



**2025 RHODE ISLAND  
CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD  
NOMINEES Grades 3-5**



<https://tinyurl.com/8m3ht35w>

**Art Club** by Rashad Doucet

Dale loves drawing and making comics and has plans to be an artist someday. Unfortunately, the grown-ups in his life keep telling him that being an artist isn't a real job. Can Dale prove to his community that being an artist is worth fighting for?

*Realistic Fiction Graphic Novel*

**Champion Chompers, Super Stinkers and Other Poems by Extraordinary Animals** by Linda Ashman & Aparna Varma

An exciting guessing game told through poetry, each page tells you something new about familiar and unfamiliar animals. Who is the smelliest, biggest, slowest, and so on?

*Nonfiction Poetry*

**Ellen Takes Flight: The Life of Astronaut Ellen Ochoa**

by Doreen Rappaport & Oliver Dominguez

What does it take to be an astronaut? In this picture book biography, follow Ellen Ochoa as she works, learns, dares, and becomes the first Latina to reach outer space.

*Picture Book Biography*

**Finch House** by Ciera Burch

**Grades 4+**

Micah is disappointed that she and her mother are about to move out of Poppop's house and will do anything to avoid packing. Despite her grandfather telling her repeatedly Finch House is off limits, Micah can't seem to stay away. One day when she can't find Poppop, her bike ride leads her right to the house. The new kid who has just moved in invites her inside. When she realizes what the house is and what dark shadows lurk there, it's too late to leave.

*Paranormal Fiction Chapter Book*

**Grimwood** by Nadia Shireen

Ted and Nancy are city foxes. When they become enemies of Princess Buttons, a ferocious street cat, they flee to the countryside town of Grimwood. The residents of Grimwood are silly and strange, but Ted and Nancy feel safe. However, it isn't long until Princess Buttons finds where the fox duo is hiding.

*Illustrated Animal Fiction Chapter Book*

**Home Away from Home** by Cynthia Lord

This summer Mia will be staying with her grandma while her mother is selling off their home for a new start. When she arrives in Maine things are changing there as well. A brilliant story about how to find home when everything around you is changing.

*Realistic Fiction Chapter Book*

**How Not to Get Eaten** by Josette Reeves & Asia Orlando

Camouflage, playing dead, looking scary, mimicry, and more! Photographs of real animals and panels of text in this nonfiction book explain how animals have adapted to avoid becoming prey.

*Nonfiction*

**Jovita Wore Pants: The Story of a Mexican Freedom Fighter**

by Aida Salazar & Molly Mendoza

Beautifully illustrated, remarkable story of a young girl who cut off her hair, put on a pair of pants and bravely led a group of Mexican revolutionaries in a fight for their freedom.

*Picture Book Biography*

**Lolo's Sari Sari Store** by Sophia N. Lee & Christine Almeda

A young girl learns many lessons helping out at her uncle's store in the Philippines. When she moves to the USA, she uses these gentle lessons to combat her loneliness and find a place in her new community.

*Realistic Fiction Picture Book*

**Mabuhay!** by Zack Sterling

**Grades 4+**

JJ and Althea struggle to fit in at school and helping run their family's food truck doesn't help. Sibling rivalry and school drama is pushed to the side when the characters from the Filipino folktales their mother is always telling come to life and start causing trouble. Will they be able to work together to harness their ancestral powers and save their family and town?

*Fantasy Graphic Novel*

**Meesh the Bad Demon** by Michelle Lam

Twelve-year-old Meesh, an outcast among her fellow demons, must venture to Fairy World to find a healing crystal to save her family after disaster strikes. Along the way she befriends other magical beings and learns valuable lessons about friendship and acceptance.

*Fantasy Graphic Novel*

**My Powerful Hair** by Carole Lindstrom & Steph Littlebird

A brightly illustrated picture book about the significance of hair in Native American cultures. A little girl celebrates growing her hair long after generations of her family had to cut it short.

*Realistic Fiction Picture Book*

**Sam Makes a Splash** by Nicole Melleby

Sam looks forward to the day she can work at her family's boating business until she finds out that her moms might sell it. Can she come up with a plan to save the business before it's too late?

*Realistic Fiction Chapter Book*

**Sejal Sinha Battles Superstorms** by Maya Prasad & Abira Das

When a hurricane interrupts Diwali festivities, Sejal and friends use science and imagination to save the day. Will she be brave enough to carry out her plan?

*Adventure Early Chapter Book*

**Shermy & Shake, the Not-So-Nice Neighbor** by Kirby Larson & Shinji Fujioka

A neighbor can be a friend...or a bother. Will these two neighbors with big differences learn to get along?

*Realistic Fiction Early Chapter Book*

**Something Like Home** by Andrea Beatriz Arango **Grades 4+**

Unable to live with her parents, Laura must move in with her aunt and start at a new school. Just when it seems like things can't get any worse, Laura finds a puppy. Can this puppy help Laura adjust to her new life?

*Realistic Novel in Verse*

**The Boy Who Tried to Shrink His Name** by Sandhya

Parappukkaran & Michelle Pereira

Starting at a new school is hard, and having an unusual name makes it even more difficult. Finding a friend who sees you makes it easier to see yourself.

*Realistic Fiction Picture Book*

**The Guardian Test** by Christina Soontornvat & Kevin Hong

Plum lives a simple life on her family's island farm. When she is invited to join the prestigious Guardian Academy and learn how to protect the natural world, she is shocked and excited. At the academy Plum makes friends, faces challenges, and learns how to use the magic inside her.

*Fantasy Chapter Book*

**The Last Plastic Straw** by Dee Romito & Ziyue Chen

In this nonfiction book, uncover the history of the humble straw – from reeds utilized by ancient Sumerians to the introduction of bendy straws in World War II medical facilities. Throughout the centuries, people have adapted the straw to suit their requirements. Unfortunately, the modern straw now adds to the plastic pollution in our oceans.

*Nonfiction*

**These Olive Trees: A Palestinian Family's Story**

by Aya Ghanameh

Even though Oraib and her family are forced to live in a refugee camp, they still have their beloved olive trees nearby for harvesting and pressing until they must relocate again, leaving their olive trees behind. But Oraib comes up with a hopeful plan to plant their seeds and return to the land to harvest the olives.

*Historical Fiction Picture Book*