

Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2022-2023 List for Grades 6-8



Amari and the Night Brothers by B. B. Alston

Amari Peters has never stopped believing her missing brother, Quinton, is alive. So when she discovers a ticking briefcase in his closet containing a nomination for a tryout at the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she's certain the secretive organization holds the key to locating Quinton--if only she can wrap her head around the idea of magicians, fairies, aliens, and other supernatural creatures all being real.



Archimancy Shadow School by J. A. White

Cordelia Liu knew Shadow School was going to be different with black gates and ivied walls as well as long hallways lined with old paintings. There is a tower with a window that looks like an eye. *Different* she expected and *different* she could handle. Still, Cordelia can't shake the feeling that something's not right, and that she's being carefully watched by someone or something.



Concealed by Christina Diaz Gonzalez

Whatever her name is, it won't last long. Katrina doesn't know any of the details about her past, but she does know that she and her parents are part of the Witness Protection Program. Whenever her parents say they have to move on and start over, she takes on a new identity. A new name, a new hair color, a new story.



Curse of the Night Witch by Alex Aster

On Emblem Island all are born knowing their fate. Their lifelines show the course of their life and an emblem dictates how they will spend it. Twelve-year-old Tor Luna was born with a leadership emblem, just like his mother. But he hates his mark and is determined to choose a different path for himself. So, on the annual New Year's Eve celebration, where Emblemmites throw their wishes into a bonfire in the hopes of having them granted, Tor wishes for a different power.



Double the Danger and Zero Zucchini by Betsy Uhrig

Books aren't supposed to be dangerous. Are they?
Alex Harmon prefers running over and sitting still reading. His aunt offers to pay him to point out the boring parts in her children's books; he figures it's an easy way to make ten bucks. The problem is that her book is about a grumpy frog and prize-winning zucchini. Find out how things change for Alex!



Dragon Ops by Mari Mancusi

One wrong move, and it's game over.
Welcome to DRAGON OPS, the world's first augmented-reality video-game theme park. Set on a once-deserted island, our three beta players--classic gamer geek Ian; his adventure-seeking sister, Lily; and their too-cool-for-gaming cousin, Derek--have been lucky enough to score an invite to play before the fully immersive experience opens to the public.



The Elephant in the Room by Holly Goldberg Sloan

It's been almost a year since Sila's mother traveled halfway around the world to Turkey. The long separation is almost impossible for Sila to withstand. But things change when Sila accompanies her father (who is a mechanic) outside their Oregon town to fix a truck. There, behind an enormous stone wall, she meets a grandfatherly man who only months before won the state lottery. Why not find out what happens next? What can Sila, a grandfatherly man and an elephant have in common?

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Lola Benko, Treasure Hunter by Beth McMullen

Having a world-traversing archaeologist dad means twelve-year-old Lola Benko is used to moving around not putting down roots anywhere. But every day and every hunt for something hidden is an adventure, and no matter what, she and her dad are an unbeatable team. Then her father disappears. What will Lola do next?



Pixie Pushes On by Tamara Bundy

Pixie's defenses are up, and it's no wonder. She's been uprooted, the chickens seem to have it in for her, and now her beloved sister, Charlotte, has been stricken with polio and whisked away into quarantine. So it's not surprising Pixie lashes out. But her habit of making snap judgements--and giving her classmates nicknames like "Rotten Ricky" and "Big-Mouth Berta"--hasn't won her any friends. At least life on the farm is getting better with the delivery of its newest resident--a runt baby lamb.



Quintessence by Jess Redman

Three months ago, twelve-year-old Alma moved to the town of Four Points. Her panic attacks started a week later, and they haven't stopped, even though she told her parents that they did. Every day she feels less and less like herself. Then Alma meets the ShopKeeper in the town's junk shop, The Fifth Point. The ShopKeeper gives her a telescope and this message: Read the book to find the secret message!



Rivals by Tommy Greenwald

The people of Walthorne love their basketball—and one of the things they love most is the special rivalry between the Walthorne North Middle School Cougars and the Walthorne South Middle School Panthers. As the season begins, two star players are feeling the heat: Austin Chambers, captain of Walthorne North, worries that he's not good enough to live up to his father's legacy, while across town, the brilliantly talented Carter Haswell, captain of Walthorne South, is already under pressure to get a scholarship that might ease his family's financial stress.



Scratch Scratch by Lindsay Currie

Claire has absolutely no interest in the paranormal. She's a scientist, which is why she can't think of anything worse than having to help out her dad on one of his ghost-themed Chicago bus tours. She thinks she's made it through when she sees a boy with a sad face and dark eyes at the back of the bus. There's something off about his presence, especially because when she checks at the end of the tour...he's gone.



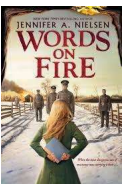
The Smartest Kid in the Universe by Chris Grabenstein

Jake's middle school is about to be shut down. Jake and his friends know their school's worth saving—if they could only figure out how! When Jake spies a bowl of jelly beans at the hotel where his mom works, he eats them. But uh-oh—those weren't just jellybeans, one of the scientists at his mom's conference is in the process of developing the first ingestible information pills. And THAT'S what Jake ate. Find out what happens next!



Starfish by Lisa Fipps

Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules—like “no making waves,” “avoid eating in public,” and “don't move so fast that your body jiggles.” And she's found her safe space—her swimming pool—where she feels weightless in a fat-obsessed world. In the water, she can stretch herself out like a starfish and take up all the room she wants. Find out how Ellie does something about being her own fabulous self!



Words on Fire by Jennifer Nielsen

Danger is never far from Audra's family farm in Lithuania. She always avoids the occupying Russian Cossack Soldiers, who insist that everyone must become Russian. They have banned Lithuanian books, religion, culture, and even the language. Audra knows her parents are involved in something secret and perilous in June 1893. Audra embarks on a dangerous journey to deliver a mysterious package for her parents after Russian Cossacks arrest them. Can joining the underground network of book smugglers give Audra a chance to rescue her parents?