

2023 Nutmeg Book Award Elementary Nominees Grades 2-3



Bear Goes Sugarin by Maxwell Eaton III

Journey through the forest with the very knowledgeable Bear and her sidekicks, Dog and Squirrel, to find sugar maple trees and to learn every step needed to make MAPLE SYRUP! Hungry yet?

Crossings: Extraordinary Structures for Extraordinary Animals

by Katy S. Duffield, art by Mike Orodán

Did you know that there are scientists, city planners, and even children at work to make spaces safer for many different kinds of animals every day? Explore wildlife crossings around the world with creatures going over, under, across, and through areas they couldn't cross before.

Digging for Words: José Alberto Gutiérrez and the Library He Built

by Angela Burke Kunkel, art by Paola Escobar

José Alberto Gutiérrez, a garbage collector in Bogotá, Colombia, started a library with books found on his route. On Saturdays, children run to the library to discover new worlds by reading.

The Floating Field: How a Group of Thai Boys Built Their Own Soccer Field

by Scott Riley, art by Nguyen Quang and Kim Lien

Young Prasit Hemmit and his friends decide to create a soccer field on the island of Koh Panyee, a village built on stilts to keep it out of the water. Working together, they construct a floating platform of scavenged materials where they can play and become good enough to compete.

In a Jar by Deborah Marcero

Llewellyn the collector and his new friend Evelyn learn to gather and save extraordinary magical things in this imagination-sparking tale. Can their friendship survive Evelyn moving away? Will their memories fade or grow?

It Began With a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way

by Kyo Maclear, art by Julie Morstad

Growing up quiet and lonely as a first-generation Japanese-American, Fujikawa became a rule-breaking visionary artist. Her work at Disney and her fight to change the illustrations of children in books to incorporate everyone will encourage you to follow your own dreams.

J.D. and the Great Barber Battle

by J. Dillard, art by Akeem S. Roberts

J.D. gets a truly embarrassing haircut just before the start of third grade. What could go wrong (or right) when J.D. decides to take matters into his own hands?

King of the Birds by Elise Gravel

Arlo the crow thinks he's amazing and loves French fries. Pips, his new friend, joins him on his adventures and points out when Arlo is bragging too much. This hysterical book is full of interesting facts about crows.

Lift by Minh Lê, art by Dan Santat

Iris is fed up when her little brother pushes the button in her elevator. Then a mysterious button appears with just the lift Iris needs

Maybe Tomorrow? by Charlotte Agell, art by Ana Ramirez González

Elba carries around a large, heavy block wherever she goes. Light-hearted Norris dances into her life, talks to her about her block, and takes her on a trip to the ocean. With their friendship, Elba's block becomes lighter and easier to carry.

Mr. Summerling's Secret Code

by Dori Hillestad Butler, art by Tim Budgen

(Treasure Troop series, #1) Marley's neighbor unexpectedly leaves her and two classmates the promise of 'treasure' in his will. The catch? They have to work together on a puzzle-solving, code-breaking quest to find it.

Our Friend Hedgehog: The Story of Us

by Lauren Castillo

Hedgehog has lost her stuffed dog, Mutty, in a giant storm. She joins forces with six remarkable friends in her quest to find him, and they become a brave and unstoppable team.

The Paper Kingdom

by Helena Ku Rhee, art by Pascal Campion

When the babysitter cannot come, Daniel's parents take him along to their jobs as night time office cleaners. Mama and Papa turn the deserted office building into a magical playscape using paper to create an imaginary kingdom of dragons, creatures, and king.

Salma the Syrian Chef

by Danny Ramadan, art by Anna Bron

Salma hopes that eating her homemade favorite dish will make her mother smile again. First, Salma must find the recipe and figure out what the Syrian ingredients are called in English. Her new friends at the Immigrant Welcome Center can help.

Shadow Island by Mike and Nancy Deas

Ollie is living with his grandfather in Sueño Bay. His plans to run away from this strange, rainy island in the Pacific Northwest are interrupted by three new friends, some supernatural creatures, and an angry gym teacher.

