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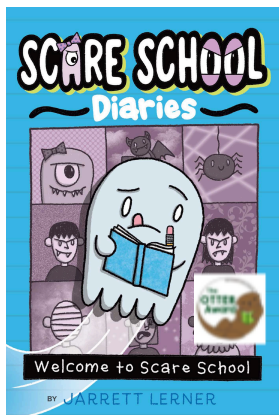
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Washington Students Choose *Welcome to Scare School* as 2026 OTTER Award Winner



The OTTER Award Committee, part of Washington Library Association's School Library Division, is thrilled to announce *Welcome to Scare School* by Jarrett Lerner as the winner of the 2026 OTTER Award.

Now in its ninth year, the OTTER Award (which stands for 'Our Time To Enjoy Reading') celebrates books that are both engaging and developmentally appropriate for young readers transitioning into chapter books. The award emphasizes "books kids like, not books adults think kids should like," and student input plays a key role in shaping each year's shortlist.

More than 13,000 students from across Washington State voted in this year's award, with 42% casting their vote for *Welcome to Scare School* - a resounding win celebrated by readers across the state!

Each year, up to six nominee titles are selected based on their appeal to transitional readers. Voting takes place in May, with the winner announced the following month.

For more information, please visit www.wla.org/the-otter-award.