

Georgia Chapter Book Award Nominees

2025-2026



Duel by Jessixa Bagley

Lucy is brand-new to middle school, and when her older sister GiGi--the undisputed queen bee of eighth grade--humiliates her in the cafeteria, Lucy snaps and challenges her to a fencing duel. RL 3.2 (Graphic Novel)



Moko Magic: Carnival Chaos by Tracy Baptiste

When Misty moved from Trinidad to Brooklyn, she was not expecting to discover she is a moko jumbie spirit, that she and her cousins all have magic, and she certainly did not expect to discover a plot to capture magical power during the annual West Indian Labor Day parade. (Fantasy)



Across So Many Seas by Ruth Behar

Spanning over five hundred years, this novel tells the stories of four girls from different generations of a Jewish family, many of them forced to leave their country and start a new life. RL 5.3 (Historical Fiction)



Free Throws, Friendship, and Other Things We Fouled Up by Jenn Bishop

Rory is forced to move to a new town after her dad becomes the new basketball coach at the University of Cincinnati, but she hopes the move will allow her to finally make some real friends. Abby has always lived in Cincinnati, where her dad grew up and now coaches at Xavier University. The girls meet at school even though her father coaches the rival college team, the two become fast friends. (Fiction)



And Then, Boom! by Lisa Fipps

Poverty-stricken Joseph bravely rides out all the storms life keeps throwing at him. (Fiction)



Not Nothing by Gayle Forman

When troubled Alex is assigned to spend his summer volunteering at a senior living facility, he forms a unique bond with a Holocaust survivor and learns lessons that change the trajectory of his life. RL 5.5 (Fiction)



Popcorn by Rob Harrell

Andrew's just trying to make it through Picture Day, which is easier said than done when it seems like the whole world is out to get him--from a bully to a science experiment gone wrong to someone else's juice snot. As one thing after another goes wrong, that little kernel of worry in his stomach is getting hotter and hotter, until it threatens to pop and turn into a public panic attack, his worst fear. He tries to keep his anxiety at bay, but the news that his grandmother with Alzheimer's is missing is too much. RL 4 (Fiction)



Answers to Dog by Pete Hautman

Evan doesn't seem to fit in at school or at home. He goes out of his way to avoid attention. He sits at the back of the bus, keeps his head down in class, and keeps to himself. But when a burr-covered border collie--a survivor with a gut instinct about the Boy--starts following him around and joining him on his runs, Evan's simple duck-and-dodge existence becomes a lot more complicated . . . a lot more like life. (Fiction)



Alebrijes by Donna Barba Higuera

Barely surviving in the barren wasteland that was once California, orphans Leandro Rivera and his sister, Gabi plot to leave the harsh society of the Pocatelans, who use threats and harsh punishments to keep Cascabeles like them subjugated. When they hatch a plan to leave, Leandro takes the fall for Gabi when she steals a strawberry and gets caught. Instead of banishment, Leandro's consciousness is placed into a hummingbird drone and he's given the task to find a missing person. But when Leandro ventures out beyond the city, what he discovers could change his and Gabi's lives forever.. RL 4.7 (Fantasy)



The School for Invisible Boys by Shaun David Hutchinson

When the normally unseen sixth grader Hector discovers he can turn invisible, he learns that he is not the only invisible boy at his school and there are worse things than bullies lurking the halls. (Fiction)



Code Name Kingfisher by Liz Kessler

A young girl learns of her grandmother and great-aunt's involvement in the Dutch Resistance during World War II (Historical Fiction)



Faker by Gordon Korman

Trey is used to lying and always moving around due to his family's lucrative lifestyle. First, his dad gets him into a school full of kids with rich parents, where Trey makes friends and his dad makes connections. Then, Trey's dad suckers the other parents into investing in one of his schemes, and once they have the money, Trey, his sister, and their dad are on the run once again. Trey is getting tired of running and lying, and he just wants to make an actual friend and have a place to call home. RL 5.1 (Fiction)



Bye Forever, I Guess by Jodi Meadows

Eighth-grader Ingrid runs a popular blog anonymously and has online personal more popular than she is, but when a wrong-number text message offers her a chance at connection, Ingrid opens herself to the opportunity to make a real live friend. (Fiction)



Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All by Chanel Miller

A self-proclaimed sock detective inside her parents' New York City laundromat, 10-year-old Magnolia Wu and Iris, a new friend from California, set off across the city to solve the mystery of each missing sock, meeting people and uncovering the unimaginable along the way. RL 5.6 (Mystery)



Chronicles of Lizard Nobody by Patrick Ness

A school bussing program brings monitor lizards Zeke, Daniel, and Alicia to a new middle school, and soon they're picked to be hall monitors by the school principal, which puts them at odds with a bully named Pelicarnassus. After a nasty encounter, Pelicarnassus threatens Zeke with tactics used by his supervillain father. Soon timid Zeke is called on to be a hero, even though all he ever wanted to do was blend in. RL 4.7 (Humorous Fiction)



The Sherlock Society by James Ponti

Twelve-year-old Alex Sherlock, his thirteen-year-old sister Zoe, and their friends Lina and Yadi decide to spend their summer in Miami investigating the many "cold cases" their grandfather accumulated during his years as a reporter--first up, Al Capone and a buried treasure. (Fiction)



Stranded by Nikki Shannon Smith

When nature-loving Ava gets to leave New York City to live with her aunt in the Adirondack Mountains, she couldn't be happier. But after her aunt is called away, she is left in the secluded cabin--and after a brutal winter storm, she must test her new survival skills. RL 4.7 (Adventure)



Mabuhay by Zack Sterling

First-generation Filipino siblings JJ and Althea struggle to belong at school. JJ wants to fit in with the crowd, while Althea wants to be accepted as she is. But that hope seems like a long shot, for both of them. To make matters worse, they have to help their parents run the family food truck by dressing up as a dancing pig and passing out samples. Ugh! And their mom is always pointing out lessons from Filipino folklore -- annoying tales they've heard again and again. But when witches, ogres, and other creatures from those same stories threaten their family, JJ and Althea realize that the folklore may be more real than they'd suspected. Can they embrace who they really are and save their family? RL 2.6 (Graphic Novel)



Black Girl You Are Atlas by Angie Thomas

Poet Renee Watson looks back at her childhood and urges readers to look forward at their futures with love, understanding, and celebration in this fully illustrated poetry collection RL 4.1 (Poetry)



Mid-Air by Jasmine Warga

Mars rover Resilience documents its journey to awareness as it's being built in a NASA lab by workers in hazmat. Thirteen-year-old Isaiah grapples with the loss of his best friend as he strives to fit into a world that expects him to toughen up, which leads him on a exploration of identity and vulnerability. RL 3.3 (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/>