**Pax**
by Sara Pennypacker
When his father enlists in the military and makes him return his beloved pet fox to the wild, Peter, who has been sent to live with his grandfather hundreds of miles away, embarks on a journey filled with astonishing discoveries in order to be reunited with his fox.

**Save Me a Seat**
by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan
Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class; Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems—but when their lives intersect in the first week of fifth grade they are brought together by a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and the need to take control of their lives.

**The Peculiar Haunting of Thelma Bee**
by Erin Petti
Eleven-year-old Thelma Bee is a budding scientist who has curiosity and adventure in her blood, but when a ghost kidnaps her father her only clues for getting her dad back are a strange jewelry box and the word "Return" whispered to her by the ghost.

**Slacker**
by Gordon Korman
When eighth-grader Cameron Boxer creates the Positive Action Group at school he intends it as a diversion to fool his parents, teachers, and sister into letting him continue to concentrate on his video-gaming—but before he knows it other kids are taking it seriously, and soon he finds himself president of the P.A.G., and involved in community service, so the boy who never cared about anything is now the center of everything, whether he likes it or not.

**Tiny Stitches : The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas**
by Gwendolyn Hooks
"Biography of Vivien Thomas, an African-American surgical technician who pioneered the procedure used to treat babies with a heart defect known as 'blue baby syndrome.' Includes author's note and author's sources"—Provided by publisher.

**Towers Falling**
by Jewell Parker Rhodes
While learning about September 11th, fifth grader Deja (born after the attacks) realizes how much the events still color her world.

**Weekends with Max and his Dad**
by Linda Urban
Third-grader Max pursues neighborhood adventures with his dad as they both adjust to recent changes in their family.

**Welcome to Wonderland : Home Sweet Motel**
by Chris Grabenstein
"P.T. and his friend Gloria must solve a mystery at the world's wackiest motel: The Wonderland"—Provided by publisher.

Students: To be eligible to vote for your favorite book, you must read at least three of the nominee titles. Voting takes place in February.

All media specialists should review all titles and add them to their collection only if the titles meet the criteria established by District Board Policy and Library Media Center Policy & Procedure guidelines. We recommend that others interested in purchasing these titles read reviews and scan materials to determine the appropriateness for their intended readers.

Book summaries and images courtesy of Novelist Plus database: www.scdiscus.org unless otherwise noted.

South Carolina Association of School Librarians
PO Box 2442, Columbia, SC 29202
http://scasl.net/awards/book-awards/
Allie, First at Last by Angela Cervantes
Born into a family of over-achievers, fifth-grader Allie Velasco has never finished first in anything, and lately things have been going badly: her science project is ruined by a well-meaning student, her former best friend is hanging out with another girl—but now she is determined to win the Trailblazer contest with a photographic presentation about her great grandfather, the first Congressional Medal of Honor winner from their town.

As Brave As You by Jason Reynolds
"When two brothers decide to prove how brave they are, everything backfires—literally"—. Provided by publisher.

Full of Beans by Jennifer L. Holm
Ten-year-old Beans Curry, a member of the Keepsies, the best marble playing gang in Depression-era Key West, Florida, engages in various schemes to earn money while "New Dealers" from Washington, D.C., arrive to turn run down Key West into a tourist resort.

Garvey's Choice by Nikki Grimes
Preferring science and reading to the sports his father wants him to play, Garvey comforts himself with food and endures bullying before joining the school chorus, where he learns how to accept himself and bond with his father.

Isabel Feeney, Star Reporter by Beth Fantaskey
In the 1920s, a ten-year-old newsgirl who aspires to be a reporter at the Chicago Tribune investigates the murder of a gangster.

Isabel, First at Last
Born into a family of over-achievers, fifth-grader Allie Velasco has never finished first in anything, and lately things have been going badly: her science project is ruined by a well-meaning student, her former best friend is hanging out with another girl—but now she is determined to win the Trailblazer contest with a photographic presentation about her great grandfather, the first Congressional Medal of Honor winner from their town.

Hamstersaurus Rex by Tom O’Donnell
"Eleven-year old Sam befriends a hungry class hamster that undergoes a freaky transformation"—Provided by publisher.

The Hero Two Doors Down: A Story of Friendship Between a Boy and a Baseball Legend by Sharon Robinson
Eight-year-old Steve Satlow is thrilled when Jackie Robinson moves into his Jewish neighborhood in Brooklyn in 1948, although many of his neighbors are not, and when Steve actually meets his hero he is even more excited—and worried that a misunderstanding over a Christmas tree could damage his new friendship.

The Lost Cipher by Michael Oechsle
After the death of his father, Lucas becomes obsessed with the legend of Thomas Jefferson Beale's lost treasure, and leads his friends on a dangerous mission into the wilderness to find it.

Moo by Sharon Creech
Follows the efforts of twelve-year-old Reena, who has recently moved to rural Maine, to adjust to new environment while unexpectedly bonding with an ornery cow.