



## Rhode Island Middle School Book Award 2023 Nominees

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

### ***Alone* by Megan E. Freeman**

Twelve-year old Maddie wakes up one day to find herself alone in a town that's been evacuated and deserted. This verse novel takes us on Maddie's survival journey as she persists for months and months with only books and a Rottweiler named George for company.

**Realistic Fiction**

### ***Amari and the Night Brothers* by B. B. Alston**

When Amari Peters receives an invitation from her missing brother to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she is determined that her brother is still out there waiting for her to find him. She discovers a world of supernatural beings and magic as she trains for the Bureau and gets closer to finding her brother.

**Fantasy**

### ***Amazing Treasure: 100 Objects and Places That Will Boggle Your Mind* by David Long, Illustrated by MUTI**

Explore history, culture, geology, and the environment through treasures ancient and modern in this illustrated nonfiction book. Treasures both natural and man-made make an appearance in a tour which stretches across thousands of years and all around the globe.

**Nonfiction**

### ***Another Kind* by Trevor Bream and Cait May**

Pursued by conspiracy theorists and the sinister Collector, six not-quite-human kids with unusual powers keep each other safe while searching for a place to call home.

**Fantasy Adventure (Graphic Novel)**

### ***The Blackbird Girls* by Anne Blankman**

Oksana and Valentina have never been close, until an emergency at the Chernobyl power plant where their fathers work leads to them heading to Leningrad together. Valentina learns more about her family as the pair move in with her grandmother, and Oksana learns more about what a family could be, and how different it is from her own.

**Historical Fiction**

### ***Black Boy Joy* by Kwame Mbalia**

Black Boy Joy celebrates Black boyhood with 19 vibrant short stories, poems, and comics about topics like debating about superheroes, a baking contest, learning to pilot a plane, skateboarding, and finding the true meanings of fly and cool.

**Realistic Fiction (Short Story Anthology)**

### ***Brave Like That* by Lindsey Stoddard**

Cyrus is not brave like his firefighter, ex-football player dad and most of the time he feels like he's not good at football practice or at school. Cyrus lies to his dad about his visits to the animal shelter and how he finds his own way in the world. **Realistic Fiction**

### ***The Elephant in the Room* by Holly Goldberg Sloan**

Sila accompanies her father on a job to fix a truck and it changes her life in the very best way. Working towards a common goal and some unlikely friendships give Sila much hope and satisfaction.

**Realistic Fiction**

### ***Hide and Seeker* by Daka Hermon**

Sixth grader Justin's best friend, Zee, has been missing for over a year and mysteriously returns acting very strange. At a party for Zee, his friends play hide-and-seek but then weird things happen, like a mysterious mark on the player's wrists which leads to their disappearance. An evil seeker pulls the friends into a world where their worst fears come to life. Zee managed to escape, can his friends escape too?

**Mystery/Horror**

### ***The Insiders* by Mark Oshiro**

Middle Schooler Héctor Muñoz is trying to fit in at his new school because being gay was never a big deal at his old school. When running from the school bully, Hector slips through a door into a magical room that becomes his sanctuary at school. Through this magical door new friendships and adventures begin.

**Realistic Fiction and Fantasy**

***Last Gate of the Emperor* by Kwame Mbalia and Prince Joel Makonnen**  
Yared Heywat lives a lonely life with his overprotective uncle Moti, and his bionic lioness Besa for company. While his thrill-seeking behavior and smart-mouth attitude gets him in trouble in school, they are assets when he plays the exciting, and highly illegal augmented reality game, The Hunt for Kaleb's Obelisk. The game is interrupted by an attack that threatens to destroy the city, and Uncle Moti disappears. Now it is up to Yared, Besa, and former rival turned ally, The Ibis, to uncover the secrets of Yared's past and save Uncle Moti and Addis Prime. **Science Fiction**

### ***The Legend of Auntie Po* by Shing Yin Khor**

This full-color graphic novel tells the story of Mei who lives in a logging camp with her dad in the 1880s. Mei deals with the hardships of her life by telling stories about the great Auntie Po, her twist on the myth of Paul Bunyan.

**Fantasy (Graphic Novel)**

### ***Linked* by Gordon Korman**

When a hate symbol is drawn on a wall inside the school, the small town is in an uproar. As more symbols appear, the students decide to create a paper chain with 6 million links, representing the Jews killed during the holocaust. Gordon Korman combines serious issues with quirky characters and tackles many sensitive topics in this riveting mystery.

**Realistic Fiction**

### ***Ophie's Ghosts* by Justina Ireland**

Ophie and her mother are servants in a house where sometimes it is tricky to tell the people from the ghosts! This historical fiction novel, set in the 1920s, is spooky and mysterious and will keep you wondering about all the characters Ophie meets.

**Historical Fiction**

### ***Rez Dogs* by Joseph Bruchac**

Malian is visiting her grandparents on the reservation when the COVID-19 pandemic hits. Separated from her parents and doing her best with virtual school, Malian finds comfort in her grandparents' stories of Native resilience -- and in the presence of Malsum, a reservation dog with a knack for keeping Malian's family safe.

**Realistic Fiction**

### ***The Shape of Thunder* by Jasmine Warga**

Cora and Quinn were best friends, until a year ago when Quinn's older brother led a school shooting which took the life of Cora's older sister. The two come back together to try to find a way to go back in time and stop the shooting from happening in the first place.

**Realistic Fiction**

### ***Starfish* by Lisa Fipps**

In this novel in verse, Ellie lives her life living by the Fat Girls Rules, rules she created for herself to not make waves and to not stand out in a crowd. Through help from her allies, Ellie gains confidence to stand up for herself and learn to love herself after having been bullied her whole life for being fat. **Realistic Fiction**

### ***This Book is Antiracist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do the Work* by Tiffany Jewell**

Grab a notebook and get ready to work! This book will teach you everything you need to know about becoming anti-racist and standing up to injustice, racism, and xenophobia wherever you see it. Read the histories that are left out of textbooks, and learn the language of activists fighting for change all while gaining a deeper understanding of your own identity, and what you can do to make the world more equitable. **Nonfiction**

### ***Too Bright to See* by Kyle Lukoff**

Bug is sure they live in a haunted house, and that their uncle Roderick who recently passed is trying to tell them something. Their best friend Moira is more concerned about reinventing themselves when they start middle school and is pushing for Bug to grow up, but Bug doesn't know what they want that to look like.

**Realistic Fiction**

### ***Turtle Boy* by M. Evan Wolkenstein**

Seventh grade is hard for Will, who is bullied for his nonexistent chin and called Turtle Boy. Will finds an unlikely friendship with RJ, and through bravery and bucket list challenges, Will learns that life is too short to live in a shell. **Realistic Fiction**

For more information about the award, please visit  
RI Middle School Book Award Home Page  
<http://bit.ly/2ofCGQE>

