



Nebraska Golden Sower Award Nominee Titles 2018-2019

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.

2018-2019 Picture Book Nominees

Agee, Jon. *Life on Mars*.

Illustrated by the author. Dial Books, 2017. ISBN 9780399538520

A young astronaut lands on the red planet and is determined to find a sign of life there. In his hand is a package tied with a red ribbon that holds a chocolate cupcake, a gift to any extraterrestrial he might run into. But as the boy walks about the dark, cold, and rocky landscape, he begins to wonder if anything could possibly live there.

Alexie, Sherman. *Thunder Boy Jr*.

Illustrated by Yuyi Morales. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016. ISBN 9780316013727

Thunder Boy Jr. is named after his dad, but he wants a name that's all his own. Just because people call his dad Big Thunder doesn't mean he wants to be Little Thunder. He wants a name that celebrates something cool he's done. Just when Thunder Boy Jr. thinks all hope is lost, he and his dad pick the perfect name.

Bledsoe, Josh. *Hammer and Nails*.

Illustrated by Jessica Warrick. Flashlight Press, 2016. ISBN 9781936261369

Darcy has plans. She and her friend are going to play dress up, do each other's hair, and polish their nails. Daddy has plans, too. He's going to read the paper, mow the lawn, and fix the fence. When Darcy's friend cancels and she's sure her day is ruined, Daddy suggests that they tackle their to-do lists together with a Darcy-Daddy Day.

Burach, Ross. *I Am Not a Chair!*

Illustrated by the author. HarperCollins, 2017. ISBN 9780062360168

A giraffe keeps being mistaken for a chair. Can he find the courage to stand up for himself?

2018-2019 Picture Book Nominees (con't)

DiPucchio, Kelly. *Dragon Was Terrible*.

Illustrated by Greg Pizzoli. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2016. ISBN 9780374300494

We all know dragons are terrible, but this one is *especially* terrible. He scribbles in books. He steals candy from baby unicorns. He even burps in church. The king, the knights, and the villagers are desperate to take down this beast once and for all. But sometimes it's up to the unlikeliest of heroes to tame a dragon this terrible.

Hall, Michael. *Frankencrayon*.

Illustrated by the author. Greenwillow Books, 2016. ISBN 9780062252111

The crayons are ready to tell the thrilling tale of *Frankencrayon*. The costumes are made, the roles are cast, the pages are all set—but then disaster strikes. Someone has scribbled on the page! If the crayons cannot stop the scribble monster, this picture book and the play "Frankencrayon" may have to be canceled.

Papp, Lisa. *Madeline Finn and the Library Dog*.

Illustrated by the author. Peachtree, 2016. ISBN 9781561459100

Madeline Finn does not like to read. Fortunately, Madeline meets Bonnie, a library dog. Reading aloud to Bonnie isn't so bad. When Madeline Finn gets stuck, Bonnie doesn't mind. As it turns out, it's fun to read when you're not afraid of making mistakes. Bonnie teaches Madeline Finn that it's Okay to go slow, to keep trying, and to get support from a friend.

Rockliff, Mara. *Anything But Ordinary Addie: The True Story of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic*.

Illustrated by Iacopo Bruno. Candlewick, 2016. ISBN 9780763668419

Addie longed for thrills and excitement! At a time when a young lady appearing onstage was considered most unusual, Addie became a dancer. And when she married the world-famous magician Herrmann the Great, she knew she had to be part of his show. She would do anything to draw the crowds, even agree to be shot out of a cannon. But when Herrmann the Great died, Addie couldn't disappoint her loyal fans — she would perform the show all by herself!

Uhlberg, Myron. *The Sound of All Things*.

Illustrated by Ted Papoulas. Peachtree, 2016. ISBN 9781561458332

A day in the life of a young hearing boy and his deaf parents. When the Brooklyn family takes an outing to Coney Island, the father longs to know about how everything sounds. His son does his best to interpret the noisy surroundings through sign language but finds it difficult. When the family drops in at the library on the way home, the boy realizes that in these many books he will be able to find a wealth of new words to help him explain the hearing world to his father.

Verde, Susan. *The Water Princess*.

Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2016. ISBN 9780399172588

Clean drinking water is scarce in Gie Gie's small African village. Every morning she rises before the sun to make the long journey to the well wearing a heavy pot on her head to collect the water. After the voyage home, after boiling the water to drink and clean with, Gie Gie thinks of the trip that tomorrow will bring. And she dreams of a day when her village will have cool, crystal-clear water of its own.



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2018-2019 Chapter Book Nominees

Bauer, Joan. *Soar*.

Viking Books for Young Readers, 2016. ISBN 9780451470348

[paperback: Puffin, 2017. ISBN 9780147513151]

Moving to Hillcrest, Ohio, when his adoptive father accepts a temporary job, twelve-year-old Jeremiah, a heart transplant recipient, has sixty days to find a baseball team to coach.

Brown, Peter. *The Wild Robot*.

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016. ISBN 9780316381994

Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there. Her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants.

Connor, Leslie. *All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook*.

Katherine Tegen Books, 2016. ISBN 9780062333469

[paperback: Katherine Tegen Books, December 2017. ISBN 9780062333476]

Eleven-year-old Perry was born and raised by his mom at the Blue River Co-ed Correctional Facility in Surprise, Nebraska. When a new district attorney discovers that Perry is living with his mother there, he is removed from the facility and forced into a foster home. Desperate to be reunited with his mom, Perry goes on a quest for answers about her past crime.

Creech, Sharon. *Moo: A Novel*.

HarperCollins, 2016. ISBN 9780062415240

[paperback: HarperCollins, 2017. ISBN 9780062415264]

When Reena, her little brother, Luke, and their parents first move to Maine, Reena doesn't know what to expect. Her parents "volunteer" Reena and Luke to work for an eccentric neighbor named Mrs. Falala, who has a pig named Paulie, a cat named China, a snake named Edna—and that stubborn cow, Zora.

Page 3

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2018-2019 Chapter Book Nominees (con't)

Grimes, Nikki. *Garvey's Choice*.

WordSong, 2016. ISBN 9781629797403

Garvey's father has always wanted him to be athletic, but Garvey isn't interested in sports. Feeling like a failure, he comforts himself with food. Garvey is kind, funny, smart, a loyal friend, and he is also overweight, teased by bullies, and lonely. When his only friend encourages him to join the school chorus, Garvey's life changes.

Korman, Gordon. *Slacker*.

Scholastic Press, 2016. ISBN 9780545823159

[paperback: Scholastic Press, 2017. ISBN 9780545823166]

When eighth-grader Cameron Boxer creates the Positive Action Group at school he intends it as a diversion to fool his parents, teachers, and sister into letting him continue to concentrate on his video-gaming. Before he knows it other kids are taking it seriously, and soon he finds himself president of the P.A.G. and involved in community service.

O'Connor, Barbara. *Wish*.

Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2016. ISBN 9780374302733

[paperback: Square Fish, 2017. ISBN 9781250144058]

Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese has been making the same secret wish every day since fourth grade. But when she is sent to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to live with family she barely knows, it seems unlikely that her wish will ever come true. That is until she meets Wishbone, a skinny stray dog who captures her heart, and Howard, a neighbor boy who proves surprising in lots of ways.

Plourde, Lynn. *Maxi's Secrets: (Or, What You Can Learn from a Dog)*.

Nancy Paulsen Books, 2016. ISBN 9780399545672

[paperback: Puffin Books, 2017. ISBN 9780399545689]

Fifth-grader Timminy, who's small for his age and new in town, isn't eager to start middle school--but he gets a great consolation prize in Maxi, a big, deaf, lovable dog.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Towers Falling*.

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016. ISBN 9780316262224

[paperback: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, April 2018. ISBN 9780316262217]

While learning about September 11th, fifth grader Dèja (who was born after the attacks) realizes how much the events still color her world.

Weeks, Sarah and Gita Varadarajan. *Save Me a Seat*.

Scholastic Press, 2016. ISBN 9780545846608

Joe has lived in the same town all his life, and was doing just fine until his best friends moved away and left him on his own. Ravi's family just moved to America from India, and he's finding it pretty hard to figure out where he fits in. Joe and Ravi don't think they have anything in common, but soon enough they have a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and a common mission: to take control of their lives over the course of a single crazy week.



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2018-2019 Golden Sower Novel Nominees

Cameron, Sharon. *The Forgetting*.

Scholastic Press, 2016. ISBN 9780545945219

[paperback: Scholastic Press, 2017. ISBN 9781338160710]

Canaan is a quiet city on an idyllic world, but every twelve years the town breaks out in a chaos of bloody violence, after which all the people undergo the Forgetting, in which they are left without any trace of memory of themselves, their families, or their lives. Somehow seventeen-year-old Nadia has never forgotten, and she is determined to find out what causes it and how to put a stop to the Forgetting forever.

Gratz, Alan. *Projekt 1065: A Novel of World War II*.

Scholastic Press, 2016. ISBN 9780545880169

In 1943 thirteen-year-old Michael O'Shaunessey, son of the Irish ambassador to Nazi Germany in Berlin, is a spy for the British Secret Service. He has joined the Hitler Youth and pretends that he agrees with their violence and book-burning, but when he is asked to find out more about "Projekt 1065," both his and his parents' lives get a lot more dangerous.

Griffin, Paul. *When Friendship Followed Me Home*.

Dial Books, 2016. ISBN 9780803738164

[paperback: Puffin Books, 2017. ISBN 9780147510068]

Ben Coffin, a former foster kid, keeps his head down at school to avoid bullies and spends his afternoons reading sci-fi books at the library. But that all changes when he finds an abandoned dog and befriends the librarian's daughter, Halley. For the first time Ben starts to feel like he belongs, but when everything changes he suddenly feels more alone than ever.

Henry, April. *The Girl I Used to Be*.

Henry Holt & Co., 2016. ISBN 9781627793322

[paperback: Square Fish, 2017. ISBN 9781250115232]

When Olivia's mother was killed, everyone suspected her father of murder but his whereabouts remained a mystery. Fourteen years later new evidence proves Olivia's father was actually murdered on the same day her mother died. That means there is a killer still at large. It is up to Olivia to uncover the killer, but can she do that before the killer tracks her down?

Page 5

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www.goldensower.org

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Hesse, Monica. *Girl in the Blue Coat*.

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016. ISBN 9780316260602

[paperback: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2017. ISBN 9780316260633]

In 1943 Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, teenage Hanneke, a 'finder' of black market goods, is tasked with finding a Jewish girl a customer had been hiding, who has seemingly vanished into thin air. Hanneke is pulled into a web of resistance activities and secrets as she attempts to solve the mystery and save the missing girl.

McGee, Ron. *Ryan Quinn and the Rebel's Escape*.

HarperCollins, 2016. ISBN 9780062421647

Ryan Quinn is the son of a United Nations worker. But when his father disappears and his mother is abducted, Ryan discovers his parents actually work with an underground organization that has performed dangerous rescue missions since World War II, and they've been training Ryan to follow in their footsteps. Now he must trust his training and perform a daring rescue mission in a thrilling race for freedom.

Reynolds, Jason. *Ghost*.

Atheneum, 2016. ISBN 9781481450157

[paperback: Atheneum, 2017. ISBN 9781481450164]

Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down. He is often the one causing problems, and running away from them, until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who blew his own shot at success by using drugs, and who is determined to keep other kids from blowing their shots at life.

Shusterman, Neal. *Scythe*.

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2016. ISBN 9781442472426

[paperback: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, November 2017. ISBN 9781442472433]

In a world where disease has been eliminated, the only way to die is to be randomly killed ('gleaned') by professional reapers ('scythes'). Two teens must compete with each other to become a scythe--a position neither of them wants. The one who becomes a scythe must kill the one who doesn't.

Stone, Sonja. *Desert Dark*.

Holiday House, 2016. ISBN 9780823435623

[paperback: Holiday House, 2017. ISBN 9780823437665]

At Desert Mountain Academy, sixteen-year-old Nadia Riley begins a punishing routine to become an undercover CIA agent. When a double-agent is reported on campus, she is the top suspect.

Wolk, Lauren. *Wolf Hollow*.

Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2016. ISBN 9781101994825

Twelve-year-old Annabelle must learn to stand up for what's right in the face of a manipulative and violent new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless World War I veteran.