

Washington Children's Choice Book Award 2022 Nominee List

Above the Rim

Author: Jen (Jennifer) Bryant

Illustrator: Frank Morrison

Summary: Hall-of-Famer Elgin Baylor was one of basketball's all-time-greatest players--an innovative athlete, team player, and quiet force for change. One of the first professional African-American players, he inspired others on and off the court. But when traveling for away games, many hotels and restaurants turned Elgin away because he was black. One night, Elgin had enough and staged a one-man protest that captured the attention of the press, the public, and the NBA.

Barnabus Project

Author: Terry Fan

Illustrator: Eric and Devin Fan

Summary: In a world built for Perfect Pets, Barnabus is a "Failed Project," half mouse, half elephant, kept out of sight until his dreams of freedom lead him and his misfit friends on a perilous adventure.

The Blue House

Author and Illustrator: Phoebe Wahl

Summary: For as long as he can remember, Leo has lived in the blue house with his dad, but lately the neighborhood is changing. People are leaving, houses are being knocked down, and shiny new buildings are going up in their place. When Leo and his dad are forced to leave, they aren't happy about it. They howl and rage and dance out their feelings. When the time comes, they leave the blue house behind--there was never any choice, not really--but little by little, they find a way to keep its memory alive in their new home.

Boxitects

Author and Illustrator: Kim Smith

Summary: Meg goes to Maker School to hone her talent for building with boxes, but when Simone, another boxitect, arrives they become so competitive they nearly fail in the annual Maker Match.

Chicken Little: The Real and Totally True Tale

Author and Illustrator: Sam Wedelich

Summary: Chicken Little is NOT afraid of anything. Well, okay, maybe a mysterious BONK to the head can produce panic. But only momentarily. It's not as though she meant to send the barnyard into a tailspin, thinking that the sky was falling. How ridiculous But can she calm her feathered friends with facts and reason?

Codzilla

Author: David Zeltser

Illustrator: Jared Chapman

Summary: Bertie is the BIGGEST codfish in school. He loves reading about sharks more than anything, but he's teased about his size by the smaller fish in his school. When they start calling him Codzilla, he gets fed up and starts living up to the name. But when danger strikes from the deep in the form of a shark, Bertie must use his vast shark knowledge and his sizeable heart to save his friends.

Crossings: Extraordinary Structures for Extraordinary Animals

Author: Katy Duffield

Illustrator: Mike Orodan

Summary: A non-fiction exploration of animal crossings built by animal lovers around the world to help animals cross over, under, around, and through human construction.

Evelyn Del Ray is Moving Away

Author: Meg Medina

Illustrator: Sonia Sanchez

Evelyn Del Rey is Daniela's best friend. They do everything together and even live in twin apartments across the street from each other: Daniela with her Mami and hamster, and Evelyn with her Mami, Papi, and cat. But not after today--not after Evelyn moves away. Until then, the girls play amid the moving boxes until it's time to say goodbye, making promises to keep in touch, because they know that their friendship will always be special.

Every Night is Pizza Night

Author: J. Kenji López-Alt

Illustrator: Gianna Ruggiero

Summary: Convinced that pizza is the best food, Pipo will eat nothing else until her fed-up parents send her on a quest to prove that no dishes in their multicultural neighborhood are better.

Eyes That Kiss in the Corners

Author: Joanna Ho

Illustrator: Dung Ho

Summary: A young Asian girl notices that her eyes look different from her peers'. They have big, round eyes and long lashes. She realizes that her eyes are like her mother's, her grandmother's, and her little sister's. They have eyes that kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and hope for the future.

Facts. vs. Opinions vs. Robots

Author and Illustrator: Michael Rex

Summary: Do you know the difference between a fact and an opinion? It can be a hard thing to understand. Some things are facts--like the number of robots in this book. Other things are opinions--like which robot would make the best friend, or which robot dances best. And sometimes to tell the difference between a fact and an opinion, you need to wait to get more information--that's because facts can be proven true or false, and opinions are things you feel and believe--but that you can't prove.

Federico and the Wolf

Author: Rebecca Gomez

Illustrator: Elisa Chavarri

Summary: A modern retelling of Little Red Riding Hood in which Federico rides his bicycle to the market for Abuelo's groceries, then stands up to a hungry wolf.

I Am NOT a Penguin: A Pangolin's Lament

Author and Illustrator: Liz Wong

Summary: Poor Pangolin! He's trying to explain who he is, but the other animals keep getting confused. A pangolin might be a very unusual animal, but in this very funny story of mix-ups and misunderstandings, he discovers the rarest creature of all: a friend who really listens and likes you for who you are.

I Will Dance

Author: Nancy Bo Flood

Illustrator: Julianna Swaney

Summary: Eva longs to dance. But unlike many would-be dancers, Eva has cerebral palsy. She doesn't know what dance looks like for someone who uses a wheelchair. Then Eva learns of a place that has created a class for dancers of all abilities. Her first movements in the studio are tentative, but with the encouragement of her instructor and fellow students, Eva becomes more confident. Eva knows she's found a place where she belongs. At last, her dream of dancing has come true.

Linus the Little Yellow Pencil

Author and Illustrator: Scott Magoon

Summary: Linus and his eraser, Ernie, don't always see eye to eye. But with the family art show drawing near, these two will have to sharpen their collaboration to make something neither one could do on their own!

Lubna and Pebble

Author: Wendy Meddour

Illustrator: Daniel Egneus

Summary: Lubna's best friend is a pebble. Pebble always listens to her stories. Pebble always smiles when she feels scared. But when a lost little boy arrives in the World of Tents, Lubna realizes that he needs Pebble even more than she does.

The Panda Problem

Author: Deborah Underwood

Illustrator: Hannah Marks

Summary: Every story needs a problem. But Panda doesn't *have* a problem. Unless . . . Panda *is* the problem.

This Way Charlie

Author: Caron Levis

Illustrator: Charles Santoso

Summary: Jack, an introverted goat, and Charlie, a blind horse, meet at Open Bud Ranch, an animal rehabilitation center, and form an unlikely friendship that grows stronger in the face of adversity.

Unicorns are the Worst

Author and Illustrator: Alex Willan

Summary: A grumpy goblin hates having unicorns as neighbors, but when dragons threaten his home and the unicorns come to the rescue, he has to admit that maybe unicorns are not so bad after all.

Your Name is a Song

Author: Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow

Illustrator: Luisa Uribe

Summary: Frustrated by a day full of teachers and classmates mispronouncing her beautiful name, a little girl tells her mother she never wants to go back to school. In response, the girl's mother teaches her about the musicality of African, Asian, Black-American, Latinx, and Middle Eastern names on their lyrical walk home through the city. Empowered by this newfound understanding, the young girl is ready to return the next day to share her knowledge with her class.