



**Granted** by John David Anderson

In a magical land called Haven where wishes are heard, lives a young fairy named Ophelia. It is Ophelia's job to go to the human world to grant wishes. When Ophelia ventures out to grant her first wish, she learns that it will take more than fairy dust to give people what they really want. Lexile: 800L

**The Tiny Hero of Ferny Creek Library** by Linda Bailey

Eddie is a tiny green bug who loves to read in the school library. When Eddie has managed to dodge various obstacles and make it to the school library, he learns that there is a substitute librarian there who is trying to shut down the library and get rid of all the books. What's a bug to do. | Lexile: 480L

**Lety Out Loud** by Angela Cervantes

As the oldest child, twelve-year-old Rowan is destined to be Queen, and her twin brother, Rhydd, the Royal Monster Hunter. Rowan would give anything to switch places. | Lexile: HL610L

**Saving Winslow** by Sharon Creech

Louie doesn't have the best of luck caring for animals, but taking care of a sick donkey named Winslow makes Louie feel closer to his brother who's away in the military. | Lexile: 690L

**Coraline** by Neil Gaiman

When Coraline and her family move to a new flat, Coraline spends her time exploring the fourteen doors. When Coraline manages to unlock the fourteenth door, at first it seems like a magical place. Coraline soon learns that what she thought was a magical place is actually full of terror. There are other children trapped in the flat and it's up to Coraline to find and rescue them. | Lexile: 740L

**When Friendship Followed me Home** by Paul Griffin

When Ben, who has never been one for making friends, meets a dog he calls Flip, his life starts to

change. Flip leads Ben to befriend a fellow book lover named Halley. But when Ben's life starts to unravel, he's forced to learn what true friendship means. | Lexile: 590L

**Rain Reign** by Ann M. Martin

Rose is obsessed with homonyms, so she was sure to give her dog Rain a name with two of them! Rose has lots of obsessions, rules, and other things that make her different, which most people don't understand. When Rain goes missing during a storm, Rose will have to break some of her rules to find her dog. | Lexile: 720L



**Coo** by Kaela Noel

Ten years ago, a flock of pigeons picked up a baby, carried her to their roof, and raised her as their own. Coo has lived with the pigeon Burr her entire life. When Burr is attacked by a hawk and nearly killed, Coo has to make her first trip to the ground. Coo finds the only human she knows, Tully, to mend Burr's broken wing. Coo experiences warmth, safety, and human relationships for the first time.

**Paint the Wind** by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Maya lives like a captive at her Grandmother's house in California where everything is forbidden: friends, fun, even memories. Her life is built on lies. Maya's Grandmother tells about her deceased mother. Eventually, Maya moves to the Wyoming wilderness to live with her mother's family, and is challenged to confront the truth about who she is. Lexile: 780L

**Max: Best Friend. Hero. Marine** by Jennifer Shotz

When Justin loses his older brother Kyle in Afghanistan, Justin feels alone until Max arrives. Max was Kyle's service dog and Max seems just as lost as Justin. Slowly, the two start to trust each other as Justin begins to unravel the mystery of what really happened to Kyle. | Lexile: NC740L



## Fiction

### **No Vacancy** by Tziporah Cohen

Miriam Brockman and her family bought and moved into the Jewel Motor Inn in upstate New York. Miriam quickly befriends Kate, who's grandmother owns the diner next door, and Maria, the motel's housekeeper. When it looks like the Jewel Motor Inn might go into bankruptcy, Miriam and Kate devise a plan to save it.

### **Dress Coded** by Carrie Firestone

Molly Frost is fed up. Girls in her class are also getting fed up with what they think is an unfair dress code. Molly starts a podcast where the girls can tell their stories.

### **Prairie Lotus** by Linda Sue Park

Hann is a half Asian and half White girl who has just moved with her White father to a small town in America's heartland in 1880. Hanna dreams of getting her education and becoming a dressmaker, but she has to adjust to her new surroundings and the townspeople's prejudice against Asians. | Lexile: 730L

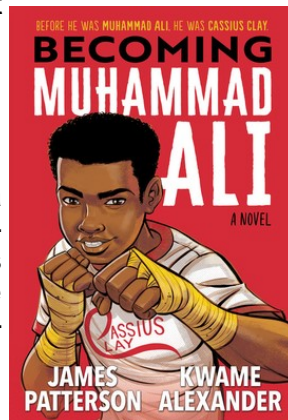
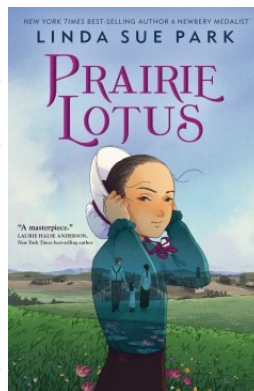
### **Becoming Muhammad Ali**

by James Patterson & Kwame Alexander

Before Cassius Clay became a household name known as Muhammad Ali, he was a twelve year old boy struggling like any other young boy. Readers follow Cassius Clay from age twelve to seventeen as he navigates friends, family, racism, and begins his training as a boxer. Lexile: 1010L

### **Before the Ever After** by Jacqueline Woodson

ZJ's dad is a community hero and talented pro football star! Lately, ZJ's dad has been struggling to remember things and has been angrier than ZJ has ever seen him. ZJ starts to realize that things will never return to normal.



## Nonfiction

### **This is Your Time** by Ruby Bridges

Written as a letter from civil rights activist Ruby Bridges, readers will learn of Ruby's experience as a child being escorted to school by federal marshals as one of the first African American students to integrate the New Orleans, Louisiana all-white public school system. | Lexile: 940L

### **All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team**

by Christina Soontornvat

On June 23, 2018, twelve young boys from the Wild Boars soccer team were trapped in the Tham Luang Nang cave in northern Thailand. The boys and their coaches were trapped for seventeen days while the world sat vigil. | Lexile: 1010L - 1200L

## Graphic Novels

### **Class Act!** by Jerry Craft

Drew is no stranger to the saying, you have to work twice as hard to be just as good. But what if he works *ten* times as hard and doesn't get the same opportunities that his privileged classmates take for granted? When Drew begins to feel as if his friend Liam might be one of those privileged kids, their mutual friend Jordan doesn't know how to keep the group together.

### **When Stars are Scattered**

by Victoria Jamieson

Having spent most of their life in a refugee camp in Kenya, Omar and his little brother Hassan have always watched out for each other. When Omar has a chance to go to school, he knows he can make a better life for them both, but who will care for Hassan? | Lexile: GN530L

Many of the listed books were recognized as exemplary books by one or more of the following organizations: *American Library Association (ALA)*, *Children's Literature & Reading and Special Interest Group (CL/R SIG)*, *Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP)*, *American Indian Library Association (AILA)*, *International Literacy Association (ILA)*, *National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)*, *National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)*, *National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)*, *National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)*, *American Association of the Advancement of Science (AAAS)*, *United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY)*. Other awards as noted.



## Featured Authors



### Carrie Firestone

Carrie Firestone is a writer, teacher, and community leader. As a child, she spent a lot of time worrying about the world. She learned to channel that worry into action, through storytelling, project based service work, and teaching young people. She lives in Connecticut with her husband Michael, her daughters, and her rescue dog.

**Book Titles:**  
**Dress Coded**  
**The Loose Ends List**



### Jerry Craft

Jerry Craft is a Connecticut author, a *New York Times* bestseller, and winner of the Newbery Medal. Craft is also the creator of the award winning comic strip, *Mama's Boyz*, which won the African American Literary Award five times. Craft's graphic novel, *New Kid*, was the 2020 Connecticut Book Award winner in the young readers fiction category.

**Book Titles:**  
**New Kid**  
**Class Act**  
**The Offenders: Saving the World, While Serving Detention!**



### Susan Ross

A former trustee of the Westport Connecticut Library, Susan Ross divides her time between Westport, and her childhood home of Lewiston-Auburn, Maine. Susan began her working career as a lawyer, and upon leaving law, began teaching legal writing in Brooklyn and creative writing in Connecticut.

**Book Titles:**  
**Kiki and Jacques**  
**Searching for Lottie**



### Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo

Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo describes her writing style as books about kids finding their place in the world. Jeanne lives in Ellington, Connecticut with her husband and children. A two-time cancer survivor Jeanne has been a public defender, taught English in Slovakia, and worked in Washington, D.C. on Capitol Hill.

**Book Titles:**  
**Ruby in the Sky**  
**A Galaxy of Sear Stars**  
**Stardust & Other Stuff**  
**The Real Petra Czech**



## Nutmeg Award Winners

### What is the Connecticut Nutmeg Book Award?

The Nutmeg Book Award encourages children in Grades 2-12 to read quality literature and to choose their favorite book from a list of ten nominated titles. There are four divisions: Elementary (Grades 2-3); Intermediate (Grades 4-6); Middle School (Grades 7-8); and High School (Grades 9-12). Jointly sponsored by the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) and the Connecticut Association of School Librarians (CASL), the selection committee is comprised of children's librarians and school library media specialists who are members of the sponsoring organizations, as well as students. For more information visit <https://www.nutmegaward.org/>.

**Sanity & Tallulah**  
by Molly Brooks

**The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise**  
by Dan Gemeinhart

**You Don't Know Everything Jilly P!**  
by Alex Gino

**Wink**  
by Rob Harrell

**Sal & Gabi Break the Universe**  
by Carlos Hernandez

**Emmy in the Key of Code**  
by Aimee Lucido

**Planet Earth is Blue**  
by Nicole Panteleakos

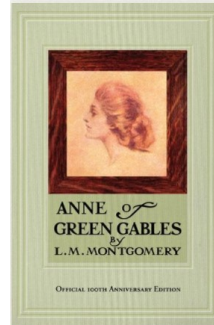
**Clean Getaway**  
by Nic Stone

**Cog**  
by Greg Van Eekhout

**Harbor Me**  
by Jacqueline Woodson

## Classics and Popular Titles

**Anne of Green Gables** by L. M. Montgomery



Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. | Lexile: 550L

**Ninth Ward**  
by Jewell Parker Rhodes

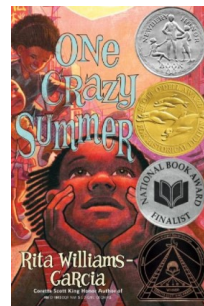
In New Orleans' Ninth ward, twelve-year-old Laneshia, who can see spirits, and her adopted grandmother, have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them. | Lexile: HL470L

**Esperanza Rising** by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California. They must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers during the Great Depression. Lexile: 750L

**Bridge to Terabithia** by Katherine Paterson

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm. | Lexile: 810L



**One Crazy Summer**  
by Rita Williams-Garcia

In the summer of 1968, after traveling to Oakland, California to spend time with their mother, Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome. Instead of spending time with their mother, each morning, they are sent to a daily free breakfast and programming at the Black Panthers' community center. Over time, the sisters come to appreciate the kind and caring women who run the camp. | Lexile: 750L