



Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2022-2023 List for Grades 3-5



***Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston**

Amari Peters has never stopped believing that her missing brother is still alive, no matter what others say. That's why, when she finds an invitation for a tryout at the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she goes, even though now she has to deal with magicians, fairies, aliens, and other supernatural creatures. It would be easy to give up, especially with everyone thinking she's the enemy and there's an evil magician on the loose, but Amari will do anything to find her missing brother.



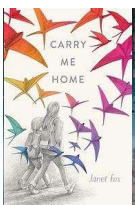
***The Beast and the Bethany* by Jack Meggitt-Phillips**

Ebenezer Tweezer is beautiful—and 511 years old. His secret is the monster in his house. He feeds the monster rare items and in exchange gets magical potions. But now the monster wants to eat a child. The child, Bethany, is very rude and obnoxious, but Ebenezer is starting to have second thoughts about feeding her to the monster. What if Ebenezer wants to be her friends instead?



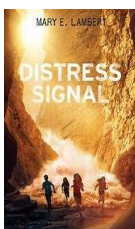
***Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom* by Matthew Swanson**

Live each day as if it were your last. Ben's fortune cookie changes his life. He creates a bucket list of what he wants to do with his life. But with his new tasks and dreams come new fears, risks, and plenty of trouble—all which may interfere with things like building a 1000 piece model and eating an entire cake. Ben's new way of living life may just lead to new friendships and new apple pies to be baked.



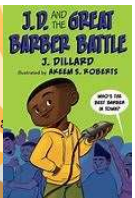
***Carry Me Home* by Janet Fox**

Twelve-year-old Lulu and her little sister Serena have a secret. They are homeless. And their dad has disappeared. Lulu will try her best to be responsible for her family—and try to keep their situation a secret. One mistake and Lulu and Serena will be separated. One mistake and Lulu's life that she has been creating in her town and in her school will be over. Who can Lulu trust? Can anyone be trusted to save her and Serena? Can anyone be trusted to find their father?



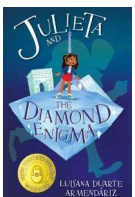
***Distress Signal* by Mary E. Lambert**

Lavender's class trip to a national park is not going well. First, she is stuck in a group with her ex-best friend, a mean girl, and an odd boy. Then, disaster strikes. There is a flash flood. The four students are separated from their school and lost in the desert. They will need to put aside their differences if they want to survive.



***J.D. and the Great Barber Battle* by J. Dillard**

J.D. learns that he has a natural talent for cutting hair after his mom gives him the worst haircut of his life. Soon he is making money running a barbershop from his bedroom. But when Henry Jr. (the owner of the only official barbershop in town) tries to shut him down, there is only one thing left to do. How do you solve who is the best barber in town? With the Great Barber Battle!

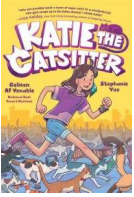


***Julieta and the Diamond Enigma* by Luisana Duarte Armendariz**

Julieta is so excited to finally visit Paris. She arrives with her art-handler dad and immediately takes in the sights, but when they get to the Louvre, they walk in on a thief stealing a priceless cursed diamond. The thief gets away and—worse yet—Julieta's dad is the main suspect! Can Julieta catch the real diamond thief before it's too late?

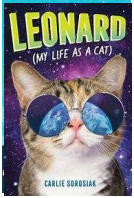
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***Katie the Catsitter* by Colleen AF Venable**

Everyone is off at summer camp, except for Katie. She and her mom don't have enough money to send her. Unless she earns the money herself! Katie gets a job catsitting for her mysterious neighbor Madeline. Madeline's 217 cats are not what you would call normal. And why is Madeline out the exact time the city's famous supervillain is committing crimes? Can Katie save her friendships, solve a mystery, AND take care of 217 cats???



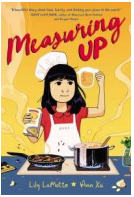
***Leonard (My Life as a Cat)* by Carlie Sorosiak**

When Olive rescues a cat from a flood, she learns that Leonard the cat is really Leonard the alien. Leonard was attempting to come to Earth as a human and learn human things (bowling, hosting a dinner party, how to hold an umbrella). But now, not only will he not get those experiences, if he doesn't make it from South Carolina to Yellowstone National Park soon, he will miss his ride home.



***The Lion of Mars* by Jennifer L. Holm**

Bell has spent all 11 years of her life on Mars. She often wonders why she is not allowed to contact any of the other colonies on the planet. Then, when all of the adults on her colony are sick with a virus, it is up to Bell to save her colony, and maybe even unite the entire planet of Mars.



***Measuring Up* by Lily LaMotte**

Cici has just moved from Taiwan to Seattle. The only thing she wants more than new friends is to fly her A-ma to Seattle for her 70th birthday. But a plane ticket is very expensive. Cici's plan is to win the prize money in a kids cooking contest. Unfortunately Cici only knows how to cook Taiwanese food. Can Cici make friends, win the cooking contest, and celebrate with her A-ma?



***The Million Dollar Race* by Matthew Ross Smith**

Grant is fast. Real fast. So he is very excited when a sneaker company announces a world-wide competition to find the fastest kid. But it won't be easy. His strange parents never got him a birth certificate, so he may not be allowed to compete. Grant wants to win, but at what cost? He may have to invent his own country. He may have to knock his best friend out of the competition. What is Grant willing to sacrifice to be the fastest kid in the world?



***Mystery on Magnolia Circle* by Kate Klise**

Best friends Ivy and Teddy are having the WORST summer. Ivy broke her leg and Teddy's dog died. But when Ivy witnessed what might be a burglary, things get a lot more interesting. Who are the criminals? Could a classmate be involved? More mysteries await as Ivy and Teddy save their summer.



***Shirley & Jamila Save Their Summer* by Gillian Goetz**

Jamila is bored and in a new city. Then she meets Shirley. Sure, Shirley is a bit odd, but it is a long summer. They might as well be friends. When a boy named Oliver begs Shirley to help him find his missing gecko, Jamila discovers that Shirley is the neighborhood's best detective. Even better, Jamila finds that she too has crime-solving skills. Can they solve some mysteries? And save their crumbling friendship in the process?



***Stella* by McCall Hoyle**

Stella had a great job as a bomb-sniffing dog. But when she made a mistake and there was an explosion, Stella's anxiety forced her to retire. When a girl named Chloe adopts Stella, it is an opportunity for the dog to prove her worth. Stella discovers she can smell when Chloe is about to have a seizure. Can Stella become a new kind of service dog and save Chloe's life?