



North Carolina Children's Book Award

The North Carolina Children's Book Award program is a children's choice program sponsored by school and public librarians in North Carolina and is designed to introduce children to current children's literature and to instill a love of reading.

2023 Nominees

We are very pleased to announce the nominees for the 2023 North Carolina Children's Book Awards. We selected twelve titles for both lists because of possible availability issues. In order to vote, children should read at least 5 picture book nominees and/or 3 junior book nominees.

Picture Books

- ***The Box Turtle***
Roeder, Vanessa.. New York : Dial Books, 2020.
- ***The Boy Who Grew a Forest: The True Story of Jadav Payeng***
Gholz, Sophia. Illustrated by Kayla Harren. Sleeping Bear Press, 2019.
- ***Dozens of Doughnuts***
Finison, Carrie. Illustrated by Brianna Farley. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2020.
- ***Eat Your Rocks, Croc!***
Keating, Jess. Illustrated by Pete Oswald. New York : Orchard Books, 2020.
- ***Except Antarctica!***
Sturgell, Todd. Naperville, IL : Sourcebooks Explore, 2021.
- ***How to Give Your Cat a Bath in Five Easy Steps***
Winstanley, Nicola. Illustrated by John Martz. Toronto, ON : Tundra Books, 2019.
- ***I'm Trying to Love Garbage***
Barton, Bethany. New York : Viking Books for Young Readers, 2021.
- ***It Fell From the Sky***
Fan, Terry and Eric. New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2021.
- ***Mars! Earthlings Welcome***
McAnulty, Stacy. Illustrated by Stevie Lewis. New York : Henry Holt & Co., 2021.
- ***Nigel and the Moon***
Eady, Antwan. Illustrated by Gracey Zhang. New York : Katherine Tegen Books, 2022.
- ***A Song of Frutas***
Engle, Margarita. Illustrated by Sara Palacios. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2021.
- ***Watercress***
Wang, Andrea. Illustrated by Jason Chin. New York : Neal Porter Books, 2021.

Junior Books

- ***Amari and the Night Brothers***
Alston, B.B.. New York : Balzer + Bray, 2021.
- ***Clean Getaway***
Stone, Nic. New York : Crown Books for Young Readers, 2020.
- ***Flower Talk: How Plants Use Color to Communicate***
Levine, Sara. Illustrated by Masha D'yans. Minneapolis : Millbrook Press, 2019.
- ***How to Build an Insect***
Gibson, Roberta. Illustrated by Anne Lambelet. Minneapolis : Millbrook Press, 2021.
- ***Katie the Catsitter***
Venable, Colleen AF. Illustrated by Stephanie Yue. New York : Random House Children's Books, 2021.
- ***A Place at the Table***
Faruqi, Saadia and Laura Shovan. Boston : Clarion Books, 2020.
- ***Rez Dogs***
Bruchac, Joseph. New York : Dial Books for Young Readers, 2021.
- ***Skunk and Badger***
Timberlake, Amy. Illustrated by Jon Klassen. Chapel Hill, NC ; Algonquin Young Readers, 2020.
- ***Unplugged***
Korman, Gordon. New York : Balzer + Bray, 2021.
- ***Willodeen***
Applegate, Katherine. New York : Feiwel and Friends, 2021.
- ***A Wolf Called Wander***
Parry, Rosanne. New York : Greenwillow Books, 2019.
- ***The World Ends in April***
McAnulty, Stacy. New York : Random House Books for Young Readers, 2019.