

2021 Nutmeg Book Award Elementary Nominees Grades 2-3



After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again) by Dan Santat

Everyone knows the story of Humpty Dumpty's great fall off the wall. But what if that was only the beginning of the story? Will Humpty be able to overcome his fear and climb back up that wall?

Because by Mo Willems

A young girl is given the opportunity to listen to an orchestra for the first time and is inspired to create her own music and perform it for others..

Borrowing Bunnies: A Surprising True Tale of Fostering Rabbits by Cynthia Lord

Calling all animal lovers! This true story follows the cottontails of a special foster family. Discover what it takes to foster animals and the ways rabbits communicate with each other and with humans.

The Cardboard Kingdom by Chad Sell

Summer vacation can't last long enough for the kids in the cardboard kingdom. Armed only with craft supplies and their imaginations, these neighborhood kids become extraordinary characters and embark on thrilling adventures, filling their summer with fun and learning more about themselves and each other in the process.

Carter Reads the Newspaper by Deborah Hopkinson

Carter G. Woodson, the child of former slaves, grew up reading the newspaper to his family and later his fellow miners. His love of knowledge inspired him to further his education, explore his people's history, and become the founder of Black History Month.

Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams by Lesa Cline-Ransome

Venus and Serena Williams sisters, best friends and two of the greatest tennis players of all time. Before they were world famous they were two young girls with big tennis dreams.

Ida, Always by Caron Levis

Gus and Ida are polar bears and best friends at the zoo. Together they toss a ball, splash water, chase, and race. They sit quietly and listen to the sounds of the city. Until one day when Gus finds out that Ida is ill. How will the friendship change?

The Infamous Ratsos by Kara LaReau

Louie and Ralph Ratso want to be tough just like their dad, Big Lou. They try their best to be tough, but somehow end up helping others. What will happen when their dad finds out that Louie and Ralph have been doing good deeds for others?

Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen by Debbi Michiko Florence

It's hard to shine in the shadow of an older sister. So Jasmine wants to do something her sister, and no other girl in her family, has done before.

Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando by Andrea Wang

Do you like magic? Read Magic Ramen, the true story of noodles that become chicken soup!

Rescue & Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship by Jessica Kensky & Patrick Downes

Service dogs have important jobs and when Rescue gets an unexpected assignment, he's worried he isn't ready. Together, Rescue and Jessica learn to believe in each other and move forward into the future as a team.

Seashells: More Than a Home by Melissa Stewart

A shell is more than just a covering for the mollusk inside! What are the many jobs a shell can do? The various types of shells help the animal to glide, stick, dig deep, pop things open, and curl up in a ball. Wonderfully written and illustrated so young scientists can learn how seashells work in different ways.

We Don't Eat Our Classmates by Ryan T. Higgins

Starting school and making friends can be tough, especially when you are a T-Rex in a classroom full of tasty children. Will Penelope learn how to make friends, not eat them?

Wedgie & Gizmo by Suzanne Selfors

When two families become one, Wedgie the dog who thinks he is a superhero, and Gizmo the guinea pig who thinks he is an evil genius, need to share their humans. The story unfolds through the point of view of the pets in alternating chapters. This fun book is the first in a series.

The World is Not a Rectangle: A Portrait of Architect Zaha Hadid by Jeanette Winter

When young Zaha Hadid looked at the world around her, she didn't see rigid squares and rectangles, but flowing curves. Overcoming the odds as a female Muslim architect, she took this vision and created architecture that swooped and flowed and changed the world.

