs has something special about them – Donut is brave, Jenga is smart. Leap wonders if she has something special that she is good at too.

**Don’t Trust Fish**

Author: Neil Sharpson

Illustrator: Dan Santat

Summary: Why should you never trust fish? This nature-guide-gone-wrong makes sure that you know all the “facts” about these underwater animals.

**How to Grow a Family Tree**

Author: Bea Birdsong

Illustrator: Jasu Hu

Summary: When her class is assigned a family tree project, a girl with a single mom and no ties with relatives learns that a found family can be just as important as a biological one.

**The Interpreter**

Author: Olivia Abtahi

Illustrator: Monica Arnaldo

Summary: Cecila has two jobs: to be a kid and to be an interpreter for her parents. She has to go to all sorts of important places, like the DMV, the accountant, and the auto repair shop. This is an important job, but it can be a lot of hard work. Will Cecila need to quit one of her jobs?

### Lena the Chicken (But Really a Dinosaur!)

Author: Linda Bailey

Illustrator: K-Fai Steele

Summary: Lena is a dinosaur. She confuses the chickens who look just like her but insisting that deep down she's really a dinosaur. Will she be able to be her ferocious self and protect the chickens from a sneaky intruder?

### Mike the Magical Coughing Cat

Author and Illustrator: Mag Takac

Summary: Stray cat, Mike, can cough up wishes, but neither he nor the wishers can completely predict the outcome. Will Mike be able to stay in his new home when all of the wishes keep going wrong?

### Monster Hands

Author: Karen Kane and Jonaz McMillan

Illustrator: Dion MBD

Summary: Milo and his friend use their skills speaking ASL to make shadow puppet monsters with their hands. Their goal? To scare away the monster under his bed.

### My Friend May

Author and Illustrator: Julie Flett

Summary: Margaux loves her cat, May. When May disappears, Margaux's family jumps into the search, including her auntie who is about to move to the city. Now Margaux will miss her auntie and May. Will May ever come home?

### No More Chairs

Author: Dan Gill

Illustrator: Susan Gal

Summary: Based on a true story, students are curious as to why Mr. Gill keeps an empty chair in his classroom. He tells them about his childhood friend Archie, who was excluded based on his skin color, and told there wasn't a chair for him.

### Nunu and the Sea

Author and Illustrator: Isabella Kung

Summary: Nunu makes an origami boat and sails away to some place where her emotions feel more manageable.

### Old Clothes for Dinner?!

Author: Nathalie Alonso

Illustrator: Natalia Rojas Castro

Summary: When Magaly's Abuela tells her that they are having ropa vieja (old clothes) for dinner, Magaly takes her literally. She makes sure to hide all of her clothes before her Abuela can cook them for dinner!

### Piece Out

Author and Illustrator: Alex Willan

Summary: When Red is left out of the game box, the journey back is hazardous. Other game pieces might give up, but Red perseveres, learning from mistakes holding on to hope.

### Safe Crossing

Author and Illustrator: Kari Percival

Summary: Mom, Dad, and Tallulah work each spring to make sure that the frogs and salamanders can avoid the busy roads that divide their habitats. With the help of the Amphibian Migration Team, they work to make sure these animals have a safe crossing!

Tuck Me In!

Author and Illustrator: Nathan W. Pyle

Summary: The beaches are sleepy at night and only want to be tucked in. But the more Moon pulls the ocean up to over one beach, the less the other beach is covered. Will Moon be able to figure out a solution before bedtime?

Vida: The Mice, the Cat, and the Alebrije

Author and Illustrator: Duncan Tonatiuh

Summary: When a menacing cat drives all the mice into hiding, two brave mouse siblings, Vida and Maximo, work to restore the vibrancy of their city with the help of an alebrije.

The Wombats Go Wild for Words

Author: Beth Ferry

Illustrator: Lori Nichols

Summary: When the wombats arrive in Evergreen Forest, their impressive, marvelous, and stupendous vocabulary inspires a ducking to use language to transform her home, much to the initial confusion of her neighbors.