



Nebraska Golden Sower Award Nominee Titles 2021-2022

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.

2021-2022 Picture Book Nominees

Barclay, Eric. *Sheep Dog and Sheep Sheep*.

Illustrated by the author. HarperCollins, 2019. ISBN 9780062677389

Sheep is an expert at protecting sheep—or so she thinks until one happy afternoon when she bumps into a very hairy someone on the farm. The sheep dog says he protects the sheep, but Sheep know this can't be right—she's the pro!

Cherry, Matthew A. *Hair Love*.

Illustrated by Vashti Harrison. Kokila, 2019. ISBN 9780525553366

Zuri's hair has a mind of its own. It kinks, coils, and curls every which way. Zuri knows it's beautiful. When Daddy steps in to style it for an extra special occasion, he has a lot to learn. But he LOVES his Zuri, and he'll do anything to make her -- and her hair -- happy.

Dyckman, Ame. *Dandy*.

Illustrated by Charles Santoso. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2019. ISBN 9780316362955

When Daddy spots a solitary weed in his lawn, he's appalled (along with all of his neighborhood friends). But his daughter Sweetie has fallen in love with the beautiful flower, even going so far as to name it Charlotte. Racing against time and the mockery of his friends, Daddy has to find a way to get rid of the dandelion without breaking his little girl's heart.

Franklin, Ashley. *Not Quite Snow White*.

Illustrated by Ebony Glenn. HarperCollins, 2019. ISBN 9780062798602

Tameika is excited to audition for the school's Snow White musical, but when she overhears her classmates say she is too tall, chubby, and brown to play Snow White, she questions whether she is right for the part.

2021-2022 Picture Book Nominees (con't)

Freedman, Deborah. *Carl and the Meaning of Life*.

Illustrated by the author. Viking, 2019. ISBN 9780451474988

When a field mouse asks Carl the earthworm why he tunnels through the dirt, Carl doesn't have an answer, so he sets off to find out.

Goodrich, Carter. *Nobody Hugs a Cactus*.

Illustrated by the author. Simon & Schuster, 2019. ISBN 9781534400900

Hank, a cactus who is as prickly on the inside as he is on the outside, decides he wants a hug.

Latham, Irene. *Meet Miss Fancy*.

Illustrated by John Holyfield. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2019. ISBN 9780399546686

Frank has always been obsessed with elephants. When Miss Fancy, the elephant, retires from the circus and moves two blocks from his house to Avondale Park, he's over the moon! Frank really wants to pet her. But Avondale Park is just for white people, so Frank is not allowed to see Miss Fancy. Frank is heartbroken but he doesn't give up: instead he makes a plan!

Muhammad, Ibtihaj with S.K. Ali. *The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family*.

Illustrated by Hatem Aly. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2019. ISBN 9780316519007

Faizah relates how she feels on the first day her sister, sixth-grader Asiya, wears a hijab to school.

Twiss, Jill. *The Someone New*.

Illustrated by E.G. Keller. HarperCollins, 2019. ISBN 9780062933744

Jitterbug the chipmunk likes it when things stay the same. When Pudding the snail comes into her woods, Jitterbug worries that everything will be different. What if Pudding spoils everything? What if there's no more room for Jitterbug? With the help of her friends, can Jitterbug welcome the newcomer and learn that kindness is stronger than fear?

Van Dusen, Chris. *If I Built a School*.

Illustrated by the author. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2019. ISBN 9780525552918

Imaginative Jack describes the kind of school he would build--one full of animals, with tubes to transport students directly to their classrooms, and library books that come alive.



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2021-2022 Chapter Book Nominees

Bajaj, Varsha. *Count Me In.*

Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019. ISBN 9780525517245

[paperback: Puffin Books, 2020. ISBN 9780525517269]

Told from two viewpoints, sixth-graders Karina and Chris use social media to stand up to racism in Houston, Texas, after an attack puts Karina's Indian American grandfather in the hospital.

Durst, Sarah Beth. *Spark.*

Clarion Books, 2019. ISBN 9781328973429

[paperback: Clarion Books, 2020. ISBN 9780358206385]

Naturally quiet since birth, Mina and her stormbeast, Pixit, lead others like themselves in defying authority and attempting to spread the truth that Alorria's idyllic weather comes at a steep cost.

Jamieson, Victoria and Omar Mohamed. *When Stars Are Scattered.*

Illustrated by Victoria Jamieson and Iman Geddy. Penguin Random House, 2020. ISBN 9780525553915

[paperback: Dial Books, 2020. ISBN 9780525553908]

Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp. When an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother.

Kelly, Lynne. *Song for a Whale.*

Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2019. ISBN 9781524770235

[paperback: Yearling, December 2019. ISBN 9781524770266]

Twelve-year-old Iris is the only deaf person in her school, so people often treat her like she's not very smart. When she learns about Blue 55, a real whale who is unable to speak to other whales, Iris understands how he must feel. Then she has an idea: she should invent a way to "sing" to him! But he's three thousand miles away. How will she play her song for him?

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2021-2022 Chapter Book Nominees (con't)

Lord, Cynthia. *Because of the Rabbit*.

Scholastic Press, 2019. ISBN 9780545914246

[paperback: Scholastic, March 2021. ISBN 9780545914260]

Emma and her game warden father find a bunny and she convinces her father to bring it home for the night. When Emma starts public school for the very first time after years of being homeschooled, she wants to make a best friend in school. On the first day she's paired with a boy named Jack for a project. Emma and Jack bond over her rescue rabbit. But will their new friendship keep Emma from finding the new best friend she's meant to have?

Lupica, Mike. *Strike Zone*.

Philomel Books, 2019. ISBN 9780525514886

[paperback: Puffin Books, 2020. ISBN 9780525514909]

Twelve-year-old Nick García dreams of winning MVP of his summer baseball league, of finding a cure for his sister, of meeting his hero, Yankee pitcher Michael Arroyo, and of no longer living in fear of the government and ICE agents.

Marks, Janae. *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*.

Katherine Tegen Books, 2020. ISBN 9780062875853

[paperback: Katherine Tegen Books, January 2021. ISBN 9780062875860]

Zoe Washington isn't sure what to write. What does a girl say to the father she's never met, hadn't heard from until his letter arrived on her twelfth birthday, and who's been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime he says he never committed. Could Marcus really be innocent? Zoe is determined to uncover the truth.

McDunn, Gillian. *Caterpillar Summer*.

Illustrated by the author. Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2019. ISBN 9781681197432

[paperback: Bloomsbury Children's Books, October 2020. ISBN 9781547603145]

Since her father's death, Cat has taken care of her brother, Chicken, for their hardworking mother, but while spending time with grandparents they never knew, Cat has the chance to be a child again.

Philbrick, Rodman. *Wildfire*.

Blue Sky Press, 2019. ISBN 9781338266900

[paperback: Scholastic, February 2021. ISBN 9781338713640]

Flames race toward Sam Castine's summer camp as evacuation buses are loading, but Sam runs back to get his phone. Suddenly, a flash of heat blasts him as pine trees explode. Now a wall of fire separates Sam from his bus, and there's only one thing to do: Run for his life.

Sumner, Jamie. *Roll with It*.

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2019. ISBN 9781534442559

[paperback: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2020. ISBN 9781534442566]

Twelve-year-old Ellie, who has cerebral palsy, finds her life transformed when she moves with her mother to small-town Oklahoma to help care for her grandfather, who has Alzheimer's Disease.



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2021-2022 Golden Sower Novel Nominees

Charbonneau, Joelle. *Verify*.

HarperTeen, 2019. ISBN 9780062803627

[paperback: HarperTeen, 2020. ISBN 9780062803634]

Chicago teen Meri Beckley's pride of living in a land of peace, prosperity, and truth crumbles when questions following her mother's death reveal buried facts, especially that words can have great power.

Donnelly, Jennifer. *Stepsister*.

Scholastic Press, 2019. ISBN 9781338268461

[paperback: Scholastic, 2020. ISBN 9781338268478]

Isabelle is one of Cinderella's ugly stepsisters, who cut off their toes in an attempt to fit into the glass slipper. But there is more to her story than a maimed foot, for the Marquis de la Chance is about to offer her a choice and the opportunity to change her fate--there will be blood and danger, but also the possibility of redemption and triumph, and most of all the chance to find her true self.

Gemeinhart, Dan. *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise*.

Henry Holt & Co., 2019. ISBN 9781250196705

[paperback: Square Fish, 2020. ISBN 9781250233615]

Twelve-year-old Coyote and her father rush to Poplin Springs, Washington, in their old school bus to save a memory box buried in a park that will soon be demolished.

Harrell, Rob. *Wink*.

Dial Books, 2020. ISBN 9781984815149

[paperback: Puffin Books, January 2021. ISBN 9781984815163]

After being diagnosed with a rare eye cancer, twelve-year-old Ross discovers how music, art, and true friends can push him through treatment and help him survive middle school.

2021-2022 Golden Sower Novel Nominees (con't)

Henry, April. *Run, Hide, Fight Back.*

Henry Holt & Co., 2019. ISBN 9781627795890

[paperback: Square Fish, January 2021. ISBN 9781250308962]

Six teens must band together to survive after a shooting breaks out in a Portland shopping mall.

Park, Linda Sue. *Prairie Lotus.*

Clarion Books, 2020. ISBN 9781328781505

In Dakota Territory in the 1880s, half-Chinese Hanna and her white father face racism and resistance to change as they try to make a home for themselves.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Black Brother, Black Brother.*

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2020. ISBN 9780316493802

Suspended unjustly from elite Middlefield Prep, Donte Ellison studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place.

Robb, David Glen. *Paul, Big, and Small.*

Shadow Mountain, 2019. ISBN 9781629726021

Paul Adams has always been short, but he's an excellent rock climber. When he is assigned to do a group project with Lily Small, the tallest girl in school, and a new kid from Hawaii who wants to be called "Big", they become friends, and he realizes that the bullying in his school must stop.

Venkatraman, Padma. *The Bridge Home.*

Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019. ISBN 9781524738112

[paperback: Puffin Books, 2020. ISBN 9781524738136]

Four determined homeless children make a life for themselves on the teeming streets of Chennai, India.

Yang, Gene Luen. *Dragon Hoops.*

Illustrated by the author. First Second, 2020. ISBN 9781626720794

The author turns the spotlight on his life, his family, and the high school where he teaches. Gene understands stories—comic book stories, in particular. But he doesn't get sports. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. Once Gene gets to know the players on the team, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page.