



## Rhode Island Middle School Book Award 2022 Nominees

**Please remember not all books are suitable for  
all readers**

### ***Black Brother, Black Brother* By Jewell Parker Rhodes**

After Donte and his twin brother Trey start at a new school he finds he is being treated unfairly due to his dark skin color, while Trey with his lighter skin is not. Donte decides to try fencing to beat the boy who has been bullying him, and finds support and friendship at the same time.

**Realistic Fiction**

### ***Bloom* by Kenneth Oppel**

Anaya, Petra and Seth seem to be the only people immune to the toxic plants invading their Canadian island home and soon realize this rapidly spreading worldwide invasion must be stopped. With their soon-to-be-revealed hidden powers, these teens must stop this invasive, carnivorous alien plant species from destroying Earth. *Bloom* is the 1st book of Oppel's trilogy.

**Sci-fi/Horror**

### ***The Canyon's Edge* by Dusti Bowling**

One year after the death of her mother, Nora and her father go exploring canyons in the Arizona desert. Nora aches for her life to return to normal, having dealt with her father's fear and grief. But as they are exploring, a flash flood separates Nora from her dad - and wipes out all her supplies. Alone in the menacing desert, she must find her dad - if she can survive herself. **Adventure (Verse Novel)**

### ***City Spies* by James Ponti**

When Sara is caught hacking the NYC foster care system she expects to head to Juvie. But a man claiming to be her lawyer whisks her away to a private school in England where she begins her real education- as part of a group of international spy kids who just might save the world. **Adventure**

### ***Dress coded* by Carrie Firestone**

*Dress Coded*, is a podcast, a protest, and powerful. Molly is making eight grade girls voices heard. These girls are protesting the sexualizing of their bodies by the school administration's dress code. It's biased and unfair and everyone is going to know about it. **Realistic Fiction**

### ***Efrén Divided* by Ernesto Cisneros**

Although Efrén is American-born, his parents are undocumented. He worries about his parents, and his nightmare comes true when his Ama doesn't return from work and is deported across the border to Mexico. Efrén decides he must be brave and come up with a plan to keep his family together.

**Realistic Fiction**

### ***Fighting Words* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley**

10 year-old Della is a tough kid, a survivor. She and her teenage sister, Suki, are inseparable. After escaping an abusive household, the girls find themselves in the care of their Foster mother, Francine, who proves to be exactly who they need to help them work through their trauma. This book explores the heavy topics of sexual abuse, addiction, and mental health with sensitivity, compassion, and humor. **Realistic Fiction**

### ***A High five for Glenn Burke* by Phil Bildner**

When sixth grader Silas Walker does a school presentation on former Major League Baseball player Glenn Burke, it's more than just a report on baseball and the inventor of the high five. Burke was a black gay baseball player in the 1970s, and for Silas, the presentation is his own first step in coming out as gay. **Realistic Fiction**

### ***Monstrous: The Lore, Gore and Science Behind Your Favorite Monsters* by Carlyn Beccia**

This fascinating encyclopedia of monsters dives into the history and science behind eight legendary creatures, from Bigfoot to zombies and more. Find out each monster's origin story and the real-world facts that informed it. Explore the science of each creature in fun and surprising ways.

**Nonfiction**

### ***Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices* by S.K Ali & Aisha Saeed**

In this own voices anthology 15 stories about Muslim children from diverse backgrounds give a glimpse into their traditions on the Islamic holidays of Eid. These stories will fill you with joy and comfort as you learn about these celebrations of family and delicious food!

**Realistic Fiction (Short story anthology)**

### ***The Only Black Girls in Town* by Brandy Colbert**

Alberta enjoys her life with her friends, her dads, and surfing, but being one of the only Black kids in town can feel isolating. When another Black family moves in across the street, she is thrilled that there is a girl her age. As they bond over shared experiences, they discover old journals in the attic that lead them into a mystery about the past. **Realistic Fiction.**

### ***Snapdragon* by Kat Leyh**

Snap is determined to save her dog from the town witch but when she meets Jacks she realizes that she is not who she expected. Jacks is really just a cool and creepy old lady who cares for animals and sells taxidermy roadkill on the side. They become friends when Jacks promises to teach her to care for orphaned baby opossums and Snap starts to think that maybe there was something to those "witch" rumors afterall. **Fantasy (Graphic Novel)**

### ***Song for a whale* by Lynne Kelley**

Iris is many things. She is a caring sister, an antique radio repairer, and Deaf. As the only Deaf student in her class, she struggles to connect with her classmates and her teachers. In science she is introduced to Blue 55, a whale with a unique song that isolates him. As Iris learns more about this whale, she enlists her grandmother, to join her on an adventure of a lifetime to help Blue 55. **Realistic Fiction**

### ***Superman Smashes the Klan* by Gene Luen Yang & Gurihuru**

It's 1946, and the Lee family moves from Metropolis's Chinatown neighborhood to the center of the city when Mr. Lee gets a new job. Siblings Roberta and Tommy are excited to live closer to the famed Superman. But their welcome is soured when local bigots target the Lees with violence. Luckily, they have a local hero on their side, who knows what it's like to be an outsider. **Historical Fiction (Graphic Novel)**

### ***Thirteens* by Kate Alice Marshall**

When 12 year old Elle's mother disappears, she is sent to live with relatives in a perfect town. She meets Pip and Otto, who share the same birthday as her, halloween. When they discover that the town has made a pact to sacrifice three 13 year olds, every 13 years, they must break the curse, or disappear forever. **Fantasy/Horror**

### ***Tristan Strong punches a hole in the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia**

Tristan Strong is a seventh grade boxer who has just tragically lost his best friend. So when he is sent to live on his grandparents farm in the hopes that some fresh air will do him some good, the last thing he expects is an adventure. One night Tristan chases a mysterious intruder and accidentally punches a hole into the Midpass, the world of the gods. He must repair the hole before the iron monsters can consume that world and ours. **Fantasy**

### ***Twins* by Varian Johnson**

Maureen and Francine are twins who do everything together, so when Francine wants to be called Fran, join different clubs and have different classes, Maureen worries they will lose their special twin bond. Will Middle school change their relationship forever? **Realistic Fiction(Graphic novel)**

### ***When Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed**

Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future but it would also mean leaving his brother alone everyday. **Memoir(Graphic Novel)**

### ***A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat**

Pong was born in a prison outside the city of Chattana. The magical lights of the city beckon, and he decides to escape. But Pong finds that the world outside is unfair, too: the rich have access to Chattana's magical light spheres, while the poor scrape by in the dark. When the prison warden's daughter Nok discovers that Pong is alive, she decides to track him down, but her hunt uncovers secrets that will change the city forever. **Fantasy**

### ***Zenobia July* by Lisa Bunker**

Zenobia moves to Maine to live with her aunts, where she can finally present herself as the girl she really is. But when hateful comments are posted to the school's website, Zenobia knows she can get to the bottom of it with her phenomenal hacking skills, all while she is meeting new friends, finding her home, and getting a second chance to be her real self. **Realistic Fiction**

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