

Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award 2024-2025 Nominee List

Agatha May and the Anglerfish

Author: Nora Morrison & Jessie Anne Foley

Illustrator: Mika Song

Summary: When a daydream-prone student is allowed to research her favorite creature, the anglerfish, she dazzles her classmates and teacher with her report.

Bitsy Bat, School Star

Author and Illustrator: Kaz Windness

Summary: The only bat at her new school, Bitsy does not feel like she fits in, but after some encouragement, Bitsy learns that everyone shines differently.

Flat Cat

Author: Tara Lazar

Illustrator: Pete Oswald

Summary: Flat Cat likes being flat--roaming anywhere and happy to be unseen--until one day when he becomes fluffy, he learns to enjoy the attention it brings, and grows to love being seen.

Friends Beyond Measure

Author and Illustrator: Lalena Fisher

Summary: Ana and Harwin's friendship has been off the charts since day one! But when Harwin learns her family is going to move far away, the duo isn't sure how their friendship can survive the move. See how their friend-o-meters calibrate.

Gertie: The Darling Duck of WWII

Author: Shari Swanson

Illustrator: Renee Graef

Summary: In 1945, against the backdrop of WWII, a soon-to-be-mama duck builds a nest in a precarious spot in the city of Milwaukee. Soon, news outlets around the world are carrying the hopeful story of the plucky duck.

The Girl Who Heard the Music

Author: Marnie Fogelson

Illustrator: Marta Alvarez Miguens

Summary: The true story of award-winning pianist and environmental activist Mahani Teave and the beloved island she is helping to save.

How Do You Spell Unfair? MacNolia Cox and the National Spelling Bee

Author: Carole Boston Weatherford

Illustrator: Frank Morrison

Summary: A true story of determination and groundbreaking achievement follows eighth grade African American spelling champion MacNolia Cox, who left Akron, Ohio, in 1936 to compete in the prestigious National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., only to be met with prejudice and discrimination.

I Don't Care

Author: Julie Fogliano

Illustrator: Molly Schaar Idle

Summary: Two friends share their delight in the little things that set them apart, and the big things that bring them together.

The King Penguin

Author and Illustrator: Vanessa Roeder

Summary: King penguin Percival is off to find subjects who will listen to him, as long as they do not eat him first.

Not a Monster

Author: Claudia Guadalupe Martinez

Illustrator: Laura Gonzalez

Summary: Not a Monster explores the traits of the axolotl, the Aztec origin myth about the species, and the way pollution is affecting its natural habitat- the canals of Xochimilco in Mexico City.

Out of a Jar

Author and Illustrator: Deborah Marcero

Summary: Llewellyn, a little rabbit overwhelmed by his emotions, hides away his feelings in glass jars, until he discovers life is more colorful when he sets his emotions free.

Paula's Patches

Author: Gabriella Aldeman

Illustrator: Rocio Arreola Mendoza

Summary: Embarrassed about a hole in her pants, creative and resourceful Paula covers it with a patch, and discovers her classmates also have leaky, stained, and hand-me-down items that could benefit from a colorful patch.

Ramen for Everyone

Author: Patricia Tanumihardja

Illustrator: Shiho Pate

Summary: A young boy aspires to make a bowl of ramen as delicious as his dad's, and runs into some surprises--both delightful and disastrous--on his first attempt

The Red Jacket

Author and Illustrator: Bob Holt

Summary: Bob loves his red jacket. The red jacket makes him feel swanky cool. The red jacket makes other seagulls notice him and even speak to him. But when a wave washes it away, will Bob lose his cool and his newfound friends, too?

Remember

Author: Joy Harjo

Illustrator: Michaela Goade

Summary: US Poet Laureate Joy Harjo's iconic poem "Remember," illustrated by Caldecott Medalist Michaela Goade, invites young readers to pause and reflect on the wonder of the world around them, and to remember the importance of their place in it.

Something, Someday

Author: Amanda Gorman

Illustrator: Christian Robinson

Summary: Sometimes the world feels broken. And problems seem too big to fix. But somehow, we all have the power to make a difference. With a little faith, and maybe the help of a friend, together we can find beauty and create change.

Spanish is the Language of My Family

Author: Michael Genhart

Illustrator: John Parra

Summary: An intergenerational story of family ties, cultural pride, and spelling bee victory following a young boy who bonds with his beloved abuela over a love of Spanish.

Stranded! A Mostly True Story from Iceland

Author: Ævar Þór Benediktsson (Ævar THor Benediktsson)

Illustrator: Anne Wilson

Summary: Based on a true story, the author humorously recounts the time his grandfather got stranded with a friend on Surtsey, a brand new volcanic island in Iceland. The adventurers face epic challenges like molten lava, melted eyeglasses and scant supplies before finally getting rescued.

This is Not My Story

Author: Ryan Uytendewilligen

Illustrator: David Huyck

Summary: This hilarious and unique take on metafiction offers a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process as the hero of this book embarks on a genre-bending journey to find the right story with the help of the author.

We are Going to be Pals!

Author and Illustrator: Mark Teague

Summary: A talkative cattle egret explains to a rhinoceros that in addition to having a symbiotic relationship, they also have a friendship built on communication, kindness, and a respect for boundaries.