



## Nebraska Golden Sower Award Nominee Titles 2017-2018

Sponsored by Nebraska Library Association's  
School, Children's, and Young People's Section

The GSA nominee list is developed by selection committees of volunteer readers representing classroom teachers, media specialists, and librarians in Nebraska. Each list is created from nominated titles sent in by participating libraries and schools from across the state.

Local library or school officials are responsible for selecting books from these lists they feel are appropriate for the needs and interests of their patrons or students. Voting eligibility requires readers to have read or heard a minimum of **four** of the current nominees from the category in which they will be voting: Picture Books, Chapter Books, or Golden Sower Novels.

### 2017-2018 Picture Book Nominees

Bateman, Teresa. *Job Wanted.*

Illustrated by Chris Sheban. Holiday House, 2015. ISBN 9780823433919

A scruffy dog asks a farmer for a job, but the farmer doesn't think he needs a dog. Can the dog convince the farmer that he would be an asset to the farm?

Driscoll, Amanda. *Duncan the Story Dragon.*

Illustrated by the author. Knopf Books, 2015. ISBN 9780385755078

Duncan the dragon loves reading, but he can never get to the end of the book because his imagination sets them on fire...literally. Duncan asks other critters to read to him but no one wants to do it until he finds a mouse who loves stories.

Dyckman, Ame. *Wolfie the Bunny.*

Illustrated by Zachariah O'Hora. Little, Brown, 2015. ISBN 9780316226141

The Bunny family adopted a wolf son, and daughter Dot is the only one who realizes Wolfie can—and might—eat them all up! Dot tries to get through to her parents, but they won't listen. But when it's Wolfie who's threatened, can Dot save the day?

Goodrich, Carter. *We Forgot Brock!*

Illustrated by the author. Simon & Schuster, 2015. ISBN 9781442480902

Phillip and Brock are best friends, although everyone else thinks that Brock is imaginary. When Phillip gets tired out at the Big Fair while Brock is still having fun, they are separated and it takes a very special twosome to bring them back together again.

## 2017-2018 Picture Book Nominees (con't)

Higgins, Ryan T. *Mother Bruce*.

Illustrated by the author. Disney-Hyperion, 2015. ISBN 9781484730881

Bruce the bear likes to keep to himself and to eat eggs. When his hard-boiled goose eggs turn out to be real, live goslings, he starts to lose his appetite. And even worse, the goslings are convinced he's their mother. Bruce tries to get the geese to go south, but he can't seem to rid himself of his new companions. What's a bear to do?

Knudsen, Michelle. *Marilyn's Monster*.

Illustrated by Matt Phelan. Candlewick, 2015. ISBN 9780763660116

Some of the kids in Marilyn's class have monsters. Marilyn doesn't have hers yet, but she can't just go out and look for one. Your monster has to find you. That's just the way it works. Marilyn tries to be patient and the kind of girl no monster can resist, but her monster doesn't come. Could she go out and search for him herself?

Meyer, Susan. *New Shoes*.

Illustrated by Eric Velasquez. Holiday House, 2015. ISBN 9780823425280

When her brother's hand-me-down shoes don't fit, it is time for Ella Mae to get new ones. But when she and her mother arrive at Mr. Johnson's shoe store, she is unable to try on the shoes because of her skin color. Determined to fight back, Ella Mae and her friend Charlotte collect and restore old shoes and then have their very own shoe sale, giving the other African American members of their community a place to buy shoes where they can be treated fairly.

Nelson, Kadir. *If You Plant a Seed*.

Illustrated by the author. Balzer + Bray, 2015. ISBN 9780062298898

A rabbit and a mouse plant vegetable seeds and wait for their plants to grow. When the vegetables are ready to eat, five other creatures appear and want to share. After the seed of cooperation is planted, peace reigns and friendship grows.

Paul, Miranda. *One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia*.

Illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon. Millbrook Press, 2015. ISBN 9781467716086

Plastic bags are cheap and easy to use. But what happens when a bag breaks or is no longer needed? In Njau, Gambia, people simply dropped the bags and went on their way. One plastic bag became two. Then ten. Then a hundred.

Potter, Alicia. *Miss Hazeltine's Home for Shy and Fearful Cats*.

Illustrated by Birgitta Sif. Knopf Books, 2015. ISBN 9780385753340

Miss Hazeltine opens her home to cats who need help learning how to be brave, and their new skills are put to use when she finds herself in a bind.



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### 2017-2018 Chapter Book Nominees

Applegate, Katherine. *Crenshaw*.

Feiwel & Friends, 2015. ISBN 9781250043238

Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent and not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan—again. Crenshaw is a cat. He's large, he's outspoken, and he's imaginary. He has come back into Jackson's life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything?

Bertman, Jennifer Chambliss. *Book Scavenger*.

Henry Holt & Co., 2015. ISBN 9781627791151

[paperback: Square Fish, 2016. ISBN 9781250079800]

Just after twelve-year-old Emily and her family move to San Francisco, she teams up with new friend James to follow clues in an odd book they find, hoping to figure out its secrets before the men who attacked Emily's hero, publisher Garrison Griswold, solve the mystery or come after the friends.

Hitchcock, Shannon. *Ruby Lee and Me*.

Scholastic, 2016. ISBN 9780545782302

When a formerly segregated North Carolina town hires its first African-American teacher in 1969, two girls—one black, one white—confront the prejudice that challenges their friendship.

Jacobson, Jennifer Richard. *Paper Things*.

Candlewick, 2015. ISBN 9780763663230

[paperback: Candlewick, March 2017. ISBN 9780763694418]

When Ari's mother died, she had two final wishes: that Ari and her older brother, Gage, would stay together always, and that Ari would go to Carter, the middle school for gifted students. When nineteen-year-old Gage decides he can no longer live with their bossy guardian, Janna, Ari knows she has to go with him. But it's been two months, and Gage still hasn't found them an apartment. All of this jumping around makes it hard for Ari to keep up with her schoolwork, never mind her friendships, and getting into Carter starts to seem impossible.

Page 3

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## 2017-2018 Chapter Book Nominees (con't)

Lord, Cynthia. *A Handful of Stars*.

Scholastic, 2015. ISBN 9780545700276

[paperback: Scholastic, 2015. ISBN 9780545775786]

When her blind dog slips his collar, twelve-year old Lily meets Salma Santiago, a young Hispanic girl whose migrant family are in Maine for the blueberry-picking season, and, based partly on their mutual love of dogs, the two forge a friendship while painting bee boxes for Lily's grandfather. But as the Blueberry Queen pageant approaches Lily and Selma are confronted with some of the hard truths of prejudice and migrant life.

Messner, Kate. *All the Answers*.

Bloomsbury, 2015. ISBN 9781619633742

[paperback: Bloomsbury, 2016. ISBN 9781681190204]

Twelve-year-old Ava finds an old pencil in her family's junk drawer and discovers, during a math test, that it will answer factual questions. She and her best friend Sophie have a great time--and Ava grows in self-confidence--until the pencil reveals a truth about her family that Ava would rather not know.

Pearsall, Shelley. *The Seventh Most Important Thing*.

Knopf Books, 2015. ISBN 9780553497281

[paperback: Yearling, October 2016. ISBN 9780553497311]

Arthur threw a brick at the trash picker and the judge is ready to send Arthur to juvie for the foreseeable future. Amazingly, it's the Junk Man himself who offers an alternative: 120 hours of community service . . . working for him.

Sachar, Louis. *Fuzzy Mud*.

Delacorte Books, 2015. ISBN 9780385743785

[paperback: Yearling, March 2017. ISBN 9780385370226]

Two middle-grade kids, fifth grader Tamaya Dhillwassi and seventh grader Marshall Walsh, take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *Appleblossom the Possum*.

Dial Books, 2015. ISBN 9780803741331

[paperback: Puffin Books, 2016. ISBN 9780147512802]

A young possum strikes out on her own and winds up trapped in a human house before her brothers can rescue her.

Zahler, Diane. *Baker's Magic*.

Capstone, 2016. ISBN 9781623706425

[paperback: Capstone, February 2017. ISBN 9781623706432]

Bee steals a bun from a bakery, and to her surprise the baker offers her a place at his shop. As she learns to bake, Bee discovers that she has a magical power. When a new friend needs her help against an evil mage, Bee wonders what a small orphan girl with only a small bit of magic can do.



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### 2017-2018 Golden Sower Novel Nominees

Alexander, Kwame. *Booked*.

HMH Books, 2016. ISBN 9780544570986

Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.

Gratz, Alan. *Code of Honor*.

Scholastic, 2015. ISBN 9780545695190

When Iranian-American Kamran Smith learns that his big brother, Darius, has been labeled a terrorist, he sets out to piece together the codes and clues that will save his brother's life and his country from a deadly terrorist attack.

Hahn, Mary Downing. *Took: A Ghost Story*.

Clarion Books, 2015. ISBN 9780544551534

[paperback: HMH Books, September 2016. ISBN 9780544813106]

A witch called Old Auntie is lurking near Dan's family's new home. He doesn't believe in her at first, but is forced to accept that she is real and take action when his little sister, Erica, is 'took' to become Auntie's slave for the next fifty years.

Holt, K.A. *House Arrest*.

Chronicle Books, 2015. ISBN 9781452134772

[paperback: Chronicle Books, 2016. ISBN 9781452156484]

Young Timothy is sentenced to house arrest after impulsively stealing a wallet, and he is forced to keep a journal into which he pours all his thoughts, fears, and frustrations.

## 2017-2018 Golden Sower Novel Nominees (con't)

Key, Watt. *Terror at Bottle Creek*.

Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2016. ISBN 9780374374303

[paperback: Square Fish, January 2017. ISBN 9781250104212]

Thirteen-year-old Cort's father is a local expert on hunting and swamp lore in lower Alabama and he has been teaching his son everything he knows. But when a deadly Gulf Coast hurricane makes landfall, Cort must unexpectedly put all his skills--and bravery--to the test.

Klass, David. *Losers Take All*.

Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2015. ISBN 9780374301361

[paperback: Square Fish, December 2016. ISBN 9781250090591]

At a sports-crazy New Jersey high school where all kids must play on a team, a group of rebels start a soccer team designed to undermine the jock-culture of the school.

Nielsen, Jennifer A. *A Night Divided*.

Scholastic, 2015. ISBN 9780545682428

[paperback: Scholastic, 2015. ISBN 9780545915960]

When the Berlin Wall went up, Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz are trapped on the eastern side where they were living, while her father, and her other brother Dominic are in the West. Four years later, now twelve, Gerta sees her father on a viewing platform on the western side and realizes he wants her to risk her life trying to tunnel to freedom.

Priest, Cherie. *I Am Princess X*.

Arthur A. Levine Books, 2015. ISBN 9780545620857

[paperback: Scholastic, 2016. ISBN 9781338032352]

Years after writing stories about a superheroine character she created with a best friend who died in a tragic car accident, 16-year-old May is shocked to see stickers, patches and graffiti images of the superheroine appearing all over town.

Scheinmel, Alyssa. *Faceless*.

Scholastic, 2015. ISBN 9780545676014

Maisie is a normal sixteen-year-old until an electrical fire caused by a lightning strike leaves her with severe burns, her face partially destroyed. She is lucky enough to get a full face transplant, but she soon discovers how much her looks shaped her own identity and her relationship with those around her, including her boyfriend.

Schmidt, Gary D. *Orbiting Jupiter*.

Clarion Books, 2015. ISBN 9780544462229

[paperback: HMH Books, May 2017. ISBN 9780544938397]

Jack, 12, tells the gripping story of Joseph, 14, who joins his family as a foster child. Damaged in prison, Joseph wants nothing more than to find his baby daughter, Jupiter, whom he has never seen. When Joseph has begun to believe he'll have a future, he is confronted by demons from his past that force a tragic sacrifice.