

Battle of the Books 2020-21

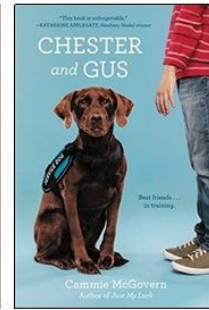
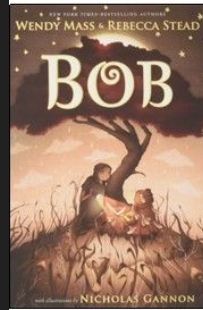
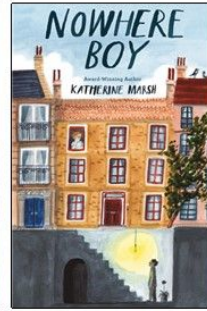
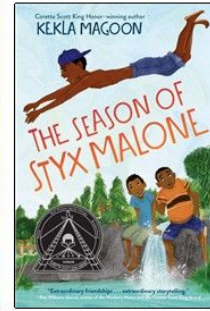
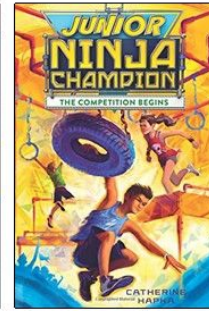
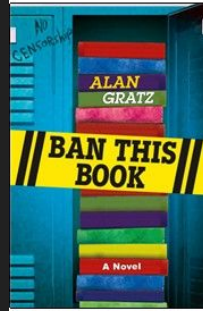
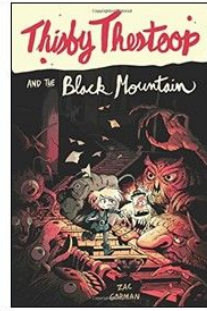
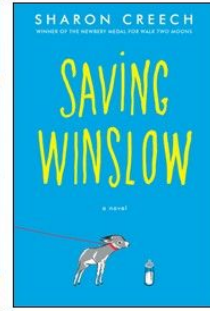
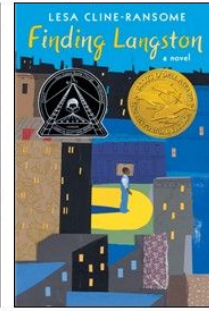
Each year the Washington Library Association nominates 12 young adult books that are voted on in the Spring.

Here are this year's 

Librarians throughout the Seattle Archdiocese discussed these titles and we know that not all books are for all of our readers in grades 4-6. On the following slides, you will see book talks and information describing the stories, as well as the intended reading levels. If you decide to join a team for BOTB in the Fall, please use this information to assist yourself in selecting books that are just right for you.

ENJOY!

2021 Sasquatch Nominees



SMALL SPACES BY KATHERINE ARDEN

Synopsis:

After suffering a tragic loss, eleven-year-old Ollie who only finds solace in books discovers a chilling ghost story about a girl named Beth, the two brothers who loved her, and a peculiar deal made with “the smiling man”—a sinister specter who grants your most tightly held wish, but only for the ultimate price.

Resource Links:

[Good Reads](#)

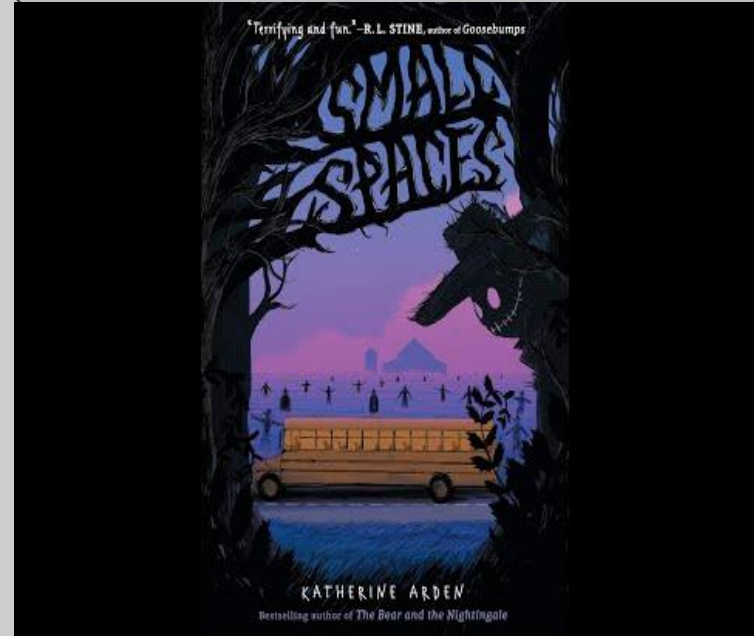
[Common Sense Media](#)

[Amazon](#)

[WLA](#)

[Author Interview](#)

Video:



Age Range: 10 and up
Lexile Measure: HL570L

Grade Level: 5 - 6
Hardcover: 224 pages

[FINDING LANGSTON](#) BY LESA CLINE-RANSOME

Synopsis:

Finding Langston is Lesa Cline-Ransome's superb first novel. The book is about eleven-year-old Langston, a young boy from Alabama who moves with his father to Chicago in 1946 after the death of his mother. The move jars Langston as he is forced to grapple with a new city, a new way of life, and a new school.

Resource Links:

[Good Reads](#)

[Common Sense Media](#)

[Amazon](#)

Video:



Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Lexile Measure: 760L

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Hardcover: 112 pages

SAVING WINSLOW BY SHARON CREECH

Synopsis:

Louie doesn't have the best luck when it comes to nurturing small creatures. So when his father brings home a sickly newborn mini donkey, he's determined to save him. He names him Winslow. Taking care of him helps Louie feel closer to his brother, Gus, who is far, far away in the army.

Everyone worries that Winslow won't survive, especially Louie's quirky new friend, Nora, who has experienced loss of her own. But as Louie's bond with Winslow grows, surprising and life-altering events prove that this fragile donkey is stronger than anyone could have imagined.

Resource Links:

[Good Reads](#)

[Common Sense Media](#)

[Amazon](#)

[Author Interview](#)

Video:



Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Lexile Measure: 690

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Paperback: 176 pages

THISBY THESTOOP AND THE BLACK MOUNTAIN

BY ZAC GORMAN

Synopsis:

Thisby Thestoop and Princess Iphigenia have a dangerous adventure ahead of them. If they're going to a rescue the missing prince, stop a mounting war, and keep safe all the creatures who call the mountain dungeon home, they'll have to learn how to trust each other.

Resource Links:

[Good Reads](#)
[Amazon](#)

Video:



Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Lexile: 1210

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Hardcover: 336 pages

BAN THIS BOOK BY ALAN GRATZ

Synopsis:

Amy Anne decides to fight back by starting a secret banned book library out of her locker. But soon things get out of hand, and Amy Anne finds herself on the front line of an unexpected battle over book banning, censorship, and who has the right to decide what she and her fellow students can read.

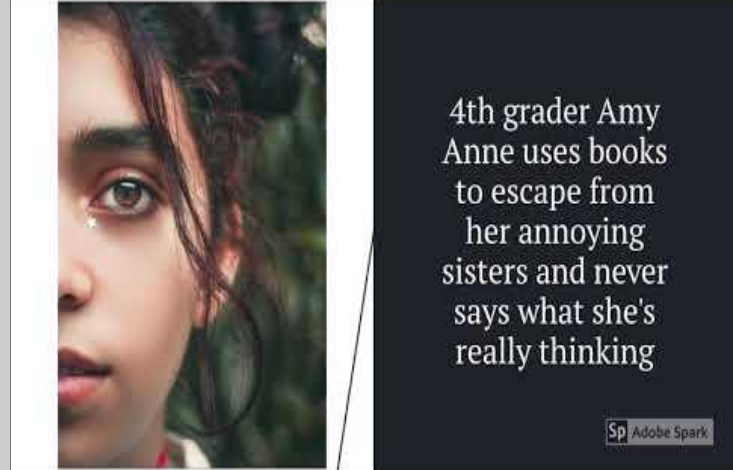
Resource Links:

[Good Reads](#)

[Amazon](#)

[Author Interview](#)

Video:



Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Lexile Measure: 690

Grade Level: 4 - 6

Paperback: 256 pages

JUNIOR NINJA CHAMPION: THE COMPETITION BEGINS BY CATHERINE HAPKA

Synopsis:

Izzy, Ty, Kevin, JJ, and Mackenzie don't have a lot in common. But they have all seen the reality TV obstacle competition *National Ninja Champion*.

When news breaks that there's going to be a kids' version of the show—and tryouts are just a few miles away—all five find themselves drawn to the obstacle course at Fit Kidz Gym. Before they know it, they've become a team—training together and helping one another overcome all kinds of obstacles as they compete for the title of Junior Ninja Champion. With lots of heart and edge-of-your-seat excitement, *Junior Ninja Champion* packs in the action of the competition along with all the ups and downs on the journey to making it.

Who will secure a spot in the finals, and who will be named Junior Ninja Champion?

Resource Links:

[Good Reads](#)
[Amazon](#)

Video:



There is not a video about the book, but the books is based on this show's competition. Enjoy watching these amazing athletes!

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Lexile Measure: 720L

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Hardcover: 176 pages

Series: Junior Ninja Champion (Book 1)

THE SEASON OF STYX MALONE BY KEKLA MAGOON

Synopsis:

Caleb Franklin and his big brother Bobby Gene have the whole summer for adventures in the woods behind their house in Sutton, Indiana. Caleb dreams of venturing beyond their ordinary small town, but his dad likes the family to stay close to home.

Then Caleb and Bobby Gene meet new neighbor Styx Malone. Styx is sixteen and oozes cool. He's been lots of different places. Styx promises Caleb and Bobby Gene that together, they can pull off the Great Escalator Trade--exchanging one small thing for something better until they achieve their wildest dream. But as the trades get bigger, the brothers soon find themselves in over their heads. It becomes clear that Styx has secrets--secrets so big they could ruin everything--and Caleb fears their whole plan might fall apart.

Resource Links:

- [Good Reads](#)
- [Common Sense Media](#)
- [Amazon](#)
- [Author Interview](#)
- [Kekla Magoon on the continuing struggle for Civil Rights](#)

Video:



Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Lexile Measure: 510L

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Hardcover: 304 pages

NOWHERE BOY BY KATHERINE MARSH

Synopsis:

Fourteen-year-old Ahmed is stuck in a city that wants nothing to do with him. Newly arrived in Brussels, Belgium, Ahmed fled a life of uncertainty and suffering in Aleppo, Syria, only to lose his father on the perilous journey to the shores of Europe. Now Ahmed's struggling to get by on his own, but with no one left to trust and nowhere to go, he's starting to lose hope.

Then he meets Max, a thirteen-year-old American boy from Washington, D.C. Lonely and homesick, Max is struggling at his new school and just can't seem to do anything right. But with one startling discovery, Max and Ahmed's lives collide and a friendship begins to grow. Together, Max and Ahmed will defy the odds, learning from each other what it means to be brave and how hope can change your destiny.

Resource Links:

[Good Reads](#)

[Common Sense Media](#)

[Amazon](#)

[Author Interview](#)

Video:



Nowhere Boy
Katherine Marsh



Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Lexile Measure: 810

Grade Level: 4 - 9

Hardcover: 368 pages

BOB BY WENDY MASS AND REBECCA STEAD

Synopsis:

It's been five years since Livy and her family have visited Livy's grandmother in Australia. Now that she's back, Livy has the feeling she's forgotten something really, 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, hiding in a closet like she told him to. He can't remember who—or what—he is, where he came from, or if he even has a family. But five years ago Livy promised she would help him find his way back home. Now it's time to keep that promise.

Clue by clue, Livy and Bob will unravel the mystery of where Bob comes from, and discover the kind of magic that lasts forever.

Resource Links:

[Good Reads](#)

[Common Sense Media](#)

[Amazon](#)

[Author Interview](#)(generic)

Video:



Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Lexile Measure: 590

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Paperback: 224 pages

CHESTER AND GUS BY CAMMIE MCGOVERN

Synopsis:

Chester has always wanted to become a service dog. When he fails his certification test, though, it seems like that dream will never come true—until a family adopts him. They want him to be a companion for their ten-year-old son, Gus, who has autism. But Gus acts so differently than anyone Chester has ever met. He never wants to pet Chester, and sometimes he doesn't even want Chester in the room. Chester's not sure how to help Gus since this isn't exactly the job he trained for—but he's determined to figure it out. Because after all, Gus is now *his* person.

Resource Links:

[Good Reads](#)

[Amazon](#)

[Author Interview](#)

Video:



Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Lexile Measure: 680

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Paperback: 272 pages

EXPLORER ACADEMY: THE NEBULA SECRET
BY TRUDI TRUEIT

Synopsis:

Cruz leaves his tranquil home in Hawaii to join 23 talented kids from around the globe to train at the Explorer Academy with the world's leading scientists to become the next generation of great explorers. But for Cruz, there's more at stake. No sooner has he arrived at the Academy than he discovers that his family has a mysterious past with the organization that could jeopardize his future. In the midst of codebreaking and cool classes, new friends and augmented reality expeditions, Cruz must tackle the biggest question of all: Who is out to get him, and why?

*****Readers can get in on the excitement with puzzles and codes embedded throughout the book.**

Resource Links:

[Good Reads](#)

[Amazon](#)

[Author Interview](#)

Video:



Age Range: 8 - 12 years
Lexile Measure: 660L

Grade Level: 3 - 7
Hardcover: 208 pages

Series: Explorer Academy (Book 1)

FRONT DESK BY KELLY YANG

Synopsis:

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets:

Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests.

Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed.

Number 3: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language?

It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?

Resource Links:

[Good Reads](#)

[Common Sense Media](#)

[Amazon](#)

[Author Interview](#)

Video:



Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Lexile Measure: 640

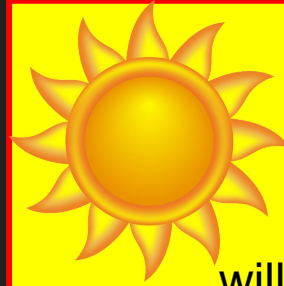
Grade Level: 3 - 7

Paperback: 320 pages

Series: Front Desk

After getting to know a little about these 12 books, it's likely that there are at least a few you want to read. There are links on each slide to see the prices of the books on Amazon, but don't forget that the **public libraries** have ebooks and audiobooks that you can get NOW, at no cost. Even if there is a waitlist- these books are worth waiting for.

Reach out to your school's librarian with questions.



The summer months are fantastic times to read, read, read.

In the Fall, your librarians will help you form

Battle of the Books teams should you want to be on one.

Remember- not all of these books will be the right fit for your reading level, your family values, or your interests- and that's OK! **We celebrate diversity** in each student and wish you all a wonderful summer.

May you have many opportunities to read- just for the fun of it!