



*The Black-Eyed Susan Committee of the Maryland Association of School Librarians  
is pleased to announce the **2025– 2026** nominees.  
As always, please be sure that these books fit the needs of your school and community.*



### Picture Book

**Benita and the Night Creatures** by Mariana Llanos, illustrated by Cocoretto  
**The Book That Almost Rhymed** by Omar Abed, illustrated by Hatem Aly  
**A Delicious Story** by Barney Saltzberg  
**Every Dog in the Neighborhood** by Philip C. Stead, illustrated by Matthew Cordell  
**Frank and Bert** by Chris Naylor-Ballestreros  
**Gifts from the Garbage Truck: A True Story About the Things We (Don't) Throw Away** by Andrew Larsen, illustrated by Oriol Vidal  
**How to Eat in Space** by Helen Taylor, illustrated by Stevie Lewis  
**I'm Sorry You Got Mad** by Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by Julie Kwon  
**Jumper: A Day in the Life of a Backyard Jumping Spider** by Jessica Lanan  
**More Than Words: So Many Ways to Say What We Mean** by Roz MacLean  
**Mr. Fox's Game of "No!"** by David LaRochelle, illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka  
**The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish** by Chloe Savage  
**Stranded! A Mostly True Story From Iceland** by Ævar Þór Benediktsson, illustrated by Anne Wilson  
**Watch Out for the Lion!** by Brooke Hartman, illustrated by Anna Süßbauer  
**The Yellow Bus** by Loren Long

### Grades 3-5

**Balto and Togo: Hero Dogs of Alaska** by Helen Moss  
**Gracie Under the Waves** by Linda Sue Park  
**Invisible Isabel** by Sally Pla, illustrated by Tania De Regil  
**Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All** by Chanel Miller  
**Max in the House of Spies (Operation Kinderspion, Book 1)** by Adam Gidwitz  
**The Mystery of Locked Rooms** by Lindsay Currie  
**Olivetti** by Allie Millington  
**The Sherlock Society (Sherlock Society, Book 1)** by James Ponti  
**A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall** by Jasmine Warga  
**Tree Table Book** by Lois Lowry

### Graphic Novels: Grades 3-5

**Ant Story** by Jay Hosler  
**Anzu and the Realm of Darkness** by Mai K. Nguyen  
**Gamerville** by Johnnie Christmas  
**Lost & Found: Based on a True Story** by Mei Yu  
**Lost Time** by Tas Mukanik  
**Misfit Mansion** by Kay Davault  
**The Monster and the Maze (Monkey King and the World of Myths, Book 1)** by Maple Lam  
**Survival Scout: Lost in the Mountains (Survival Scout)** by Maxwell Eaton III  
**Table Titans Club (Table Titans Club, Book 1)** by Scott R. Kurtz  
**Unicorn Boy (Unicorn Boy, Book 1)** by Dave Roman

## Grades 6-8

**Aniana Del Mar Jumps In** by Jasminne Mendez  
**The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn** by Sally J. Pla  
**It Came from the Trees** by Ally Russell  
**The Labors of Hercules Beal** by Gary D. Schmidt  
**Medusa (The Myth of Monsters, Book 1)** by Katherine Marsh  
**Mid-Air** by Alicia D. Williams, illustrated by Danica Novgorodoff  
**The Mona Lisa Vanishes: A Legendary Painter, A Shocking Heist, and the Birth of a Global Celebrity** by Nicholas Day, illustrated by Brett Helquist  
**The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman** by Gennifer Choldenko  
**Wrecker** by Carl Hiaasen  
**The Wrong Way Home** by Kate O'Shaughnessy

## Graphic Novels: Grades 6-8

**The Happy Shop** by Brittany Long Olsen  
**How It All Ends** by Emma Hunsinger  
**Maelstrom: A Prince of Evil** by Lorian Merriman  
**Next Stop** by Debbie Fong  
**Pearl** by Sherri L. Smith, illustrated by Christine Norrie  
**Plain Jane and the Mermaid** by Vera Brosgol  
**The Terrifying Tales of Vivian Vance** by Josh Ulirch  
**Uprooted: A Memoir About What Happens When Your Family Moves Back** by Ruth Chan  
**We Are Big Time** by Hena Khan, illustrated by Safiya Zerrougui  
**Wildful** by Kengo Kurimoto

## High School

**Another First Chance** by Robbie Couch  
**Boys of the Beast** by Monica Zepeda  
**Forever is Now** by Mariama J. Lockington  
**Killer House Party** by Lily Anderson  
**Love Radio** by Ebony LaDelle  
**Rez Ball** by Byron Graves  
**Saints of the Household** by Ari Tison  
**Sky's End (Above the Black, Book 1)** by Marc J. Gregson  
**Thieves' Gambit (Thieves' Gambit, Book 1)** by Kayvion Lewis  
**Warrior Girl Unearthed** by Angeline Boulley

## Graphic Novels: High School

**Big Jim and the White Boy: An American Classic Reimagined** by David Walker, illustrated by Marcus Kwame Anderson  
**Bunt! Striking Out on Financial Aid** by Ngozi Ukazu, illustrated by Mad Rupert  
**The Deep Dark** by Molly Knox Ostertag  
**Hockey Girl Loves Drama Boy** by Faith Erin Hicks  
**The Infinity Particle** by Wendy Xu  
**Insomniacs After School, Book 1** by Makoto Ojiro  
**Karate Prom** by Kyle Starks  
**Lunar New Year Love Story** by Gene Luen Yang, illustrated by LeUyen Pham  
**Through the Elder Woods (Nothing Special, Book 1)** by Katie Book  
**The Worst Ronin** by Maggie Takeda-Hall, illustrated by Faith Schaffer



*2025-2026 Nominees*