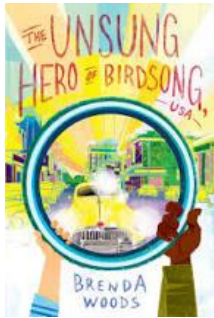




Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster by Jonathan Auxier
 In nineteenth-century England, after her father's disappearance Nan Sparrow, ten, works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem.

They Call Me Güero: A Border Kid's Poems by David Bowles
 Twelve-year-old Guero, a red-headed, freckled Mexican American border kid, discovers the joy of writing poetry, thanks to his seventh grade English teacher.



The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA by Brenda Woods
 Gabriel, twelve, gains new perspective when he becomes friends with Meriwether, a Black World War II hero who has recently returned to the unwelcoming Jim Crow South.

Willa of the Wood by Robert Beatty
 In the late 1800s, a twelve-year-old night spirit living in the Great Smoky Mountains despairs as homesteaders destroy her forest habitat, until a chance encounter with a "day-folk" man changes everything she thought she knew about her people--and their greatest enemy.



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

Media Specialists: All media specialist 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.

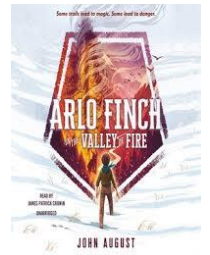
Book summaries and images courtesy of NoveList K-8 Plus.

2020-21 South Carolina Children's Book Award Nominees



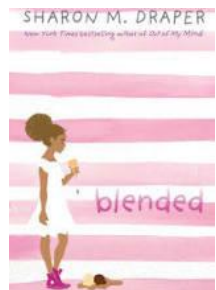
Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed
 In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family.

Arlo Finch in Valley of Fire by John August
 When Arlo Finch moves to Pine Mountain, Colorado, and joins the Rangers, he learns how to harness the wild magic seeping in from the mysterious Long Woods--a parallel realm of wonder and danger.



Betty Before X by Ilyasah Shabazz
 Raised by her aunt until she is six, Betty, who will later marry Malcolm X, joins her mother and stepfamily in 1940s Detroit, where she learns about the civil rights movement.

Blended by Sharon M. Draper
 Piano-prodigy Isabella, eleven, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police.



South Carolina Association of School Librarians
 PO Box 2442, Columbia, SC 29202
<http://scasl.net/awards/book-awards/>

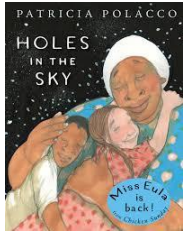


Caterpillar Summer by Gillian McDunn

Since her father's death, Cat has taken care of her brother, Chicken, for their hardworking mother but while spending time with grandparents they never knew, Cat has the chance to be a child again.

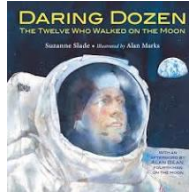
Holes in the Sky by Patricia Polacco

Soon after her beloved grandmother's death, Trisha's family moves to a diverse California neighborhood where she meets Stewart and his grandmother, Miss Eula, who brings people together to help a grieving neighbor.



Daring Dozen: The Twelve Who Walked on the Moon by Suzanne Slade

This book describes the experiences of the twelve astronauts who walked on the Moon, showing how the Apollo moon missions built upon one another.

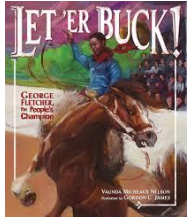


Just Like Jackie by Lindsey Stoddard

For as long as Robinson Hart can remember, it's just been her and Grandpa. He taught her about cars, baseball, and everything else worth knowing. But Grandpa's memory has been getting bad—so bad that he sometimes can't even remember Robbie's name. She's sure that she's making things worse by getting in trouble at school.

Let 'Er Buck!: George Fletcher, the People's Champion by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

In 1911, three men were in the final round of the famed Pendleton Round-Up. One was white, one was Indian, and one was black. When the judges declared the white man the winner, the audience was outraged. They named black cowboy George Fletcher the "people's champion".

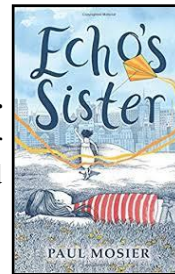


The Doughnut Fix by Jessie Janowitz

When his family moves to tiny Petersville, eleven-year-old Tris stops focusing on his perfect sister, Jeanine, by using his cooking expertise to revive a town tradition of chocolate cream doughnuts.

Echo's Sister by Paul Mosier

Eleven-year-old Echo finds the courage to help her younger sister fight cancer, and, in the process, finds the love and support of an entire community.

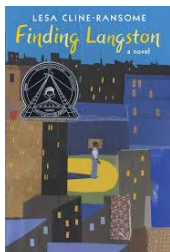
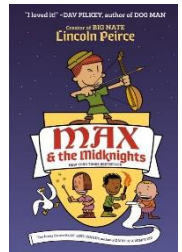


Lizzy and the Good Luck Girl by Susan Lubner

A superstitious 12-year-old living above her family's diner searches for signs to guide her life before taking in a runaway whom she protects in the hope that the girl will safeguard her family from tragedy.

Max & the Midnights by Lincoln Peirce

Aspiring knight Max teams up with a band of brave adventurers, the Midnights, on a madcap quest to save a kidnapped relative from a cruel king who is driving all the happiness out of the realm of Byjovia.

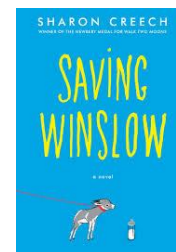
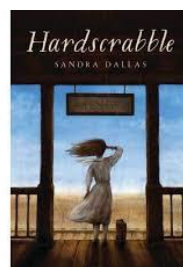


Finding Langston by Lesa Cline-Ransome

Discovering a book of Langston Hughes' poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration, and being bullied.

Hardscrabble by Sandra Dallas

Twelve-year-old Belle Martin and her family move to Mingo, Colorado, in 1910 when the U.S. government offers 320 acres of land free to homesteaders.



Saving Winslow by Sharon Creech

When his father brings home an ailing, newborn donkey, Louie names the animal Winslow and takes care of him, but everyone, including Louie's quirky friend Nora, thinks Winslow is not going to survive.