



**2026 RHODE ISLAND
CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD
NOMINEES Grades 3-5**



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

A Bite Above the Rest by Christine Virnig

Caleb starts school in a new town where everyone dresses up as witches, monsters and vampires and Halloween decorations are up all the time. Is everyone playing dress-up or did he move into a town full of real werewolves and vampires?

Mystery Chapter Book

Bodega Cats: Picture Purrfect by Hilda Eunice Burgos

Miguel longs to be an artist, but his parents want him to help out at their family's bodega in his spare time. Lolo is a stray cat who finds a home in Miguel's bodega. Together the two learn how to balance family, responsibilities, and friendships.

Illustrated Chapter Book

Call Me Roberto!: Roberto Clemente Goes to Bat for Latinos by Nathalie Alonsobay

Roberto Clemente used a tin can and a tree branch to teach himself how to play baseball, and then swung his way into a Hall of Fame career.

Picture Book Biography

Haiku, Ew!: Celebrating the Disgusting Side of Nature by Lynn Brunelle

Maggots, hagfish, slimy fur and caterpillar soup! These are just some of the disgusting (and poetic) things that can be found in nature-and this book!

Poetry Picture Book

The Happy Shop by Brittany Long Olsen

Darcy is feeling low after moving to a new town but discovers and starts working for a shop that sells happy feelings. She begins to wonder whether happy feelings are the only feelings people need and chooses to do something about it.

Graphic Novel

Invisible Isabel by Sally J. Pla

Isabel is sandwiched in the middle of 5 siblings and never seems to get much attention from her family. When a new popular girl moves to town, Isabel is targeted for being "weird" and learns to stick up for herself, even around adults.

Novel in Verse

Jupiter Nettle and the Seven Schools of Magic: A Graphic Novel by Sangu Mandanna

Jupiter is so excited to join the Seven Schools of Magic but is disappointed when she is chosen for Earth Magic. But when the school is threatened by an ancient force, can she use her talents to help?

Graphic Novel

The Kids in Mrs. Z's Class: Emma McKenna, Full Out by Kate Messner

Emma McKenna can't wait for a fresh start in third grade. She wants to forget all about her awful nickname from second grade - until she walks into class and sees her once best friend, now enemy, who gave her the nickname. Can she turn it around?

Realistic Fiction Chapter Book

Legendarios #1: Wrath of the Rain God by Karla Arenas Valenti

After twins Emma and Martin move from Mexico to Chicago, they discover they have a bit of Mexican magic. Through a magical book they visit an ancient Aztec village that is being ravaged by Tlaloc, the rain god. Emma and Martin journey to visit Tlaloc to save the ancient village.

Fantasy Chapter Book

The Life-Changing Magic of Chess: A Beginner's Guide with Grandmaster Maurice Ashley by Maurice Ashley

Grandmaster Maurice Ashley reveals how chess skills are like superhero abilities that turbocharge your brain and life. Whether you're just starting or already a chess wizard, Ashley's insights will have you powering up in no time!

Graphic Nonfiction

Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All by Chanel Miller

Magnolia Wu is a sock detective on a mission to reunite lonely socks left behind in her parents' laundromat. Despite her efforts to display lost socks on a bulletin board, few notice her or the socks. But this summer, things are about to get a lot more interesting! Magnolia teams up with a new acquaintance, and together they set off on an adventure through the city to unfold the mystery of the missing socks.

Mystery Chapter Book

Mixed-Up by Kami Garcia

Fifth-grader, Stella is getting overwhelmed with schoolwork and the demands of reading. She learns that she has a learning difference, dyslexia, and the help and support of her friends and caring grownups in her life help her to succeed.

Realistic Graphic Novel

My Lost Freedom: A Japanese American World War II Story by George Takei

George Takei, an actor in the TV series Star Trek, shares his story about living in a Japanese internment camp during WWII. His story reflects the experience and the lasting effects of growing up under suspicion, even as a child.

Picture Book Memoir

Off the Map by Meika Hashimoto

Marlo and Amos have always been best friends until the new school year when it all fell apart. Now they are on an Alaskan wilderness trip and stuck in a canoe together when they are separated from their parents.

Realistic Fiction Chapter Book

The Racc Pack by Stephanie Cooke

Do you love trash as much as a raccoon? How about as much as a whole pack of raccoons?! Then you must read all about these hilarious raccoons that go to great lengths to steal trash!

Graphic Novel

Search for a Giant Squid: Pick Your Path by Amy Seto Forrester

Choose your own adventure as you take a submersible on an ocean expedition to reach the giant squid. What lies beneath the surface and how will you get there?

Nonfiction

Stranded!: A Mostly True Story from Iceland by Ævar Þór Benediktsson

This is a true story about an explorer who gets stranded on a volcanic island in Iceland. Well, it's *mostly* a true story. Can you find the one thing in this story that's not actually true?

Nonfiction Picture Book

They Call Me No Sam! by Drew Daywalt

Sam the well-meaning pug tells the story of how he is trying to protect his new family from the evils of the neighborhood while enjoying his treats from his treasure chest. Or is it a garbage can? Things get exciting when Sam's family really needs him to save the day!

Illustrated Chapter Book

Wagnificent: The Adventures of Thunder and Sage by Bethanie Deeney Murguia

Thunder the dog and her favorite human Sage live a peaceful life sharing many adventures together. That is until Thunder's inner wolf appears and he must decide if he wants to be Sage's loyal friend or embrace his wildness.

Graphic Novel

Wings of an Eagle: The Gold Medal Dreams of Billy Mills by Billy Mills & Donna Janell Bowman

Billy Mills ran his way into history while overcoming many challenges and believing in himself.

Picture Book Biography