



Nebraska Golden Sower Award Nominee Titles 2020-2021

Sponsored by Nebraska Library Association's
School, Children's, and Young People's Section

The GSA nominee list is developed by selection committees of volunteer readers representing classroom teachers, media specialists, and librarians in Nebraska. Each list is created from nominated titles sent in by participating libraries and schools from across the state.

Local library or school officials are responsible for selecting books from these lists they feel are appropriate for the needs and interests of their patrons or students. Voting eligibility requires readers to have read or heard a minimum of **four** of the current nominees from the category in which they will be voting: Picture Books, Chapter Books, or Golden Sower Novels.

2020-2021 Picture Book Nominees

Cangelose, Andrew. *This Is a Taco!*

Illustrated by Josh Shipley. Lion Forge, 2018. ISBN 9781941302729

A taco-loving squirrel named Taco teaches kids that the most important story is the one they write themselves.

Higgins, Ryan T. *We Don't Eat Our Classmates.*

Illustrated by the author. Disney-Hyperion, 2018. ISBN 9781368003551

When the class pet bites the finger of Penelope, a tyrannosaurus rex, she finally understands why she should not eat her classmates, no matter how tasty they are.

Lang, Suzanne. *Grumpy Monkey.*

Illustrated by Max Lang. Random House Children's Books, 2018. ISBN 9780553537864

Jim Panzee wakes up in a bad mood one beautiful day, but he keeps denying he is grumpy even as his friends give advice for feeling better.

Lies, Brian. *Got to Get to Bear's!*

Illustrated by the author. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018. ISBN 9780544948822

When Izzy, a chipmunk, receives a letter from Bear asking her to come quickly, she knows it must be serious. She sets out to help her friend, even though it's beginning to snow. When the snow deepens and night begins to fall, a squirrel, a duck, and then a raccoon show up to help their friend find the way to Bear's house. When they finally arrive at Bear's den, Izzy is in for a big surprise.

2020-2021 Picture Book Nominees (con't)

Miller, Pat Zietlow. *Be Kind.*

Illustrated by Jen Hill. Roaring Brook Press, 2018. ISBN 9781626723214

A child wonders how to respond when a friend spills grape juice on herself. The author provides examples of kindness and acknowledges that it is not always easy to be kind, especially when others aren't.

Mora, Oge. *Thank You, Omu!*

Illustrated by the author. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2018. ISBN 9780316431248

When the aroma of Omu's homemade stew fills the air, her neighbors arrive, one by one, for a taste until all is gone except for her generous spirit.

Parsley, Elise. *Neck & Neck.*

Illustrated by the author. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2018. ISBN 9780316466745

Giraffe thinks he's the star of the zoo, but when a shiny giraffe balloon pops up it looks like competition.

Shea, Bob. *Crash, Splash, or Moo!*

Illustrated by the author. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2018. ISBN 9780316483018

Mr. McMonkey is your host, and your contestants are America's favorite stunt clam, Action Clam...and a cow! These unlikely daredevils face off in a sequence of challenges--and readers get to guess the outcome of all the wacky stunts. The winner gets a Golden Banana!

Stevens, Janet and Susan Stevens Crummel. *The Donkey Egg.*

Illustrated by Janet Stevens. HMH Books for Young Readers, 2019. ISBN 9780547327679

Bear would rather sleep all day than work on his farm, and Fox knows just the kind of help he needs—a donkey! When Fox tricks Bear into buying a donkey egg, Bear can't wait for it to hatch so he can meet his new friend. But donkeys don't come from eggs! And when the "egg" finally opens, Bear gets a fruity surprise.

Zuill, Andrea. *Sweetie.*

Illustrated by the author. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2019. ISBN 9780525580003

Sweetie is awkward, even for a naked mole rat, but with encouragement from her Aunt Ruth, she begins to see that being herself is the best way to find a friend.



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2020-2021 Chapter Book Nominees

Benjamin, Ali. *The Next Great Paulie Fink*.

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2019. ISBN 9780316380881

[paperback: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, April 2020. ISBN 9780316380874]

Led by new student Caitlyn, seventh-graders at a tiny rural school in Vermont create a reality-show inspired competition to determine who will replace the school's legendary class clown, Paulie Fink.

Creech, Sharon. *Saving Winslow*.

HarperCollins, 2018. ISBN 9780062570703

[paperback: HarperCollins, September 2019. ISBN 9780062570710]

When Louie's father brings home a sickly newborn mini donkey, Louie names him Winslow and is determined to save him. Taking care of him helps Louie feel closer to his brother, Gus, who is far away in the army. As Louie's bond with Winslow grows, surprising and life-altering events prove that this fragile donkey is stronger than anyone could have imagined.

Ferruolo, Jeanne Zulick. *Ruby in the Sky*.

Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2019. ISBN 9780374309053

[paperback: Square Fish, February 2020. ISBN 9781250233295]

Twelve-year-old Ruby Moon Hayes does not want her new classmates to ask about her father or to know her mother has been arrested. And she definitely does not want to make any friends. But keeping to herself isn't easy when Ahmad Saleem, a Syrian refugee, decides he's her new best friend. Or when she meets "the Bird Lady," a recluse named Abigail who lives in a ramshackle shed near Ruby's house. Before long Ahmad and Abigail have become Ruby's friends—and she realizes there is more to their stories than everyone knows.

Fleming, Candace. *Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen*.

Illustrated by Eric Rohmann. Schwartz & Wade, 2018. ISBN 9781101934104

When movie director Larry Trimble travels to Berlin searching for his next big star, he finds Etzel, a fierce, highly trained three-year-old German shepherd police dog. Larry sees past the snarls and

2020-2021 Chapter Book Nominees (con't)

growls and brings Etzel back to Hollywood, where he is renamed Strongheart. Along with screenwriter Jane Murfin, Larry grooms his protégé to be a star of the silver screen.

Mass, Wendy and Rebecca Stead. ***Bob***.

Illustrated by Nicholas Gannon. Feiwel & Friends, 2018. ISBN 9781250166623
[paperback: Square Fish, 2019. ISBN 9781250308696]

When Livy and her family visit Livy's grandmother in Australia again after five years, Livy has the feeling she's forgotten something really important about Gran's house. It turns out she's right—Bob, a short, greenish creature dressed in a chicken suit, didn't forget Livy, or her promise. He's been waiting five years for her to come back and keep her promise to help him find his way back home.

McAnulty, Stacy. ***The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl***.

Random House Books for Young Readers, 2018. ISBN 9781524767570
[paperback: Yearling, 2019. ISBN 9781524767600]

A lightning strike made Lucy, twelve, a math genius. But after years of homeschooling, her grandmother enrolls her in middle school and she learns that life is more than numbers.

Peirce, Lincoln. ***Max and the Midknights***.

Crown Books for Young Readers, 2019. ISBN 9781101931080

Max and a group of friends dubbed the Midknights go on a quest to rescue the Kingdom of Byjovia from the mean King Gastley.

Puller, J.S. ***Captain Superlative***.

Disney-Hyperion, 2018. ISBN 9781368004275
[paperback: Disney-Hyperion, 2019. ISBN 9781368005630]

Red mask, blue wig, silver swimsuit, rubber gloves, torn tights, high top sneakers and . . . a cape? Who would run through the halls of Deerwood Park Middle School dressed like this? And *why*? Janey can't resist the urge to uncover the truth behind the mask. The answer pulls Janey into the spotlight and leads her to an unexpected friendship with a superhero like no other.

Tyre, Lisa Lewis. ***Hope in the Holler***.

Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018. ISBN 9780399546310
[paperback: Puffin Books, 2019. ISBN 9780399546327]

Right before Wavie's mother died, she gave Wavie a list of instructions to help her find her way in life. But little did Wavie's mom know that events would conspire to bring Wavie back to Conley Hollow, the Appalachian hometown her mother tried to leave behind. Now Wavie's back in the Holler--and in the clutches of her Aunt Samantha Rose.

Woods, Brenda. ***The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA***.

Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019. ISBN 9781524737092
[paperback: Puffin Books, January 2020. ISBN 9781524737115]

When Gabriel accidentally rides his new bike right into the path of a car, a Black man named Meriwether pushes him out of the way just in time and fixes his damaged bike. As a thank you, Gabriel gets him a job at his dad's auto shop. Gabriel's dad hires him with some hesitation, however, anticipating trouble with the other mechanic, who makes no secret of his racist opinions.



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2020-2021 Golden Sower Novel Nominees

Cartaya, Pablo. *Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish.*

Viking Books for Young Readers, 2018. ISBN 9781101997260

[paperback: Puffin Books, 2019. ISBN 9781101997284]

After a fight at school leaves Marcus facing suspension, Marcus's mom decides it's time for a change of environment. She takes Marcus and his younger brother to Puerto Rico to spend a week with relatives they don't remember or have never met. But Marcus can't focus knowing that his father—who walked out of their lives ten years ago—is somewhere on the island.

Charbonneau, Joelle. *Time Bomb.*

HMH Books for Young Readers, 2018. ISBN 9780544416703

[paperback: HMH Books for Young Readers, February 2020. ISBN 9780358108054]

Seven students trapped in their school after a bomb goes off must fight to survive while also discovering who among them is the bomber.

Craft, Jerry. *New Kid.*

HarperCollins, 2019. ISBN 9780062691200

[paperback: HarperCollins, 2019. ISBN 9780062691194]

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds--and not really fitting into either one.

Korman, Gordon. *The Unteachables.*

Balzer + Bray, 2019. ISBN 9780062563880

[paperback: Balzer + Bray, January 2020. ISBN 9780062563903]

Told in alternating voices, the teacher and students in Room 117 find their lives changed over the course of a school year.

2020-2021 Golden Sower Novel Nominees (con't)

Lu, Marie. *Batman: Nightwalker*.

Random House Books for Young Readers, 2018. ISBN 9780399549786
[paperback: Ember, 2019. ISBN 9780399549809]

The Nightwalkers are terrorizing Gotham City, and Bruce Wayne is next on their list. Bruce will walk the dark line between trust and betrayal as the Nightwalkers circle closer.

Nielsen, Jennifer A. *Resistance*.

Scholastic Press, 2018. ISBN 9781338148473
[paperback: Scholastic, 2018. ISBN 9781338331493]

In 1942 sixteen-year-old Chaya Lindner is a Jewish girl living in Nazi-occupied Poland, a courier who smuggles food and documents to the isolated Jewish ghettos in southern Poland, depending on her forged papers and "Aryan" features. But when a mission goes wrong and many of her colleagues are arrested, she finds herself on a journey to Warsaw where an uprising is in the works.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Ghost Boys*.

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2018. ISBN 9780316262286
[paperback: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, September 2019. ISBN 9780316262262]

After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till.

Schmitt, Adam P. *Speechless*.

Candlewick, 2018. ISBN 9781536200928

Thirteen-year-old Jimmy has just learned from his mother that he has to say a few words at his cousin's funeral. What could he possibly say about his cousin, who ruined everything they did? As Jimmy attempts to navigate the odd social norms of the wake, he draws on humor, heartfelt concern, and a good deal of angst while racking his brain and his memory for a decent and meaningful memory to share.

Schwab, Victoria. *City of Ghosts*.

Scholastic Press, 2018. ISBN 9781338111002
[paperback: Scholastic, September 2019. ISBN 9781338111026]

Ever since her near-fatal drowning, Cassidy has been able to pull back the "Veil" that separates the living from the dead and see ghosts. Her parents are going to start filming a TV series about the world's most haunted places, starting with Edinburgh. Cassidy and her personal ghost companion, Jacob, are about to find out that a city of old ghosts can be a very dangerous place.

Shusterman, Neal. *Dry*.

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018. ISBN 9781481481960
[paperback: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, September 2019. ISBN 9781481481977]

A lengthy California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, turning Alyssa's quiet suburban street into a warzone, and she is forced to make impossible choices if she and her brother are to survive.