



## 2023 RHODE ISLAND CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD NOMINATIONS

***The 1619 Project: Born on the Water*** by Nikole Hannah-Jones & Renee Watson Grades 3+

As a young girl works on her family tree project for school, she learns about her ancestors in Africa before they were kidnapped and taken to America by slave traders. In this lyrical picture book, the young girl also learns about the history of Black resistance in America. Poetry/Picture Book

***The Adventure Is Now*** by Jess Redman Grades 3+

After a horrible year, twelve-year-old Milton spends the summer with his Uncle Evan, a naturalist on the Lone Island, where he learns about friendship, protecting the environment, and fighting for what is right. Realistic Fiction

***Allergic*** by Megan Wagner Lloyd & Michelle Mee Nutter Grades 3+

All Maggie really, really wants is a puppy. On her birthday she is ready to select the perfect one, suddenly, she breaks out in hives and rashes. She is extremely allergic to fur. Can Maggie outsmart her allergies and find the perfect pet while trying to find her place in her family and with her friends? Graphic Novel

***Bartali's Bicycle: The True Story of Gino Bartali, Italy's Secret Hero*** by Megan Hoyt Grades 3+

Gino Bartali's bicycle isn't just any bike. Amidst World War II in an effort to fight fascism, the bike has been fitted with secret compartments to transmit messages for the Italian Resistance. Biography/Picture Book

***Bea is for Blended*** by Lindsey Stoddard Grades 3+

Soon after her mother marries a man with three sons, sixth-grader Bea Embers fights to form a girls' soccer team at school, despite discrimination and setbacks. Realistic Fiction

***Chunky*** by Yehudi Mercado Grades 3+

In this full-color middle grade graphic memoir, Yehudi Mercado draws inspiration from his childhood struggle with his weight while finding friendship with his imaginary mascot, Chunky, as he navigates growing up in a working-class Mexican-Jewish family. Graphic Memoir

***Katie the Catsitter*** by Colleen AF Venable and Stephanie Yue Grades 3+

Katie is not looking forward to summer. Her best friends are all leaving for camp, but Katie's family can't afford to send her. Determined to find a way to join her friends at camp, Katie becomes a catsitter for 217 evil cats. Little does Katie know she may just be the hero who saves the city! Graphic Novel

***The Lion of Mars*** by Jennifer L. Holm Grades 4+

Bell has spent his whole life living in an American colony on Mars. He has always known one of the most important rules of his group is to never make contact with the other colonies. As the adults in his colony start to fall ill, it's up to Bell to find out the truth before it's too late. Sci-Fi

***Maya and the Robot*** by Eve L. Ewing Grades 3+

While working at Mr. Mac's store, Maya finds a robot that belonged to his son and brings the robot home. Fiction

***The People's Painter*** by Cynthia Levinson Grades 3+

This picture book biography tells the story of Ben Shahn, a creative young boy who witnesses injustice in his native Lithuania and moves to New York City. There he studies art and discovers his love for painting, often representing truth and justice and speaking for those without a voice. Biography/Picture Book

***Playing the Cards You're Dealt*** by Varian Johnson Grades 4+

Anthony is double digits and pumped to carry on the family legacy by playing in - and hopefully winning the local spades tournament. With a deft hand, the fifth grader is juggling the card game, friendships, and family secrets. Realistic Fiction

***Saving American Beach*** by Heidi Tyline King Grades 3+

As a young girl, MaVynee loved going to the beach but in the days of Jim Crow, most beaches were for white people only. Knowing something must be done, her grandfather bought a beach that African American families could enjoy; he called it American Beach. Biography/Picture Book

***Saving Sorya Chang and the Sun Bear*** by Trang Nguyen

Grades 3+

A young conservationist overcomes the odds to return a sun bear to its natural habitat. Graphic Novel

***Shark Summer*** by Ira Marcks

Grades 5+

When a Hollywood director starts filming a blockbuster action film on the otherwise sleepy island of Martha's Vineyard, thirteen-year-old Gayle and her friends set out to make their own film and solve an island mystery. Graphic Novel

***She Was the First*** by Katheryn Russell-Brown

Grades 3+

This picture book biography tells the life story of America's first black woman elected to congress in 1974. Biography/Picture Book

***Simon B' Rhymin*** by Dwayne Reed

Grades 3+

Simon Barnes has big dreams of becoming world-famous rapper, Notorious D.O.G. Only problem is he's so shy Simon is afraid to give an oral presentation to his fifth-grade class. Realistic Fiction

***Sona Sharma Very Best Big Sister*** by Chitra Soundar Grades 3+

Sona is getting a baby sibling and at first feels unsure about the big change coming to her life. After consulting her best friend, Elephant, she becomes determined to do her very best and take on her new responsibilities as a big sister. Realistic Fiction

***Unsettled*** by Reem Faruqi

Grades 4+

When Nurah's family moves from Karachi, Pakistan, to Peachtree City, Georgia, she struggles to fit in and remain true to herself - until she discovers swimming. In the water, Nurah no longer wants to blend in - she can't wait to stand out. Nurah gains the courage to stand up to bullies, fight for what she believes in, and find her place. Realistic Fiction/Verse Novel

***Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre*** by Carole Boston Weatherford

Grades 3+

A powerful look at the Tulsa Race Massacre, one of the worst incidents of racial violence in our nation's history. The book traces the history of African Americans in Tulsa's Greenwood district and chronicles the devastation that occurred in 1921 when a white mob attacked the Black community. Nonfiction/Picture Book

***Willodeen*** by Katherine Applegate

Grades 4+

When the annual migration of hummingbirds, a source of local pride and income, dwindles and no one knows why, Willodeen, armed with a magical birthday gift, speaks up for the animals she loves and vows to uncover this mystery. Fiction