2022 Bluestem Award

Elizabeth Elsbree, Bluestem Chair
Heidi Knuth, Readers Co-Chair
Kimberly Hazel-Rudden, Publicity Co-Chair
To be eligible for nominations a book must meet the following criteria:

★ Nominator must have read the book
★ Book must be in print at time of nomination
★ Book must be of interest and appeal to students in grades 3-5
★ Book must have literary merit and lasting appeal
★ Book may be fiction or nonfiction
★ Book may not be a textbook, anthology, formula fiction, toy, puzzle or pop-up
★ No winning title or series may appear more than once
★ No book may be included on the list twice in a 3 year period
★ Books may have been included on previous Monarch or Caudill lists
HOW TO NOMINATE A BOOK

Information Needed

★ Title
★ Author
★ Publisher
★ Copyright
★ Genre

In the spring of 2008, the ISLMA board approved a new award that would fit between the Monarch and Rebecca Caudill lists. An outline of the proposed new award was presented at their October meeting.

The award is designed for students in grades 3-8 quite ready for the sophistication of some of the state's best literature. The award may include both timeless classics and newer titles.

Please read the “Frequently Asked Questions” section for more details.

Registration

- Register here for the 2022 Program
- Retrieve Your Readers' Choice Number

General Information

- Bluestem FAQ
- Steering Committee
- Volunteer Form
- Nomination form
- Calendar
- Bluestem Award Wiki
- Rules of the Books Wiki

AISLE
Association of Illinois School Library Educators
2022 Bluestem Award Nominees
PLANET OMAR: ACCIDENTAL TROUBLE MAGNET by: Zanib Mian

BY: Zanib Milan
GENRE: Realistic Fiction
RECOMMENDED AGE: 3rd-5th
FORMAT: Chapter Book

Readalikes
★ Alvin Ho by Lenore Look
★ Power Forward by Hena Khan (from the 2021 list)
★ Jake the fake keeps it real by Craig Robinson
Because of the Rabbit

by: Cynthia Lord

Nominee

Realistic Fiction

By: Cynthia Lord
Genre: Realistic Fiction
Recommended Age: 3rd–5th
Format: Chapter Book

Readalikes

★ Saucy by Cynthia Kadohata
★ Superstar by Mandy Davis
★ Prairie Evers by Ellen Airgood
By: Tommy Greenwald

Genre: Science Fiction/Fantasy

Recommended Age: 9-12

Readalikes

★ A Small Zombie Problem by K.G. Campbell (Keith Gordon)
★ The Terrible Two by Mac Barnett
★ The Last Kids on Earth by Max Brallier
The Unicorn Rescue Society

by: Adam Gidwitz

By: Adam Gidwitz
Recommended Age: Grades 3-5
Genre: Fantasy
Format: Chapter Book

Readalikes
★★ The Extincts by Veronica Cossanteli
★★ Pip Bartlett’s Guide to Magical Creatures by Jackson Pearce and Maggie Stiefvater
★★ The Wishing Spell by Chris Colfer
By: Johnny Marciano & Emily Chenoweth

Recommended Age: Grades 3-5

Genre: Science Fiction

Format: Chapter Book

Readalikes
★ Mega Bat by Anna Humphrey
★ Wedgie & Gizmo by Suzanne Selfors
By: Gennifer Choldenko

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Recommended Age: 9-12

Readalikes

★ The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street by Karina Yan Glaser (2022 List)
★ A Boy Called BAT by Elana K. Arnold
★ Old School by Jeff Kinney
By: Karina Yan Glaser
Genre: Realistic Fiction
Recommended Age: Grades 3-5
Format: Chapter Book

Readalikes:
★ One-Third Nerd by Gennifer Choldenko (on the 2022 list too!)
★ The Lotterys Plus One by Emma Donoghue
★ The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher by Dana Allison Levy
**OTHER WORDS FOR HOME**

by: Jasmine Warga

**By:** Jasmine Warga  
**Genre:** Realistic Fiction  
**Recommended Age:** Grades 3-5  
**Format:** Chapter Book

**Readalikes:**

- ★ *Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate
- ★ *A Thousand Questions* by Saadia Faruqi
- ★ *Sisters of the War* by Rania Abouzeid
Pie in the Sky

By: Remy Lai

Genre: Realistic Fiction, Graphic Novel Hybrid

Recommended Age: 9–12

Readalikes

★ Front Desk by Kelly Yang
★ Everything Sad Is Untrue by Daniel Nayeri
★ New Kid by Jerry Craft
By: Jamie Sumner
Format: Chapter Book
Genre: Realistic Fiction
Recommended Age: Grade 5

Readalikes:
★ Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling (on 2021 list)
★ Macy McMillian and the Rainbow Goddess by Shari Green (on 2021 list)
★ The Meaning of Maggie by Megan Jean Sovern
By: Sharon M. Draper
Format: Chapter Book
Genre: Realistic Fiction
Recommended Age: Grade 5

Readalikes:
★ A Good Kind Of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramee
★ The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond by Brenda Woods
★ Love Like Sky by Leslie Youngblood
By: Linda Sue Park

Genre: Historical Fiction

Recommended Age: 9-12

Readalikes

★ Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich
★ Letters From Cuba by Ruth Behar
★ Weedflower by Cynthia Kadohata
BY: Monica Clark-Robinson
GENRE: Historical Fiction
FORMAT: Picture Book
RECOMMENDED AGE: 3rd-4th Grade

Readalikes:
- The Youngest Marcher by Cynthia Levinson
- Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop by Alice Faye Duncan
- Sit-in: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down by Andrea Davis Pinkney
The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read

By: Rita Lorraine Hubbard, Oge Mora
Genre: Historical Fiction
Format: Picture Book
Recommended Age: 3rd-4th Grade

Readalikes:
★ Poet: the remarkable story of George Moses Horton by Don Tate
★ Bread for Words by Shana Keller
★ Jump at the Sun: The True Life Tale of Unstoppable Storycatcher by Zora Neale Hurston by Alicia Williams
**The Unstoppable Garrett Morgan: Inventor, Entrepreneur, Hero**

*By: Joan DiCicco*

*Illustrator: Ebony Glenn*

| By: Joan DiCicco | Genre: Biography, Narrative Nonfiction | Recommended Age: 9–12 |

**Readalikes**

- **Whoosh!** by Chris Barton
- **Super Soaker Inventor Lonnie Johnson** by Heather E. Schwartz
- **Becoming Ben Franklin** by Russell Freedman
By: Jess French
Genre: Nonfiction
Recommended Age: 3rd-5th

Readalikes
- What a Waste! Where Does Garbage Go? by Claire Earner
- Trash revolution: breaking the waste cycle by Erica Fyvie
- This Book Stinks! gross garbage, rotten rubbish, and the science of trash by Sarah Wassner Flynn
**Handimals: Animals in Art & Nature**

*By: Silvia Lopez & Guido Daniele*

*Genre: Nonfiction*

*Recommended Age: 3rd-5th*

**Readalikes**

★ *Orangutans Are Ticklish: Fun Facts from an Animal Photographer* by Steve Grubman

★ *Actual Size* by Steve Jenkins

★ *Art with Hands and Feet* by Susie Brooks
DOES IT FART?: A KID'S GUIDE TO THE GAS ANIMALS PASS

By: Nick Caruso & Dani Rabaiotti

Illustrator: Alex G. Griffiths

Genre: Nonfiction

Recommended Age: 9-12

Readalikes

★ ROTTEN! by Anita Sanchez
★ GET THE SCOOP ON ANIMAL POOP! by Dawin Cusick
★ GROSS AS A SNOT OTTER by Jess Keating
By: Karen Levine
Genre: Biography, History, Narrative Nonfiction
Format: Chapter Book
Recommended Age: 4th–5th grade

Readalikes
★ The Boy in the Wooden Box by Leon Leyson
★ Anne Frank: Her Life in Words and Pictures by Menno Metselaar
By: James Ponti
Genre: Mystery
Format: Chapter Book
Recommended Age: 3rd-5th

Readalikes
★ The Van Gogh Deception by Deron Hicks
★ Midnight in the Piazza by Tiffany Parks
★ Pieces and Players by Blue Balliett
New this year... YouTube Live Author Chats!
New this year... YouTube Live Author Chats!
Register on the website by January 15th, 2022 and pay $10 for access to resources and voting.
- Provide access to a minimum of 12 titles from the Master List of 20 Titles.
- Each child should have read or heard at least four of the titles in order to be allowed to vote.
- Plan some reading motivation activities during the year to acquaint students with the titles on the Bluestem Master List.
- Provide an opportunity for eligible students to cast their vote at the appropriate time.
- Tally the total votes cast for each title in the school and report the results by the deadline date, March 15th.
BLUESTEM PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Schools
★ Booktalks/Slide Show
★ Borrow copies of the books from the public library/interlibrary loan
★ Read nonfiction picture books
★ Encourage students to read chapter books themselves
★ Book Clubs
★ Author Visits/YouTube Live Chats
★ Battle of the Books
★ Displays
★ Run voting

Public Libraries
★ Displays
★ Multiple copies of the books
★ Multiple copies of the ebooks
★ Audiobooks/Playaways
★ Continuation of series
★ Book Clubs
★ Book Talks
★ Themed Programs
★ Author Visits/YouTube Live Chats
★ Voting (Homeschool/Schools that don’t vote)
★ Research cryptids
★ Make a wanted poster for your favorite cryptid
★ Design your own cryptid & create the lore
★ Make a pipe cleaner Jersey Devil bookmark
★ Find the Pine Barrens on a map
★ Research the Pine Barrens and its ecosystem
★ Paint a picture of the Barrens and include at least 3 things you learned. Include your own depiction of the Jersey Devil.
★ Access the Educator’s Guide from Penguin [here](#)
★ Read Ada’s Violin and watch the video
★ The Cateura Orchestra of Recycled Instruments
★ From Trash to Triumph
★ Make a recycled craft that is useful
★ Research the Great Pacific Garbage Patch
★ Explore careers in recycling/environmentalism
★ Profile young people making a difference
★ Did you know that trash collector is one of the most dangerous jobs? What other facts about trash and recycling can you learn?
★ Add bold signage and labeling.
★ Use QR codes for scannable links to the lists.
★ Include descriptions of the lists, so parents and students know which is which.
★ Promote e-book copies!
Google Slide Presentation of all 20 Nominees
Annotated List of all nominees
Book Cover images
Voting Form
Bookmarks
Battle of the Books Questions for each nominee
First Line of each nominee

Curriculum Guides for Each Nominee Including:
Readalikes
STEAM tie-ins
Discussion Questions
Lesson Plan Ideas
Nonfiction/Graphic Novel/Fiction Pairings
Book Trailer Links
The 2021 Resources are now available on the Bluestem Website

AISLE Bluestem Award Page

2021 Bluestem Resources Google Drive
Three Committees to Join

★ Nominations Committee
★ Reading Committee
★ Resources
Tell us what you want!

Survey Link
Thank you for attending this professional development webinar.

School librarians are stronger together. AISLE is 700 members and growing. Not a member? Join or renew today.

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