

## **2023 Sasquatch Nominees – Booktalks**

### **Ana on the Edge by AJ Sass**

Ana Jin (who uses pronouns she/her) is the reigning US juvenile figure skating champion! Ana, who is half Chinese and Jewish, is 12 years old living in San Francisco with her single mother. With a mother working two jobs, Ana is thrilled to save her money by assisting with basic skating classes. It's in these classes that she meets Hayden, a transgender boy who wants to learn to play ice hockey. Hayden and Ana become fast friends, and it complicates Ana's existing friendship with her best friend, Tamar.

Due to a nametag mishap, Hayden mistakes Ana for a boy named Alex. Ana doesn't correct him, liking the initial feeling of being called a boy, and asks to be called "A". This begins Ana's introspective journey into her gender identity. Ana's new princess-themed skating program definitely isn't a good fit and Ana's heart isn't in it.

Even worse, Ana's friendships with Tamar and Hayden are unraveling because of Ana's deception. Thankfully, Ana gathers the courage to come out as nonbinary to her mother and friends. Next, she repairs the friendships she neglected. Now, can Ana learn where she fits in the very binary gendered world of competitive ice skating?

Perfect for fans of [Melissa](#) and [Ivy Averdeen's Letter to the World](#). This heartfelt debut is based on the author's lived experience.

### **Clean Getaway by Nic Stone**

Scoob, who's real name is William, is an 11 year old black boy who adores his G'ma. G'ma, Scoob's white grandma, takes him on an impromptu road trip. She has planned for the 2 of them to follow the same path she took in the 1960's with Scoob's grandpa. G'ma is being very secretive and won't communicate with Scoob's dad at all during the trip. Scoob learns the world and his G'ma have changed a lot since the trip she took so many years ago. Scoob also learns about his G'ma's most prized possession, the green book. Clean Getaway challenges stereotypes, includes information about the Civil Rights Movement, and entertains with humor throughout some serious situations.

### **Cleo Porter and the Body Electric by Jake Burt**

Everyone lives in isolation in this future post pandemic that nearly destroyed everyone in the world. 12-year-old Cleo born post-pandemic has always been in an apartment, sealed off from the world. All interactions are through virtual and simulated environments. No visitors, no vacations, or trips outside. All deliveries are made by drones through pneumatic tubes. One day a package arrives with medicine meant for a seriously ill patient. When Cleo, who is in the program for surgeons-in-training has never left the apartment. No one ever goes outside, which is how everyone stays safe. But Cleo must attempt to save the patient in need of the medicine delivered to Cleo's apartment. She begins a thrilling adventure outside of the safety of her sealed apartment and discovers a whole new world she never knew existed.

This cyberthriller set in a post-pandemic world was written one year before our one world was thrown into social isolation with the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

### **Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero by Kelly J. Baptist**

Isaiah Dunn doesn't feel like a hero. Life has been hard since his dad passed away, and his mom has been acting strangely ever since. The kids at school are ok, except for one really annoying girl who knows how to push his buttons. But when things at home get even worse Isaiah has to protect his little sister and it feels almost too much. That's when the stories his dad wrote about Isaiah as a superhero seem like the only thing to get him through some tough days, until a tight and caring community of friends, family and the local library show Isaiah that strength comes in numbers, and connection.

### **Lupe Wong Won't Dance by Donna Barba Higuera**

"My gym shorts burrow into my butt crack like a frightened groundhog." So goes the first line of this hilarious novel, *Lupe Wong Won't Dance*. She is a 7th grade baseball player living in Issaquah and wants to be the first female Chinese-Mexican in the major leagues. Her uncle bribes her with a chance to meet her idol, Fu Li Hernandez, if she gets straight As. It's a piece of cake for this determined student, until she learns her PE grade depends on her mastering Square Dancing– something she thinks should be moved very far away, like the 1800s. Lupe is a master at confronting unjust policies and tackling causes, so she starts to persuade the PE teacher to update the curriculum. Her first attempt results in the inadvertent discovery of the meaning of syphilis and chlamydia, which are the supposed afflictions in the song, "Cotton-Eye Joe." Can you believe, in 2022, that there's a town that awards prizes for the best square dance? It happens in this unique local holiday called "Salmon Days!"

### **Midnight at the Barclay Hotel by Fleur Bradley**

Meet JJ Jacobson, an enthusiastic young paranormal investigator. When his mom is invited to an all-expenses paid weekend at the Barclay Hotel, rumored to be one of the most haunted places in Colorado, JJ convinces her to bring him along. When JJ and his mother arrive at the hotel, they find themselves in the middle of a mystery. The owner of the hotel has been murdered and, other than one retired detective, all the guests invited for the weekend are suspects. JJ teams up with Penny, granddaughter of the detective invited to solve the case, and Emma, a quiet girl who lives at the Barclay Hotel, to solve the murder. As they interview the suspects to find the killer, JJ simultaneously works to prove to Penny that ghosts are real. The trio work well together and learn many lessons about both friendship and how to investigate a murder along the way.

### **One Last Shot by John David Anderson**

Malcolm's life is challenging and he knows it's all his fault. He strives to make his dad happy by playing baseball, even though he hates it. Now his parents are arguing more and more and Malcolm is sure he is to blame. When he discovers miniature golf, he is positive he has found the answer to some of his challenges. If he can just do well

enough to win the upcoming competition, maybe his dad will be proud and maybe his parents will stop arguing. Play along with Malcolm as he dodges the blades of the windmill to learn who he is and how he can navigate the obstacles of his own world.

### **Show Me a Sign by Ann Clare LeZotte**

Mary Lambert is a young Deaf girl who lives with her family in Martha's Vineyard off the coast of Boston, Massachusetts. At the time of the story (1805), Martha's Vineyard has a large population of Deaf people. Everyone in town learns and speaks both English and sign language, and to them, this is just the way it is. Until a scientist from Boston comes to the island to investigate why so many of the people are Deaf, and his treatment of the Deaf community reminds some (including Mary) of the prejudice and treatment of the local Wampanoag tribe by the English settlers. When the scientist decides he needs a "specimen" to study closer in his lab, he kidnaps Mary and takes her to Boston, where she must try to find a way home when no one can understand her. Written by a Deaf author, this book includes themes of prejudice and injustice, as well as a look into some of the history of Deaf culture, education, and American Sign Language.

Video of author: [https://youtu.be/A0\\_jtOuwMC8](https://youtu.be/A0_jtOuwMC8)

### **Stand Up, Yumi Chung! by Jessica Kim**

Have you ever had a case of mistaken identity? Where someone thinks you are someone you are not? Yumi Chung has a dream... to be a stand-up comedian! Yumi has lots of responsibilities to her parents - she grows up helping at her family's Korean restaurant and more recently her parents have signed her up for test prep tutoring for the summer. She'd rather be studying how to be a better comedian by watching her favorites on YouTube. So when she stumbles upon a comedy camp taught by one of her favorite Youtube stars, she can't help but be curious. So she checks it out, only to be mistaken for one of the campers that didn't show up, Kay Nakamura! What does she do? She goes with it! Can Yumi keep up with a lie she accidentally got herself into?

### **Twins by Varian Johnson and Shannon Wright**

The book *Twins* is about sisters Maureen and Francine, who for all of their growing up did everything together. They attended the same classes in school. They worked together on all of their school projects. They even dressed and wore their hair alike. But then, 6th grade happens; and the twins start a new adventure at O'Connor Middle School. All of a sudden Maureen and Francine start taking classes, making friendships and doing projects apart from each other. They even stop dressing alike. Francine in particular, wants to disconnect from her sister. Plus, Fran is loving middle school. While Maureen is having a harder time adjusting. Classes are harder for Maureen. Soon the girls start arguing and not spending time together. Maureen can see her best friend, her sister Francine, drifting away right before her very eyes. The two sisters have to figure out who they are apart from each other when up to this point, they have only seen themselves as twins. Will Maureen and Francine find out if their friendship can hold strong as they now do things separately as sisters?