

2019 - 2020 Kentucky Bluegrass Award Master List for Preschool KBA

Builders & Breakers / Steve Light / Candlewick Press. 2018.

A young boy and his sister visit a construction site to take their father his lunch, and get to see what all the equipment does.

Hello Hello / Brendan Wenzel / Chronicle Books. 2018.

In simple text, a set of animals, each one linked to the previous one by some trait of shape, color, or pattern, greet and interact with one another.

If I Had a Horse / Gianna Marino / Roaring Brook Press. 2018.

A story about a child's yearning for a horse.

Julian is a Mermaid / Jessica Love / Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. 2018.

In an exuberant picture book, a glimpse of costumed mermaids leaves one boy flooded with wonder and ready to dazzle the world.

Lion is a Lion, A / Polly Dunbar / Candlewick. 2018.

Is a lion still a lion if he wears a hat? With whimsical illustrations, Polly Dunbar celebrates the shrewd mind of a child -- and the power of saying no.

Old Hat / Emily Gravett / Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 2018.

After buying one outrageous hat after another in an attempt to keep up with the latest fashions set by his teasing animal friends, Harbet the dog learns that true happiness comes from being yourself.

Rabbit Listened, The / Cori Doerrfeld / Dial Books for Young Readers. 2018.

When Taylor's block castle is destroyed, all the animals think they know just what to do, but only the rabbit quietly listens to how Taylor is feeling.

Red and Lulu / Matt Tavares / Candlewick Press. 2018.

Separation and miles cannot keep a determined cardinal from his loved one in an ode to serendipity and belief that is destined to be a Christmas classic.

Shake the Tree / Chiara Vignocchi / illus. Silvia Borando / Candlewick Press. 2018.

There's a whole lot of shaking going on -- and a funny final twist -- as a series of hungry animals seek shelter in an obliging tree.

Trains Run! / George Ella Lyon and Benn Lyon / illus. Mick Wiggins / Atheneum Richard Jackson. 2019.

Kentucky authors George Ella and Benn Lyon lyrically take us from steam engines to subways, from the locomotive to the caboose. This story stays right on track, exploring all different kinds of trains and what they do in a day.

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Different? Same! / Heather Tekavec / illus. Pippa Curnick/ Kids Can Press. 2017.

Readers will discover similarities in even the most different of animals in this exploration of animals and their characteristics.

Giraffe Problems. / Jory John / illus Lane Smith / Random House. 2018.

Can you guess what's making this giraffe self-conscious? Could it be . . . HIS ENORMOUS NECK?? Yes, it's exactly that--how on earth did you figure it out?

The Itchy Book / LeUyen Pham, Mo Willems / Hyperion Books. 2018.

Triceratops has an itch. . . so does Pterodactyl. . . and Brontosaurus. . . and T-Rex! But DINOSAURS DO NOT SCRATCH. There is a rule written in stone. What is an itchy dinosaur to do?!

Misunderstood Shark / Ame Dyckman / illus Scott Magoon / Scholastic. 2018.

Some people think there's nothing more terrifying than a shark! But are sharks really that scary, or are they just misunderstood?

Natsumi! / Susan Lendroth / illus Priscilla Burris / G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers. 2018.

When Natsumi's family practices for their town's Japanese arts festival, Natsumi tries everything. But her stirring is way too vigorous for the tea ceremony, her dancing is just too imaginative, and flower arranging doesn't go any better. Can she find just the right way to put her exuberance to good use?

Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist / Jess Keating / Marta Alvarez Miguens / Sourcebooks Jabberwocky. 2017.

Eugenie fell in love with sharks from the first moment she saw them at the aquarium. She couldn't imagine anything more exciting than studying these graceful creatures and in the process earned the nickname, "Shark Lady."

Thank You, Omu! / Oge Mora / Little Brown Books for Young Readers. 2018.

When the aroma of Omu's homemade stew fills the air, her neighbors arrive one by one, for a taste until all is gone except for her generous spirit.

We Don't Eat Our Classmates / Ryan T. Higgins / Disney-Hyperion. 2018.

It's the first day of school for Penelope Rex, and she can't wait to meet her classmates. But it's hard to make human friends when they're so darn delicious!

What Do They Do With All That Poo? / Jane Kurtz / illus Allison Black / Beach Lane Books. 2018.

There's lots and lots of poo at the zoo, in many shapes and sizes. Some poo at the zoo is big and brown... but some of it surprises!

What If / Samantha Berger / illus Mike Curato / Little Brown Books. 2018.

This girl is determined to express herself! If she can't draw her dreams, she'll sculpt or build, carve or collage. If she can't do that, she'll turn her world into a canvas.

2019 Kentucky Bluegrass Awards Master List for Grades 3-5

Bob / Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead / Feiwel and Friends, 2018.

Visiting her grandmother in Australia, ten year-old Livy is reminded of the oath she made five years before to Bob, a strange, green creature in a disheveled chicken suit who cannot recall who or what he is. This magical story follows the rekindling of a friendship between Livy and Bob as she fulfills her promise to help him get home.

Chasing Augustus / Kimberly Newton Fusco / Alfred A. Knopf, 2017.

Rosie lives with her father who runs a donut shop and shares his love of reading until one day he has a stroke and everything changes. Rosie is placed in the care of her prickly grandfather, and her estranged mother gives away her beloved dog, Gus. Rosie is determined, however, to get Gus back no matter where her journey to find him takes her.

Ivy / Katherine Coville / Alfred A. Knopf, 2017.

Ivy's animal-healing grandmother is going to need all the help she can get to clean up her overgrown yard if their town, Broomsweep, is going to win the title of "best town" in the kingdom. Getting things in order proves to be even more challenging when an injured griffin and a dragon with a cold unexpectedly descend upon grandmother's cottage.

Lions and Liars / Kate Beasley / illustrated by Dan Santat / Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2018.

Frederick Frederickson has a food-chain theory about life: there are lions, like the school bullies and there are gazelles, like the bullied kids. There are meerkats, too, but fifth-grader Frederick sees himself as a flea on the butt of a meerkat. That status changes as he finds himself at a camp for troubled boys and has to navigate the challenges of living a lie and preparing for a Category 5 hurricane that is barreling toward their camp.

Mac B, Kid Spy: Mac Undercover / Mac Barnett / illustrated by Mike Lowery / Orchard Books, imprint of Scholastic, 2018.

One day, Mac, the smartest boy in his class in a small town in California, receives a telephone call from the Queen of England, recruiting him to find the crown jewels (well, actually just the Coronation Spoon). Soon, Mac embarks on his first adventure as a secret agent which will take him to France and eventually the Soviet Union with the Queen's corgi, Freddie, to help him through his hilarious encounters that include the King of France and a KGB officer.

Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess / Shari Green / Pajama Press, 2017.

Macy, a sixth grader who is deaf, is about to have her life upended: her mom is remarrying, she is about to have six-year-old twins as stepsisters, and she is moving into a new house. Frustrated Macy, who has just been given a challenging genealogy school assignment, is told that she must help her elderly neighbor Iris, who is also getting ready to move to a nursing home. Despite their language barrier (Iris doesn't know sign language), an unusual but sweet friendship develops that may be just what Macy needs to help her face all the changes in her life.

The Mad Wolf's Daughter / Diane Magras / Kathy Dawson Books, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers Group, 2018.

In 1210 Scotland, 12-year-old Drest must rescue her father, the Mad Wolf of the North, and her beloved brothers who make up his fearsome war-band after they are captured by raiding knights. Drest sets off with a wounded knight as her captive to trade for her family's freedom in this daring medieval adventure.

Pass Go and Collect \$200: The Real Story of How Monopoly Was Invented / Tanya Lee Stone / illustrated by Steven Salerno / Henry Holt and Company, 2018.

Lizzie Magie, who lived in the late 1800s, was a clever and charismatic woman with a strong sense of justice. In 1903, she created the Landlord's Game to bring attention to the unfairness of the landlord-tenant relationship in urban areas. Uncover the hidden history of of this game and its transformation into the beloved entertainment that Monopoly still brings to millions today.

Saving Winslow: a Novel / Sharon Creech / Joanna Colter Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2018.

Ten-year-old Louie, missing his brother Gus who is serving in the military, is determined to save an ailing newborn mini-donkey that he names Winslow. Nora, Louie's newcomer neighbor, is more pessimistic about Winslow's chances of survival due mostly to her own personal losses. A lonely, optimistic boy and a girl who's afraid to love will form a friendship that helps them navigate the new challenges posed by a donkey living in a place he doesn't belong.

Superstar / Mandy Davis / HarperCollins Publishers, 2017.

Fifth-grader Lester, space enthusiast and homeschool kid, suddenly finds himself thrust into the world of public elementary school. Lester faces the ups and downs of making

friends, meeting bullies, learning about his autism diagnosis, and finding joy - and heartbreak - in the science fair. Join Lester on a journey to find his way in school and to discover that what is most important isn't what you can do, but who you are.

2019 Kentucky Bluegrass Awards Master List for Grades 6-8

Everless / Sara Holland / HarperTeen, an Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2018. In order to gain more time for her dying father, Jules Ember returns to Everless, where the aristocratic Gerlings tax other people for time itself so they can live longer. She and her father escaped from there long ago and going back to Everless brings more danger--and temptation--than Jules could have ever imagined. Her decisions have the power to change her fate--and the fate of time itself.

Front Desk / Kelly Yang / Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic, Inc, 2018. Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao is a nasty skinflint who exploits them; while her mother (who was an engineer in China) does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants--not to mention being only one of two Chinese students in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son, Jason.

Game Changer / Tommy Greenwald / Amulet Books, 2018. While thirteen-year-old Teddy fights for his life after a football injury at training camp, his friends and family gather to support him and discuss events leading to his coma. Told through dialogue, text messages, newspaper articles, transcripts, an online forum, and Teddy's inner thoughts.

Ghost Boys / Jewell Parker Rhodes / Little, Brown & Company, 2018. After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions.

Greetings from Witness Protection / Jake Burt / Feiwel and Friends, 2017.

Thirteen-year-old Nikki Demere is an orphan and a kleptomaniac, making her the perfect girl to portray the Trevors' daughter in witness protection, but she soon learns that the biggest threat to her new family's security comes from her own past.

Last Pick / Jason Walz / First Second, 2018.

Three years ago, aliens invaded Earth and abducted everyone they deemed useful. The only ones spared were those too young, too old, or too 'disabled' to be of value. Living on Earth under the aliens' harsh authoritarian rule, humanity's rejects do their best to survive. Their captors never considered them a threat--until now. Twins Sam and Wyatt are ready to chuck their labels and start a revolution. It's time for the kids last picked to step into the game.

Mars One / Jonathan Maberry / Simon & Schuster BFYR, 2017.

Tristan has known that he and his family were going to be on the first mission to colonize Mars since he was twelve, and he has been training ever since. But now, at sixteen, it's time to leave Earth, and he's forced to face all that he must leave behind in exchange for an uncertain future.

The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl / Stacy McAnulty / Random House, 2018.

A lightning strike made Lucy, twelve, a math genius but, after years of homeschooling, her grandmother enrolls her in middle school and she learns that life is more than numbers.

Resistance / Jennifer A. Nielsen / Scholastic Press, 2018.

In 1942 sixteen-year-old Chaya Lindner is a Jewish girl living in Nazi-occupied Poland, a courier who smuggles food and documents to the isolated Jewish ghettos in southern Poland, depending on her forged papers and "Aryan" features--but when a mission goes wrong and many of her colleagues are arrested she finds herself on a journey to Warsaw, where an uprising is in the works.

Spirit Hunters / Ellen Oh / Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2017.

Harper doesn't trust her new home from the moment she steps inside, and the rumors are that the Raine family's new house is haunted. Harper isn't sure she believes those rumors, until her younger brother, Michael, starts acting strangely. The whole atmosphere gives Harper a sense of déjà vu, but she can't remember why. She knows that the memories she's blocking will help make sense of her brother's behavior and the

strange and threatening sensations she feels in this house, but will she be able to put the pieces together in time?

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Bonnie and Clyde: The Making of a Legend / Karen Blumenthal / Viking Books for Young Readers, 2018.

Bonnie and Clyde are remembered mostly for their storied romance and tragic deaths. But what was life really like for Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker in the early 1930s? How did two dirt-poor teens from west Texas morph from vicious outlaws to legendary couple? And why?

Dry / Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman / Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018.

The drought—or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it—has been going on for a while now. Everyone’s lives have become an endless list of don’ts: don’t water the lawn, don’t fill up your pool, don’t take long showers. Until the taps run dry. Suddenly, Alyssa’s quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors and families turn against each other on the hunt for water. When her parents don’t return and her life—and her brother’s—are threatened, Alyssa has to make impossible choices if she’s going to survive.

Hide With Me / Sorboni Banerjee / Razorbill, 2018.

In the dying cornfields of his family’s farm, seventeen-year-old Cade finds a girl broken and bleeding. She has one request: hide me. Tucked away in an abandoned barn on the edge of the farm, the mysterious Jane Doe starts to heal and details of her past begin to surface. But it’s not that easy to disappear; her past is far from over, and the secret she holds could kill them all.

History of Jane Doe, The / Michael Belanger / Dial, 2018.

History buff Ray knows everything about the peculiar legends and lore of his rural Connecticut hometown. Burgerville’s past is riddled with green cow sightings and human groundhogs, but the most interesting thing about the present is the new girl—we’ll call her Jane Doe. Inscrutable, cool, and above all mysterious, Jane seems as determined to hide her past as Ray is to uncover it. As fascination turns to friendship and then to something more, Ray is certain he knows Jane’s darkest, most painful secrets and Jane herself. But when the unthinkable happens, Ray is forced to acknowledge that perhaps history can only tell us so much.

I Am Still Alive / Kate Alice Marshall / Viking Books for Young Readers, 2018.

Jess hasn't seen her survivalist, off-the-grid dad in over a decade. But after a car crash kills her mother, leaving Jess seriously injured, she is forced to move to his cabin in the remote Canadian wilderness. Just as she is beginning to get to know him, a secret from his past pays them a visit, leaving her father dead and Jess stranded and alone. Her cabin has burned to the ground. She is still alive----for now, however if she doesn't act fast, the cold will kill her before she has time to worry about food. With only her father's dog for company, Jess must forage and hunt for food, build shelter, and keep herself warm.

Losers Bracket / Chris Crutcher / Greenwillow Books, 2018.

Families are complicated and when it comes to family, Annie is in the losers bracket. While her foster parents are great (mostly), her birth family would never have been her first pick. When a family argument breaks out at Annie's swim meet and her nephew goes missing, Annie might be the only one who can get him back. With help from her friends, her foster brother, and her social service worker, Annie puts the pieces of the puzzle together, determined to find her nephew and finally get him into a safe home.

Orphan, Monster, Spy / Matt Killeen / Viking Books for Young Readers, 2018.

Her name is Sarah, she's blonde, blue-eyed, and Jewish in 1939 Germany, and her act of resistance is about to change the world. After her mother is shot at a checkpoint, fifteen-year-old Sarah meets a mysterious man with an ambiguous accent, in a suspiciously bare apartment with a lockbox full of weapons. He's part of the secret resistance against the Third Reich, and he needs Sarah to hide in plain sight at a school for the daughters of top Nazi brass, posing as one of them.

Poet X / Elizabeth Acevedo / Harper Teen, 2018.

Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about. With Mami's determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts might be best kept to herself. However, when she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she can't stop thinking about performing her poems.

Sadie / Courtney Summers / Wednesday Books, 2018.

A missing girl on a journey of revenge. Growing up on her own, Sadie's been raising her sister Mattie in an isolated small town, trying her best to provide a normal life and keep their heads above water. But when Mattie is found dead, Sadie's entire world crumbles. With no help from the police, Sadie is determined to bring her sister's killer to justice. She vanishes, hitting the road, following a few meager clues to find the killer. West McCray—a radio personality working on a segment about small, forgotten towns in America—overhears Sadie's story at a local gas station, becomes obsessed with finding the missing girl. He starts his own podcast as he tracks Sadie's journey, trying to figure out what happened, hoping to find her before it's too late.

Seafire / Natalie C. Parker / Razorbill, 2018.

After her family is killed by corrupt warlord Aric Athair and his bloodthirsty army of Bullets, Caledonia Styx is left to chart her own course on the dangerous and deadly seas. She captains her ship, the Mors Navis, with a crew of girls and women just like her, who have lost their families and homes because of Aric and his men. The crew has one mission: stay alive, and take down Aric's armed and armored fleet. But when Caledonia's best friend and second-in-command barely survives an attack, thanks to help from a defector of Aric's crew, Caledonia finds herself questioning whether to let him join aid in their mission. Is this boy the key to taking down Aric Athair once and for all...or will he threaten everything the women of the Mors Navis have worked for?