

Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award 2023-2024 Nominee List

Abdul's Story

Author: Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow

Illustrator: Tiffany Rose

Summary: Abdul loves telling stories but thinks his messy handwriting and spelling mistakes will keep him from becoming an author, until Mr. Muhammad visits and encourages him to persist.

Because Claudette

Author: Tracey Baptiste

Illustrator: Tonya Engel

Summary: A picture book about Claudette Colvin, the teen whose activism launched the Montgomery bus boycott, and a celebration of collective action.

The Boy Who Loved Maps

Author: Kari Allen

Illustrator: G. Brian Karas

Summary: A map-making boy is stumped when a girl asks him for a map of the "perfect place."

Chester Van Chime Who Forgot How to Rhyme

Author: Avery Monsen

Illustrator: Abby Hanlon

Summary: Rhyming has always come easily to Chester van Chime. But one day he loses his gift and struggles to find the right words.

Chez Bob

Author and Illustrator: Bob Shea

Summary: A lazy alligator comes up with a plan to lure his prey by opening up a restaurant for birds--until he realizes that birds are even better as friends.

Chickadee Criminal Mastermind

Author and Illustrator: Monica Silvie

Summary: Chickadee recounts how he went from a normal bird "childhood" to a daring life of crime. One cold, snowy morning, shivering and hungry, he discovers a vault of gold--and steals from it! His natural coloring resembling a mask helps him blend in as he makes his rounds of the forest. It's an exciting life, with hawks to fend off and treasure to hide all over the forest . . . but is it as glamorous as it appears?

The Creature of Habit

Author: Jennifer E. Smith

Illustrator: Leo Espinosa

Summary: On the island of Habit lives a very big creature who does the exact same things in the exact same order every day, but when a small creature comes along who wants to do something different every day, the creature of habit must learn to adapt.

Except Antarctica!

Author and Illustrator: Todd Sturgell

Summary: Turtles are found on every continent EXCEPT Antarctica. But not for long! When a David Attenborough-esque narrator explains that turtles are found everywhere except Antarctica, one determined turtle sets out to prove him wrong. After recruiting other non-Antarctic animals along the way--much to the narrator's dismay--the turtle and his adventurous friends travel through fields, forests, and cross an entire ocean to reach their goal. But what exactly do they do once they get there?

Friends are Friends, Forever

Author: Dane Liu

Illustrator: Lynn Scurfield

Summary: Just before Chinese New Year, Dandan discovers that her family is moving to America, far away from her best friend Yueyue; before they leave Yueyue gives her a stack of red paper and a spool of string so she can share the art of paper cutting with Americans--and when Chinese New Year comes around again Dandan remembers Yueyue's gift and introduces her new friend Christina to this ancient art.

Frog vs. Toad

Author and Illustrator: Ben Mantle

Summary: As things get a bit heated among the amphibian population in the swamp, rivals Frog and Toad must cast their differences aside and work together when they have a close encounter with a snappy alligator.

Growing an Artist: the Story of a Landscaper and His Son

Author and Illustrator: John Parra

Summary: Today Juanito is accompanying his father who is in the landscaping business, and he takes his sketchbook along to draw anything that catches his eye, and gets to help his father plan an entire garden--and then help plant it.

Hamsters Make Terrible Roommates

Author and Illustrator: Cheryl B. Klein

Illustrator: Abhi Alwar

Summary: Henry is desperate for a little peace and quiet from his extremely chatty roommate Marvin, and after Henry finally loses his cool, these hamsters must find ways to compromise and live together.

How to Party Like a Snail

Author: Naseem Hrab

Illustrator: Kelly Collier

Summary: Snail loves the quiet things about parties, like confetti and the silence before everyone yells, "surprise!", and decides to plan his own party without any loud noises, but when he feels like something is missing he discovers he may long for the "loud" after all.

Knight Owl

Author and Illustrator: Christopher Denise

Summary: After achieving his dream of becoming a knight, a small owl protects the castle from a hungry dragon.

Nigel and the Moon

Author: Antwan Eady

Illustrator: Gracey Zhang

Summary: When Nigel looks up at the moon, his future is bright. He imagines himself as . . . an astronaut, a dancer, a superhero, too! Among the stars, he twirls. With pride, his chest swells. And his eyes, they glow. Nigel is the most brilliant body in the sky. But it's Career Week at school, and Nigel can't find the courage to share his dreams. It's easy to whisper them to the moon, but not to his classmates--especially when he already feels out of place.

Powwow Day

Author: Traci Sorell

Illustrator: Madelyn Goodnight

Summary: Because she has been very ill and weak, River cannot join in the dancing at this year's tribal powwow, she can only watch from the sidelines as her sisters and cousins dance the celebration--but as the drum beats she finds the faith to believe that she will recover and dance again.

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Author: Mac Barnett

Illustrator: Jon Klassen

Summary: Three clever billy goats outwit a big, ugly troll that lives under the bridge they must cross on their way to a greener hillside.

The Very True Legend of the Mongolian Death Worms

Author and Illustrator: Sandra Fay

Summary: A funny picture book celebrating the universal truth about wanting to be loved just as you are, fangs and all, inspired by the real-life legend of Mongolian Death Worms. Like the ongoing search for Big Foot and the Loch Ness Monster, scientists have searched the Gobi Desert for these giant worms. Reported sightings claim that their skin is blood red; their fangs razor sharp. The worms are supposedly poisonous and electrifying . . . or are they?

A Walk in the Words

Author and Illustrator: Hudson Talbott

Summary: Through a story from his own childhood, Hudson Talbott shares the challenges--and ultimately the rewards--of being a non-mainstream kind of learner

Yoshi and the Ocean

Author and Illustrator: Lindsay Moore

Summary: Yoshi, a loggerhead sea turtle, was injured and rescued by fishermen who took her to the Two Oceans Aquarium in South Africa for rehabilitation. After twenty years, Yoshi was returned to the sea and traveled nearly 23,000 miles over three years back to what is believed to be her birthplace