

AWARD WINNING BOOKS! 2026



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NEWBERY AWARD. **All the Blues in the Sky.**

Sage's thirteenth birthday was supposed to be about movies and treats, staying up late with her best friend and watching the sunrise together. There was supposed to be no care in the world, instead, she is faced with the hardest thing of all, the death of her best friend. Without the person she had to hold her secrets and dream with, Sage is lost. In a counseling group with other girls who have lost someone close to them, she learns that not all losses are the same, and healing isn't predictable. As Sage grieves, new, good things enter her life and she just may find a way to know that she can feel it all. Novel in verse.



The Coretta Scott King Award. **Will's Race for Home.**

It's 1889, barely twenty-five years after the Emancipation Proclamation, and twelve-year-old Will and his father are tired of working Texas land they don't get to own. When they hear about the upcoming Oklahoma Land Rush, they risk everything on a challenging 400-mile journey to claim a free 160-acre homestead. The trail is plagued by harsh terrain, dangerous thieves, and relentless racism, testing the limits of their endurance. In this award-winning Western adventure, the father and son must learn to rely on each other, guided by a fierce hope for freedom and a place to truly call home.



SCHNEIDER FAMILY AWARD. MIDDLE GRADE. **Where Only Storms Grow.**

Four years of unrelenting drought have pushed the Stanton family to the brink of bankruptcy. When their father leaves for California to find work, the survival of their Oklahoma farm falls squarely on the shoulders of twelve-year-old twins Howe and Joanna. Joanna, often dismissed as fragile due to her scoliosis, is fiercely determined to prove her physical strength against the harsh realities of the Great Depression. Howe, an aspiring writer, must abandon his books for backbreaking manual labor after their older brother is injured. Just as their physical and emotional limits are tested, "Black Sunday"—the worst dust storm in history—strikes. Trapped in a terrifying blackout, the twins must bury their differences and rely on each other to survive.



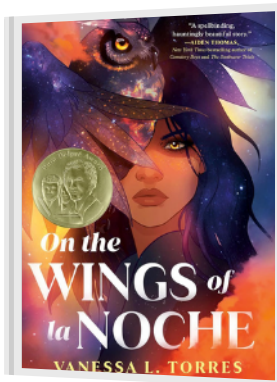
SCHNEIDER FAMILY AWARD. YOUNG ADULT. **Whale Eyes.**

Filmmaker James Robinson delivers a poignant, illustrated memoir detailing his life with strabismus, an eye condition that affects alignment and depth perception. Featuring innovative artwork by Brian Rea alongside deeply personal descriptions, this book lets readers experience how the disability alters vision, impairs reading, and influences social interactions.



PURA BELPRÉ AWARD. MIDDLE GRADE. **The Pecan Sheller.**

Thirteen-year-old Petra dreams of becoming a writer, but 1930s San Antonio has other plans. Following her father's sudden death, she must abandon her education to support her family, taking a grueling job at the same pecan factory that claimed his health. Trapped in dust-filled rooms with slashed wages and spreading illness, Petra refuses to stay silent. Driven by resilience, she finds the courage to join thousands of workers in the historic 1938 Pecan Shellers' Strike, risking everything for justice.



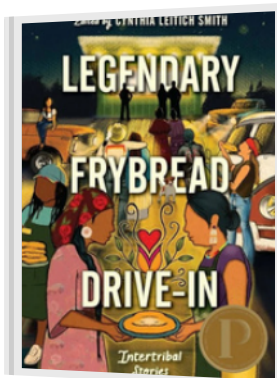
PURA BELPRÉ AWARD. YOUNG ADULT. **On the Wings of la Noche.**

Estrella “Noche” Villanueva, a grieving 17-year-old, is a shapeshifter who transforms by night into a Lechuza—an ethereal, jet-black owl that guides the dead to the afterlife. However, Noche cannot bring herself to escort her recently deceased girlfriend to the next world. The harder Noche holds on, the more her girlfriend's soul begins to fade. Furthermore, delaying this duty risks marring Noche's own humanity, eroding the lines between her human self and her Lechuza form. Midst this supernatural turmoil, Noche must decide if her kind new science partner, Jax, is worth pursuing, forcing her to navigate the guilt of falling in love again while still grieving her past.



EISENER AWARD. CHILDREN. **Plain Jane and the Mermaid.**

In this captivating graphic novel, Jane finds herself on the brink of eviction following her parents' sudden passing. Because she cannot inherit the estate as a woman, she hatches a plan to marry a handsome but vain fisherman named Peter, which will allow her to claim her own much-needed dowry. However, when Peter is unexpectedly abducted by a deceptive mermaid, her plans are shattered. To save him—and secure her own future—Jane must brave a magical and perilous underwater realm filled with sea monsters, selkies, and ancient dangers.



PRINZ AWARD. **Sandy June's Legendary Frybread Drive-In**

In this Printz Award-winning anthology, *Sandy June's Legendary Frybread Drive-In* acts as a liminal sanctuary where Indigenous youth find healing, guidance, and belonging. Seventeen Native YA authors masterfully intertwine their characters, events, and themes across separate stories. The result is an innovative continuation of the Indigenous storytelling tradition that elevates classic narrative elements into a joyous cultural celebration.

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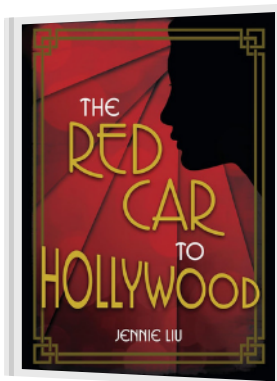
EISNER AWARD. TEENS. **Lunar New Year Love Story.**

In the graphic novel *Lunar New Year Love Story*, Vietnamese-American teenager Valentina "Val" Tran believes her family is cursed with terrible luck in love. This belief is challenged at a Tet festival when a mysterious lion dancer hands her a paper heart, prompting Val to try to change her destiny. As she is drawn into the vibrant world of lion dancing, she is forced to confront deep-seated family secrets, lingering grief, and her own complex feelings about romance. Ultimately, Val must choose between guarding her heart against future pain or embracing the messy realities of love, destiny, and forgiveness.



ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE. **Hungry Bones.**

For over a hundred years, Jade has been a shadow trapped in an old Texas home, a "hungry ghost" surviving entirely on the food scraps of passing tenants. She is entirely alone—until Molly Teng moves in. Molly has "ghost-seeing eyes" and experiences overwhelming, emotional visions of the dead whenever she touches their belongings. Together, the two lonely girls form an unlikely alliance. For Jade, Molly is the first person in a century who can help piece together her forgotten history, offering a final chance at freedom before an ancient, monstrous hunger destroys them both.



ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN AWARD FOR YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE. **The Red Car to Hollywood.**

Sixteen-year-old Ruby Chan considers herself a modern, independent American girl, but Los Angeles in 1924 isn't ready for her. When her secret romance with a white boy spectacularly implodes, her traditional Chinese parents discover the affair. Terrified of community shame, they hire a strict matchmaker to marry her off as quickly as possible. Refusing to submit to an arranged future, Ruby finds an unlikely ally in her neighborhood: rising Hollywood actress Anna May Wong. Anna May is already defying conventions by carving out a historic space for herself on the silver screen. Inspired by her new friend's fierce resilience, Ruby must find the courage to rewrite her own destiny.



STONEWALL AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE. **Halfway to Somewhere.**

Moving to Kansas was supposed to be a fresh start, but for twelve-year-old Ave, it feels like being torn apart. Following their parents' divorce, Ave's family is split right down the middle: their father and older sibling stay behind in Mexicali, Mexico, while Ave, their mom, and their little brother relocate to the United States. Suddenly thrust into a school where they barely speak the language, Ave struggles to find their footing. On top of adjusting to a foreign environment, they must navigate shifting family dynamics and expectations surrounding their nonbinary identity. In this beautifully illustrated, Stonewall Award-winning graphic novel, Ave takes to the streets of Lawrence to explore their new world, learning that belonging isn't just about where you live, but finding the people who welcome you exactly as you are.



STONEWALL AWARD FOR TEEN LITERATURE. **One of the Boys.**

Grace Woodhouse used to have it all: a great friend group, a popular girlfriend, and a right foot set to earn her a Division I football scholarship. Then, she came out as trans, leaving her old life behind. Now, at the start of her senior year, Grace is struggling to find her place in early transition while building a new, queer social circle. But when her elite skills as the best kicker in the state become desperately needed, her former teammates beg her to come out of retirement. Pulled back into a hyper-masculine world she thought she'd left behind, Grace faces complicated feelings for her ex-girlfriend, locker-room transphobia, and a massive choice: how much of herself is she willing to sacrifice for the game she loves?



SYDNEY TAYLOR AWARD. MIDDLE GRADE. **Neshama.**

Sixth grader Anna Fleischman has a *Shayna Neshama*—a beautiful soul—but she is entirely isolated by her terrifying ability to see the dead. Deemed a freak by bullying peers and facing an abusive father at home, Anna finds her only sanctuary spending Shabbat with her Bubbe. Everything changes when she is approached by the ghost of her Aunt Ruthie, who died as a child. Ruthie offers a supernatural deal: she wants to enter Anna's body as an ibur to complete her unfinished earthly business, and in exchange, she will give Anna the ferocity to fight back against her tormentors. In this stunning, award-winning novel in verse, the two girls launch a joint quest for justice, navigating a fine line between healing and revenge.



SYDNEY TAYLOR AWARD. YOUNG ADULT. **D.J. Rosenblum Becomes the G.O.A.T.**

Fourteen-year-old D.J. Rosenblum completely idolized her older cousin Rachel, whom she considered the "G.O.A.T." (Greatest Cousin of All Time). Following Rachel's sudden, tragic passing, D.J. and her mother relocate to her cousin's hometown of Briar, Ohio. Refusing to accept the official ruling of suicide, D.J. is determined to launch her own amateur investigation to uncover the truth. While navigating intense grief and fractured family dynamics, she must also prepare for her postponed bat mitzvah. As she wrestles with her Torah portion and her faith, D.J. slowly finds the inner strength to face her loss and begin moving forward.

WHAT ARE YOU READING THIS SUMMER?