

# Georgia Chapter Book Award Nominees

2024-2025



## **The Door of No Return** by Kwame Alexander

Kofi lives in the West African Asante Kingdom. He loves swimming and endeavors to impress a local girl named Ama. When a local festival takes place, young boys from the villages take part in wrestling contests. Kofi's older brother Kwasi is chosen to represent their village, but during the match, something goes terribly wrong. Soon Kofi finds his life drastically changed and his happy life a thing of the past. RL 5.9 (Historical Fiction)



## **To Catch a Thief** by Martha Brockenbough

Urchin Beach, a town known for its good luck, faces a crisis when the dragonfly staff, which represents their good fortune, is stolen. Amelia takes it upon herself to solve the theft and recover the staff before the upcoming Dragonfly Day Festival is canceled and the town loses its necessary tourist money. RL 4.5 (Mystery/Suspense)



## **Little Monarchs** by Jonathan Case

In the year 2101, fifty years after a sun shift event, mammals are almost completely gone from the planet, save a few humans who've survived by living underground during the day and only coming out at night. Elvie and her scientist guardian Flora have made a temporary antidote to sun sickness using the cells from monarch butterflies. They hope to do more, such as find Elvie's missing parents and develop a vaccine for everyone, but find their efforts might be undermined by the very beings they're trying to save. RL 3.7 (Graphic Novel)



## **Two Tribes** by Emily Bowen Cohen

Mia, who is half Jewish and half Muscogee, but doesn't know much about her father or her Muscogee heritage. When a classmate challenges whether or not she's a "real Indian," Mia fabricates a lie to her mother and stepfather, and travels to Oklahoma to visit her father and extended family. There, she attends a powwow, and learns various Muscogee traditions and customs. However, when her mother finds out she lied, she must return home, face the consequences, and find a way to express her feelings to her mother. RL 3.4 (Graphic Novel)



## **The Mona Lisa Vanishes** by Nicholas Day

When the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre in 1911, it was nowhere near as famous as it is today, but it was still a shocking event that set off a media circus with news traveling around the world. In this nonfiction account, the author delves into not only the details of the heist and the investigation, but also the life of Leonardo da Vinci and how the Mona Lisa was created. Two years after the theft, the thief was caught and the Mona Lisa returned, made all the more famous worldwide. (Nonfiction)



## **Not an Easy Win** by Chrystal Giles

Lawrence and his family move from Charlotte to rural Larencville, North Carolina to live with his grandmother after his father leaves their family and subsequently lands in prison. Struggling to fit in at his mostly white school, Lawrence gets into a fight and is expelled. Joining an after-school program, Lawrence meets a new group of kids and learns the game of chess. RL 5 (Realistic Fiction)



## **Good Different** by Meg Eden Kuyatt

Autistic Selah Godfrey has just started at a new private school, where she's learned the rules of being a "normal person." One day, when a girl begins braiding her hair without permission, Selah lashes out and gets in trouble at school. Taking advice from her grandfather, she begins to write about her thoughts and feelings in a notebook. Feeling empowered by her words, she begins using them to explain her differences to her teachers and peers, helping them to understand and celebrate who she is. RL 5.3 (Fiction)



## **Farther Than the Moon** by Lindsay Lackey

Houston and his younger brother Robbie dream of being astronauts, but when Houston is accepted to the Junior Astronaut Recruitment Program he realizes that Robbie's dream may not be achievable due to his cerebral palsy, so he makes a new plan. RL 4.7 (Realistic Fiction)



### **A Work in Progress** by Jarrett Lerner

After a bullying incident where Will was first called fat, he just wants to be invisible most days. That's why he hides behind baggy clothes and in the back of the classroom, but he really wishes one person would notice him: his crush, Jules. He knows he doesn't have a chance with Jules, so he decides to change up his eating habits and exercise more in order to lose weight.. RL 3.8 (Realistic Fiction)



### **Hands** by Torrey Maldonado

Trevor has an adult problem to deal with: how to protect himself, his sisters, and his mother from his abusive stepfather (currently in prison) and he thinks the way to do that is to take up boxing--although he would really rather draw. RL 3.1 (Realistic Fiction)



### **Mexikid** by Pedro Martin

Pedro Martin embarks on a trip to Mexico with eleven of his family members in their Winnebago to help move their abuelito to the United States to live with them. However, their grandfather won't move until he finishes a quest that becomes a part of Pedro's unforgettable journey. RL 5.9 (Graphic Novel - Nonfiction)



### **Frizzy** by Claribel Ortega

Marlene loves books, her best friend Camila, and her aunt Ruby. She does NOT love having to go to the salon every Sunday to have her curly hair straightened. A momentous visit with her aunt Ruby, who wears her hair naturally, helps Marlene embrace her natural curls and confront the toxic ideas about beauty that have been passed down to her. RL 3 (Graphic Novel)



### **It's the End of the World and I'm in My Bathing Suit** by Justin A Reynolds

Eddie is stuck at home doing chores and missing a beach bash when the power goes out. He pulls on his swimming suit and heads outside to see what's going on. The neighborhood is empty except for four other kids. When night falls, they realize the truth--they are the only people left on Earth. RL 5.6 (Humorous Fiction)



### **The Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle** by Taryn Souders

Grady and his dad are strangely bequeathed an old, embroidered cloth from the 1700s by the recently deceased town oddball, Eudora "kooky" Klinch. When he studies it, though, Grady finds a note claiming the odd cloth contains a riddle, clues, and a treasure map to ancient riches. Teaming with friends Clemmie, Thad, and the town dog Ophelia, Grady searches for the treasure, only to find himself involved in a dangerous mystery. RL 5.5 (Mystery)



### **What Happened to Rachel Riley** by Claire Swinarski

Anna, who wants to be an investigative journalist, is curious about new girl Rachel and discovers that just last year, she was one of the most popular girls in the school. When she's assigned an un-essay project by a teacher, she decides to create a podcast in which she delves into the question of Rachel's banishment. What begins as a research project on bullying and its effects, takes a darker turn when she discovers a secret competition among groups of boys at her school and a code of silence among her peers--both of which she must have the bravery to expose. RL 4.8 (Realistic Fiction)



### **The Way I Say It** by Nancy Tandon

Rory has never been able to say his name because he can't say his "r's." He's always attended speech therapy. His former best friend Brett ditches him to start hanging out with the wrestling team kids who make fun of Rory. Everything changes when Brett is in a terrible accident and suffers a brain injury. RL 4.2 (Realistic Fiction)



### **Parachute Kids** by Betty C Tang

After their family tour of Los Angeles, Feng Li Lin and her older brother and sister learn they will remain in California while their parents return to Taiwan, forcing them to navigate a new school, a new language, bullies, racism, and the pressures of running a household. RL 2.5 (Graphic Novel)



### **Hoops** by Matt Tavares

Inspired by real life, Cindy, Judi, and Lisa--members of the newly formed women's basketball team in 1976 Wilkins, Indiana--fight for equal representation, funding, and community support through creative actions. RL 2.6 (Graphic Novel)



### **Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy by Angie Thomas**

Nic Blake is a Remarkable with magic powers that she wants to learn to use so she can be a powerful Manifestor like her dad. But before she can develop her skills, she and two of her friends are thrust into a quest for a powerful magical object to save her father from being falsely imprisoned for a crime he didn't commit.

RL 4.1 (Fantasy)



### **A Rover's Story by Jasmine Warga**

Mars rover Resilience documents its journey to awareness as it's being built in a NASA lab by workers in hazmat suits and outside programmers. Res and the other machines question the usefulness of the emotions they observe in the humans around them, even as they unconsciously absorb their meaning and role. Among those humans is Sophie, whose mother is one of Res's creators. Sophie begins to write letters to Res, explaining her complicated relationship with her mother as a result of her mother's dedication to Res. When Res's mission to Mars is finally launched, Res is overcome with emotion as it leaves with a companion drone named Fly and a satellite named Guardian. After landing, Res is determined to fulfill its mission and live up to its name. But logic and programming are abandoned when Fly goes missing during a dust storm and Res must make a daring rescue. RL 4.1 (Science Fiction)

### **Additional Resources:**

Georgia Children's Book Awards      <https://coe.uga.edu/events/georgia-childrens-book-awards/>

Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl      <https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/hrrb/>