

2022



Bluestem Award

ELIZABETH ELSBREE, **BLUESTEM CHAIR**

HEIDI KNUTH, **READERS CO-CHAIR**

KIMBERLY HAZEL-RUDDEN, **PUBLICITY CO-CHAIR**



AISLE

Association of Illinois School
Library Educators

Presented By

ELIZABETH ELSBREE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARIAN
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COMMITTEE CHAIR
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KIMBERLY HAZEL-RUDDEN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARIAN
CLOVERDALE ELEMENTARY, CAROL STREAM
PUBLICITY CO-CHAIR

HEIDI KNUTH
PUBLIC LIBRARIAN
BLOOMINGDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY
READERS' CO-CHAIR



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NOMINATION CRITERIA

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



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HOW TO NOMINATE A BOOK

INFORMATION NEEDED

- ★ TITLE
- ★ AUTHOR
- ★ PUBLISHER
- ★ COPYRIGHT
- ★ GENRE



In the spring of 2008, the ISLMA board approved that would fit between the Monarch and Rebecca Caudill lists. The outline of the proposed new award was presented and was conducted, and 92% of respondents favored it at their October meeting.

The award is designed for students in grades 3-5. Because it is quite ready for the sophistication of some of the state prairie grass, the award may include both timeless classics and Rebecca Caudill lists.

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](#)
- [Battle of the Books Wiki](#)



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2022



Bluestem Award

Nominees



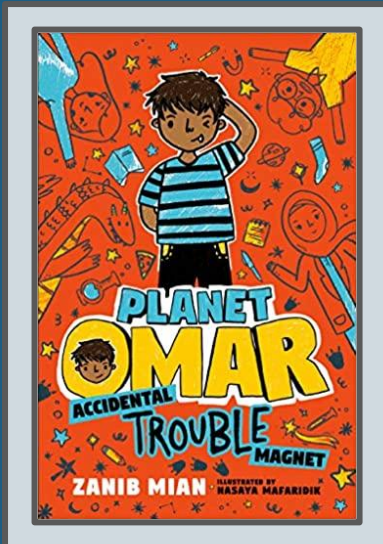
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PLANET OMAR: ACCIDENTAL TROUBLE MAGNET

by: Zanib Mian

Nominee



Realistic Fiction

BY: ZANIB MILAN

GENRE: REALISTIC FICTION

RECOMMENDED AGE: 3RD-5TH

FORMAT: CHAPTER BOOK

READALIKES

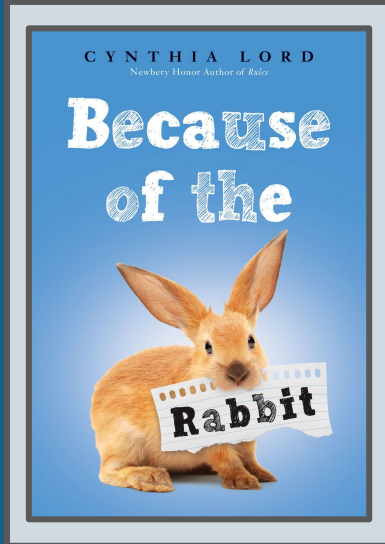
- ★ *ALVIN HO* BY LENORE LOOK
- ★ *POWER FORWARD* BY HENA KHAN (FROM THE 2021 LIST)
- ★ *JAKE THE FAKE KEEPS IT REAL* BY CRAIG ROBINSON



BECAUSE OF THE RABBIT

by: Cynthia Lord

Nominee



Realistic Fiction

BY: CYNTHIA LORD

GENRE: REALISTIC FICTION

RECOMMENDED AGE: 3RD-5TH

FORMAT: CHAPTER BOOK

READALIKES

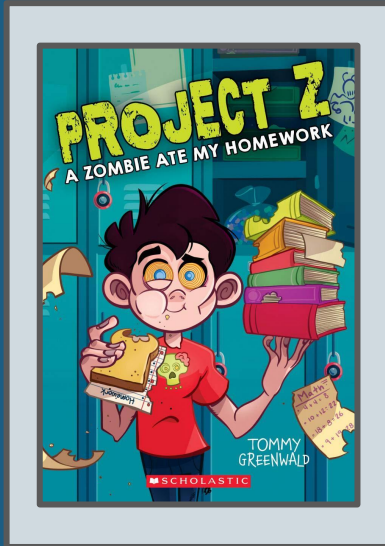
- ★ SAUCY BY CYNTHIA KADOHATA
- ★ SUPERSTAR BY MANDY DAVIS
- ★ PRAIRIE EVERS BY ELLEN AIRGOOD



PROJECT Z: A ZOMBIE ATE MY HOMEWORK

by: Tommy Greenwald

Nominee



Science Fiction

BY: TOMMY GREENWALD

GENRE: SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY

RECOMMENDED AGE: 9-12

READALIKES

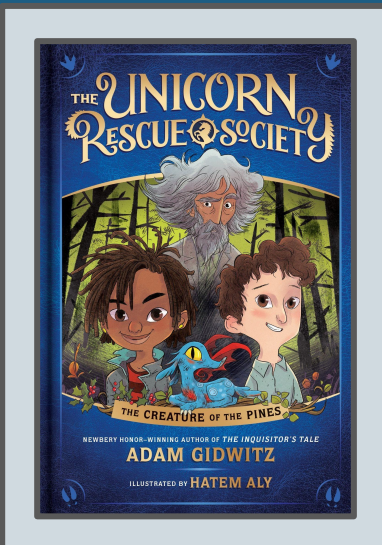
- ★ **A SMALL ZOMBIE PROBLEM** BY K.G. CAMPBELL (KEITH GORDON)
- ★ **THE TERRIBLE TWO** BY MAC BARNETT
- ★ **THE LAST KIDS ON EARTH** BY MAX BRALLIER



THE UNICORN RESCUE SOCIETY

by: Adam Gidwitz

Nominee



Fantasy

BY: ADAM GIDWITZ

RECOMMENDED AGE: GRADES 3-5

GENRE: FANTASY

FORMAT: CHAPTER BOOK

READALIKES

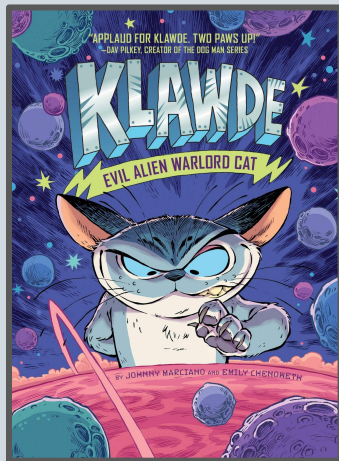
- ★ *THE EXTINCTS* BY VERONICA COSSANTELI
- ★ *PIP BARTLETT'S GUIDE TO MAGICAL CREATURES*
BY JACKSON PEARCE AND MAGGIE STIEFVATER
- ★ *THE WISHING SPELL* BY CHRIS COLFER



KLAWDE: EVIL ALIEN WARLORD CAT

by: Johnny Marciano & Emily Chenoweth
Illustrator: Rob Mommaerts

Nominee



Science Fiction

BY: JOHNNY MARCIANO & EMILY CHENOWETH

RECOMMENDED AGE: GRADES 3-5

GENRE: SCIENCE FICTION

FORMAT: CHAPTER BOOK

READALIKES

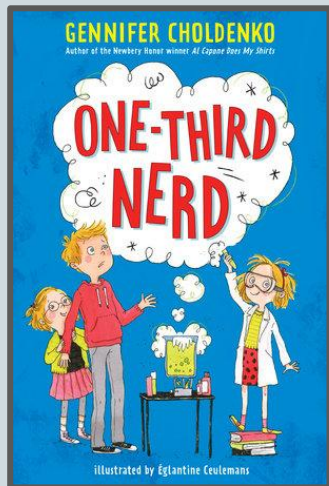
- ★ **MEGA BAT** BY ANNA HUMPHREY
- ★ **WEDGIE & GIZMO** BY SUZANNE SELFORS



one-THIRD NERD

by: Gennifer Choldenko

Nominee



Realistic Fiction

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



THE VANDERBEEKERS OF 141ST STREET

by: Karina Yan Glaser

Nominee



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

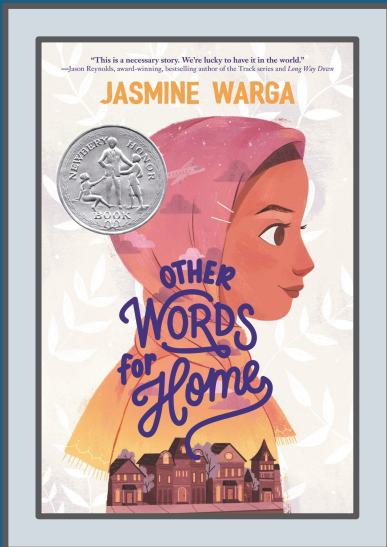
Realistic Fiction



OTHER WORDS FOR HOME

by: Jasmine Warga

Nominee



Realistic Fiction

BY: JASMINE WARGA

GENRE: REALISTIC FICTION

RECOMMENDED AGE: GRADES 3-5

FORMAT: CHAPTER BOOK

READALIKES:

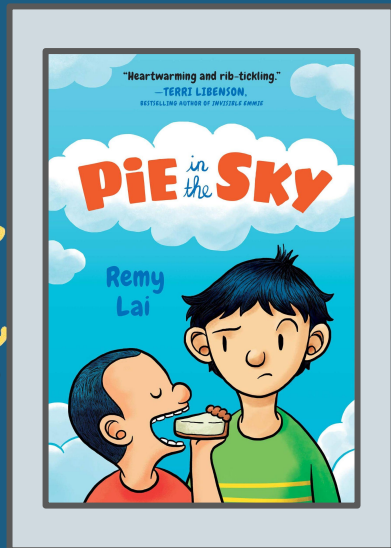
- ★ *HOME OF THE BRAVE* BY KATHERINE APPLEGATE
- ★ *A THOUSAND QUESTIONS* BY SAADIA FARUQI
- ★ *SISTERS OF THE WAR* BY RANIA ABOUZEID



PIE IN THE SKY

by: Remy Lai

Nominee



Realistic Fiction

BY: REMY LAI

GENRE: REALISTIC FICTION, GRAPHIC NOVEL HYBRID

RECOMMENDED AGE: 9-12

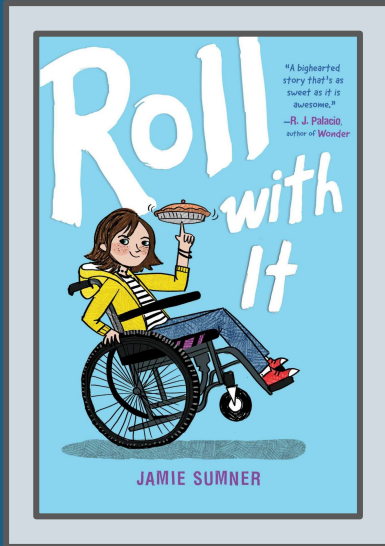
READALIKES

- ★ *FRONT DESK* BY KELLY YANG
- ★ *EVERYTHING SAD IS UNTRUE* BY DANIEL NAYERI
- ★ *NEW KID* BY JERRY CRAFT

ROLL WITH IT

by: Jamie Sumner

Nominee



Realistic Fiction

BY: JAMIE SUMNER

FORMAT: CHAPTER BOOK

GENRE: REALISTIC FICTION

RECOMMENDED AGE: GRADE 5

READALIKES:

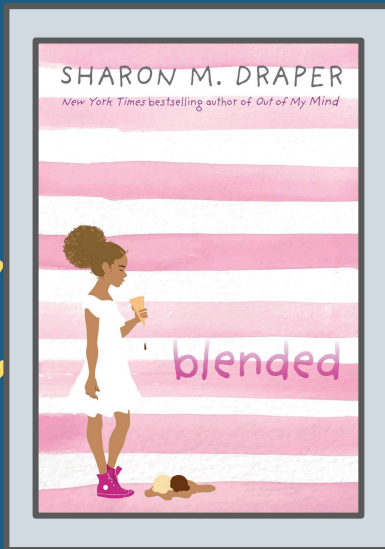
- ★ *INSIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF A CACTUS* BY DUSTI BOWLING (ON 2021 LIST)
- ★ *MACY McMILLIAN AND THE RAINBOW GODDESS* BY SHARI GREEN (ON 2021 LIST)
- ★ *THE MEANING OF MAGGIE* BY MEGAN JEAN SOVERN



Blended

by: Sharon M. Draper

Nominee



Realistic Fiction

By: SHARON M. DRAPER

Format: CHAPTER BOOK

Genre: REALISTIC FICTION

Recommended Age: GRADE 5

READALIKES:

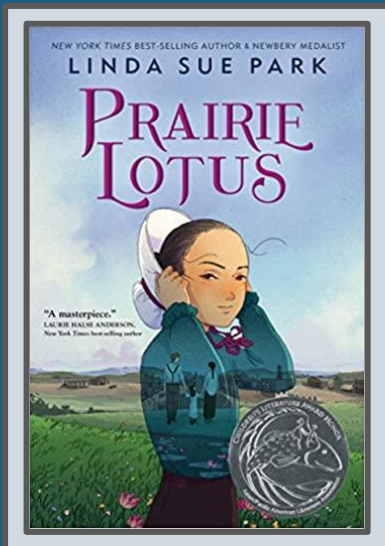
- ★ *A GOOD KIND OF TROUBLE* BY LISA MOORE RAMEE
- ★ *THE BLOSSOMING UNIVERSE OF VIOLET DIAMOND*
BY BRENDA WOODS
- ★ *LOVE LIKE SKY* BY LESLIE YOUNGBLOOD



PRAIRIE LOTUS

by: Linda Sue Park

Nominee



Historical Fiction

By: LINDA SUE PARK

Genre: HISTORICAL FICTION

Recommended Age: 9-12

READALIKES

- ★ **BIRCHBARK HOUSE** BY LOUISE DOWN ERDRICH
- ★ **LETTERS FROM CUBA** BY RUTH BEHAR
- ★ **WEEDFLOWER** BY CYNTHIA KADOHATA

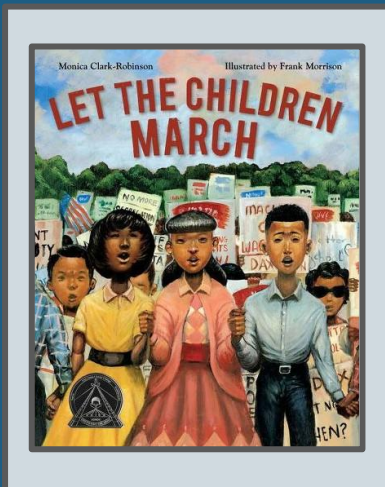


LET THE CHILDREN MARCH

by: *Monica Clark-Robinson*

Illustrator: Frank Morrison

Nominee



Historical Fiction

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*
Illustrator: Oge Mora

Nominee



Picture Book Biography

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 ZORA NEALE HURSTON** BY ALICIA WILLIAMS

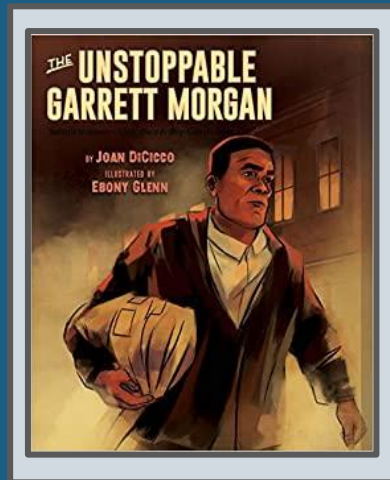


THE UNSTOPPABLE GARRETT MORGAN: INVENTOR, ENTREPRENEUR, HERO

by: Joan DiCicco

Illustrator: Ebony Glenn

Nominee



Picture Book Biography

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



WHAT A WASTE: TRASH, RECYCLING, AND PROTECTING OUR PLANET

by: Jess French

Nominee



Nonfiction

BY: JESS FRENCH

GENRE: NONFICTION

RECOMMENDED AGE: 3RD-5TH

READALIKES

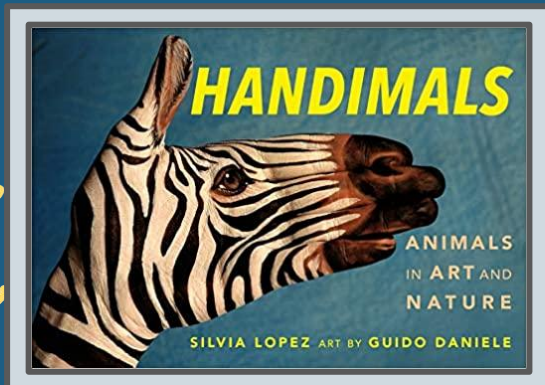
- ★ *WHAT A WASTE! WHERE DOES GARBAGE GO?* BY CLAIRE EARNER
- ★ *TRASH REVOLUTION: BREAKING THE WASTE CYCLE* BY ERICA FYVIE
- ★ *THIS BOOK STINKS! GROSS GARBAGE, ROTTEN RUBBISH, AND THE SCIENCE OF TRASH* BY SARAH WASSNER FLYNN

HANDIMALS: ANIMALS IN ART & NATURE

by: Silvia Lopez

Art by: Guido Daniele

Nominee



Non-Fiction

BY: SILVIA LOPEZ & GUIDO DANIELE

GENRE: NONFICTION

RECOMMENDED AGE: 3RD-5TH

READALIKES

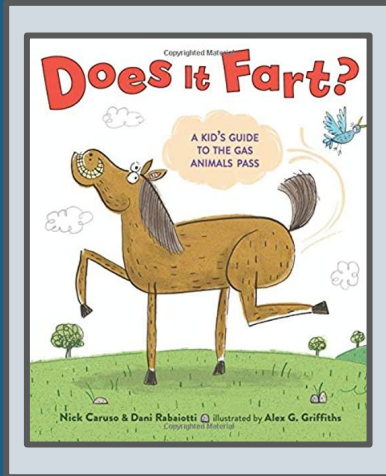
- ★ **ORANGUTANS ARE TICKLISH : FUN FACTS FROM AN ANIMAL PHOTOGRAPHER**
BY STEVE GRUBMAN
- ★ **ACTUAL SIZE** BY STEVE JENKINS
- ★ **ART WITH HANDS AND FEET** BY SUSIE BROOKS



DOES IT FART?: A KID'S GUIDE TO THE GAS ANIMALS PASS

by: Nick Caruso & Dani Rabiotti
Illustrator: Alex G. Griffiths

Nominee



Non-Fiction

By: NICK CARUSO, DANI RABAIOTTI, & ALEX G. GRIFFITHS

Genre: NONFICTION

Recommended Age: 9-12

READALIKES

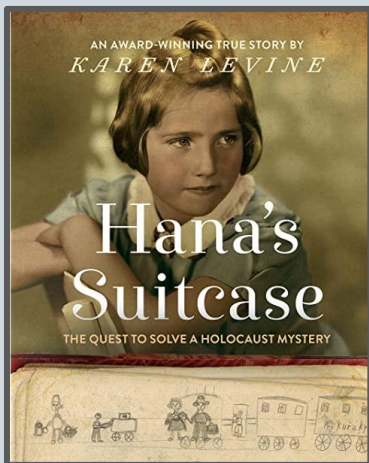
- ★ **ROTTEN!** BY ANITA SANCHEZ
- ★ **GET THE SCOOP ON ANIMAL POOP!** BY DAWIN CUSICK
- ★ **GROSS AS A SNOT OTTER** BY JESS KEATING



HANA'S SUITCASE

by: Karen Levine

Nominee



Biography

BY: KAREN LEVINE

GENRE: BIOGRAPHY, HISTORY, NARRATIVE
NONFICTION

FORMAT: CHAPTER BOOK

RECOMMENDED AGE: 4TH-5TH GRADE

READALIKES

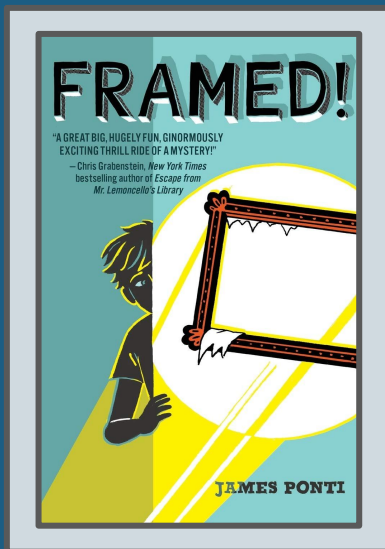
- ★ *THE BOY IN THE WOODEN BOX* BY LEON LEYSON
- ★ *ANNE FRANK: HER LIFE IN WORDS AND PICTURES*
BY MENNO METSELAAR



FRAMED!

by: James Ponti

Nominee



Mystery

BY: JAMES PONTI

GENRE: MYSTERY

FORMAT: CHAPTER BOOK

RECOMMENDED AGE: 3RD-5TH

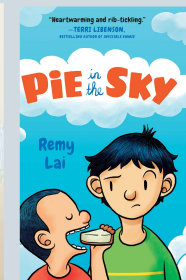
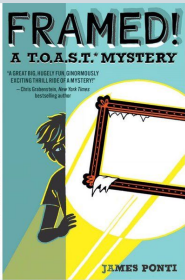
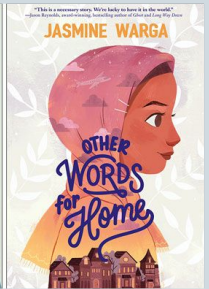
READALIKES

- ★ *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!



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New this year...

You Tube Live Author Chats!



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BLUESTEM VOTING PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- 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.



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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

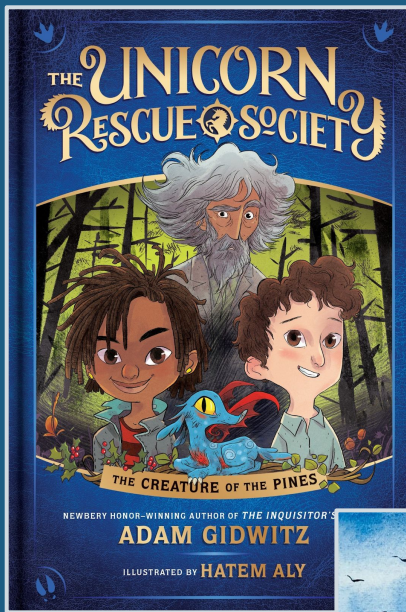
- ★ Displays
- ★ Multiple copies of the books
- ★ Multiple copies of the ebooks
- ★ Audiobooks/Playaways
- ★ Continuation of series
- ★ Book Clubs
- ★ Book Talks
- ★ Themed Programs
- ★ Author Visits/YouTube Live Chats
- ★ Voting (Homeschool/Schools that don't vote)



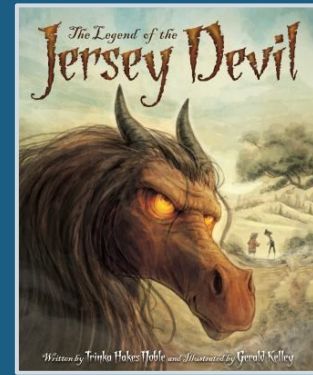
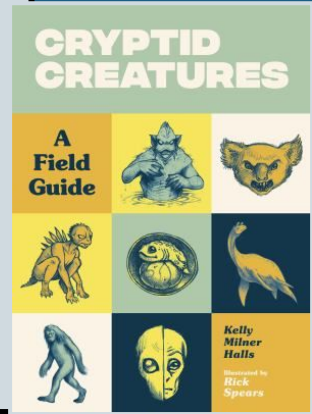
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- ★ Research cryptids
- ★ Make a wanted poster for your favorite cryptid
- ★ Design your own cryptid & create the lore
- ★ Make a pipe cleaner Jersey Devil bookmark
- ★ Find the Pine Barrens on a map
- ★ Research the Pine Barrens and its ecosystem
- ★ 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](#)



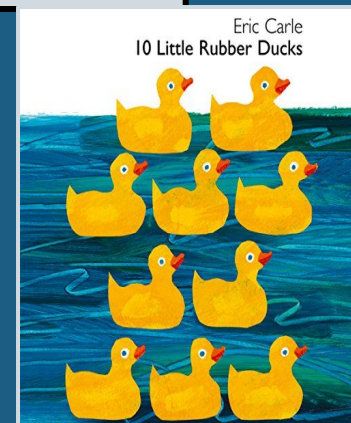
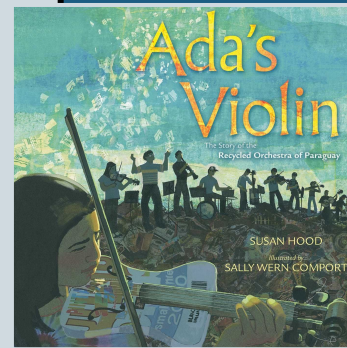
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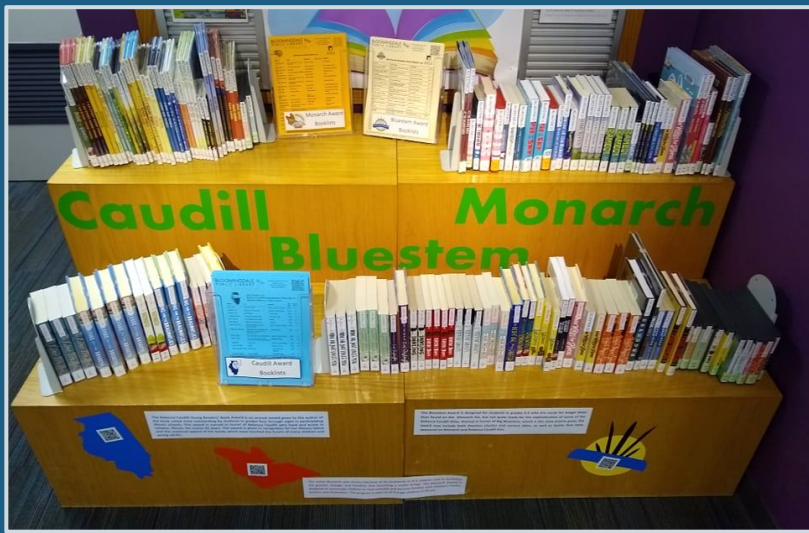
- ★ Read Ada's Violin and watch the video
- ★ [The Cateura Orchestra of Recycled Instruments](#)
- ★ [From Trash to Triumph](#)
- ★ Make a recycled craft that is useful
- ★ Research the Great Pacific Garbage Patch
- ★ Explore careers in recycling/environmentalism
- ★ Profile young people making a difference
- ★ Did you know that trash collector is one of the most dangerous jobs? What other facts about trash and recycling can you learn?



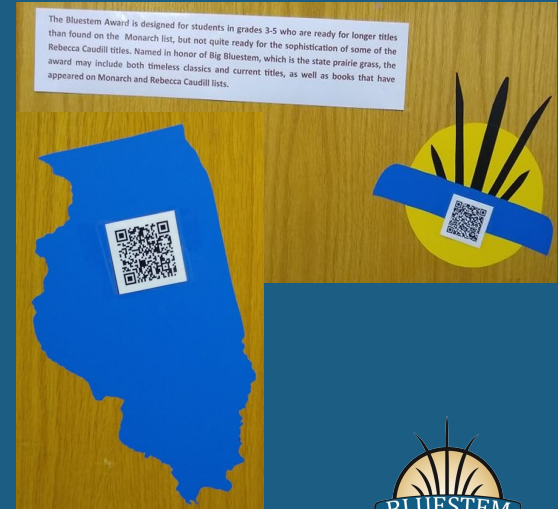
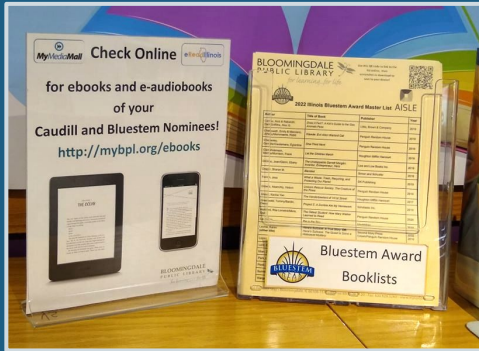
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- ★ Add bold signage and labeling.
- ★ Use QR codes for scannable links to the lists.
- ★ Include descriptions of the lists, so parents and students know which is which.
- ★ Promote e-book copies!



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WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE RESOURCES WHEN YOU REGISTER?

- ★ 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



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EXAMPLE Resources

**The 2021 Resources are now available on the
Bluestem Website**

[AISLE Bluestem Award Page](#)

[2021 Bluestem Resources Google Drive](#)



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HOW TO JOIN A COMMITTEE

Three Committees to Join

- ★ Nominations Committee
- ★ Reading Committee
- ★ Resources



In the spring of 2008, the ISLMA board approved that would fit between the Monarch and Rebecca Caudill lists. The outline of the proposed new award was presented and was approved. A survey was conducted, and 92% of respondents favored the new award at their October meeting.

The award is designed for students in grades 3-5. It is quite ready for the sophistication of some of the state prairie grass, the award may include both timeless classics and Rebecca Caudill lists.

Please read the "Frequently Asked Questions" section for more details.

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- [Calendar](#)
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- [Battle of the Books Wiki](#)



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Tell us what you want!

[SURVEY LINK](#)



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bluestem@aisled.org



[@bluestemaward](https://twitter.com/bluestemaward)



#bluestemaward #blureads



www.aisled.org



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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.**

Visit www.aisled.org for more information.

AISLE, P.O. Box 110, Seneca, IL 61360



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