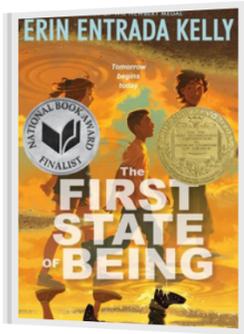


# AWARD WINNING MIDDLE GRADE BOOKS! 2025

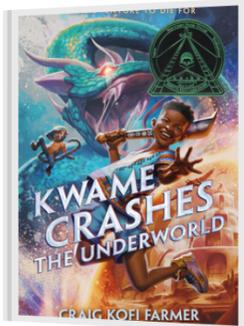


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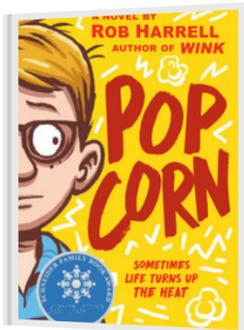
NEWBERY AWARD. **The First State of Being.**

It's August 1999. For twelve-year-old Michael Rosario, life is as ordinary as ever—except for the looming Y2K crisis and a huge crush. But that all changes when he meets Ridge, a disoriented teenage time-traveler, who tells him about a book that outlines the events of the next 20 years. Michael becomes determined to find the book, but how far is willing to go?



CORETTA SCOTT KING, JOHN STEPTOE AWARD. **Kwame Crashes the Underworld.**

Twelve-year-old Kwame is mourning his grandmother when he is sucked into a magical whirlpool that leads straight to Asamando, the Ghanaian underworld. There, he comes face to face with his grandmother, who is very much alive, and somehow still...a kid? Together with his best friend Autumn & a forest spirit named Woo, Kwame must battle the angry nature gods, and stop the underworld from destroying the land of the living.



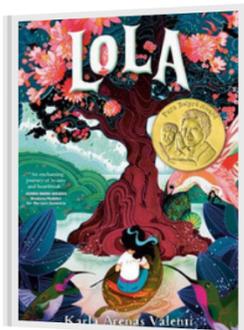
SCHNEIDER FAMILY AWARD. AGES 9-13. **Popcorn.**

Andrew's just trying to make it through Picture Day, which is easier said than done when it seems like the whole world is out to get him. But as Andrew goes through the school day, and as one thing after another goes wrong, that little kernel of worry in his stomach is getting hotter and hotter, until it threatens to pop and turn into a public panic attack, his worst fear. He tries to keep his anxiety at bay, but the news that his grandmother is missing is just too much.



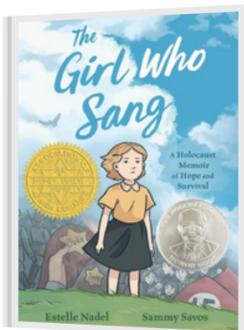
ASIAN/AMERICAN AWARD FOR YOUTH LITERATURE **Continental Drifter.**

With a Thai mother and an American father, Kathy lives in two different worlds. She spends most of the year in Bangkok, where she's secretly counting the days till summer vacation. That's when her family travels to a seaside town in Maine. Kathy loves spending time there, but no matter how hard she tries, she struggles to fit in. Through this graphic novel, Kathy finds a sense of belonging.



PURE BELPRÉ AWARD. AGES 9-13. **Lola.**

Ten-year-old Lola has always been touched by magic- her Mexico City home is built around an enchanted, towering tree. But ever since The Thing That Happened, Lola's brother Alex has been sick. As his condition worsens, the tree's leaves and blossoms begin to crumble like ash. The two are related, Lola is sure of it, but how? Seeking a cure, she visits a grocery store oracle who suggests she follow fairies down one of their secret passages into a hidden world.



SYDNEY TAYLOR AWARD. MIDDLE GRADE. **The Girl Who Sang: A Holocaust Memoir of Hope and Survival.**

A first-hand account of Estelle's fight for survival during World War II, told through a graphic novel. Follow her as she spends years away from the warmth of the sun—all before the age of eleven. And once the war was over, Estelle travels across European borders and find remnants of home in a displaced persons camp before finally crossing the Atlantic to arrive in New York City.



STONEWALL AWARD FOR YOUTH LITERATURE.. **Lunar Boy.**

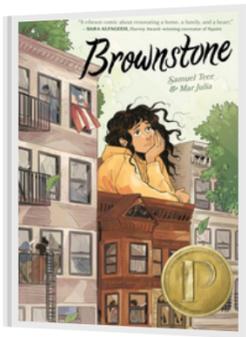
in this graphic novel, Indu, a boy from the moon, feels like he doesn't belong. The kids at school think he's weird, he has a crush on his pen pal who might not like him back, and his stepfamily doesn't seem to understand him. In a moment of loneliness, Indu calls out to the moon, begging them to take him back. And against all odds, the moon hears him and agrees to bring him home on the first day of the New Year. But as the promised day draws nearer, Indu begins to have doubts.

## WHAT ARE YOU READING THIS SUMMER?

# AWARD WINNING YOUNG ADULT BOOKS! 2025



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PRINTZ AWARD. **Brownstone.**

In 1995, fourteen-year-old Almudena's mother wants to fulfill a lifelong dancing dream in Europe, which means Almudena must spend the summer with her father whom she has never met as he restores a historic brownstone. In this graphic novel, Almudena learns more about her Guatemalan identity, herself, and the importance of community.



ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN AWARD FOR YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE. **Everything We Never Had.**

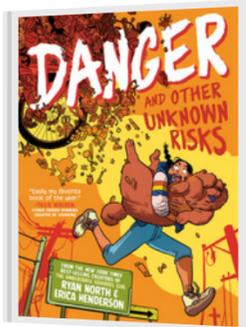
This novel tells the story of four generations of Filipino American boys grappling with identity, masculinity, and their family relationships.

Watsonville, 1930. Francisco Maghabol barely ekes out a living in the fields of California.

Stockton, 1965. Emil facing prejudice at school, YEARNS .

Denver, 1983. After being kicked off the football team, Chris immerses himself in Filipino history.

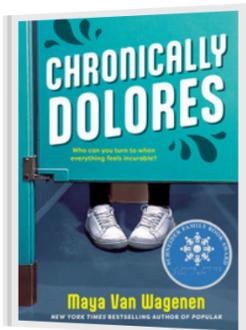
Philadelphia, 2020. Enzo struggles to keep his anxiety in check as a global pandemic breaks out.



EISNER AWARD FOR BEST PUBLICATION FOR TEENS. **Danger and Other Unknown Risks.**

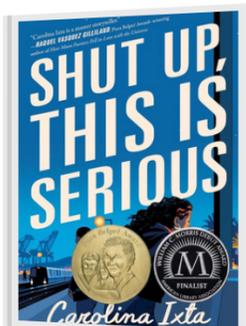
I'm gonna tell you a story, and I'm gonna ask that you let me finish before you say anything...

On midnight of January 1st, 2000, the world ended. But it wasn't technology that killed it: It was magic. Now, years later, the Earth has transformed-magic works (sort of), people are happy (sort of). But this new world isn't stable, and unless Marguerite and her dog, Daisy, do something about it, it'll tilt into deadly chaos. Good thing they've been training their whole lives for this and are destined to succeed. Or so they think. Graphic novel.



SCHNEIDER FAMILY AWARD. AGES 14-18. **Chronically Dolores.**

Dolores Mendoza is not thriving. She was recently diagnosed with a chronic bladder condition called interstitial cystitis. The painful disease isn't life threatening, but it is threatening to ruin her life. Just when things seem hopeless, Dolores meets Terpsichore. Together they decide that Terpsichore will help Dolores win back her ex-best friend, Shae. And Dolores will convince Terpsichore's mom that her daughter should stay in public school. It seems like a foolproof plan, but Dolores isn't always a reliable narrator...



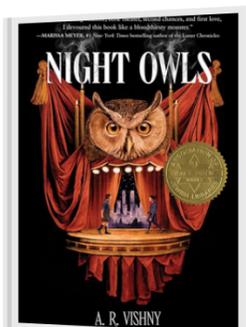
PURE BELPRÉ AWARD. AGES 14-18. **Shut up This is Serious.**

Set in Oakland, this novel in verse tells the intersecting stories of high schoolers Belén and Leti as they deal with money troubles, depression, pregnancy, and racism. While they face adversity and many challenges, their outlook is not all bleak... learn how they both take positive steps towards a promising future.



STONEWALL AWARD FOR TEEN LITERATURE. **Canto Contigo.**

Rafie fully expects to be the lead vocalist of Todos Colores, the mariachi group at his new high school. But when he auditions, Rafie's extreme arrogance is off-putting to the maestra, who assigns Rafie backup to their current lead singer, Rey—a boy who Rafie knows from a competition last year. Soon they discover their voices complement each other beautifully, but Rey is still thinking about how rude Rafie had acted. Rafie will have to learn to set his ego and insecurities aside, if he wants a chance at winning the competition—and Rey's heart.



SYDNEY TAYLOR AWARD. YOUNG ADULT. **Night Owls.**

Clara loves rules.

Molly is in love.

Boaz is cursed.

When New York's monstrous underworld emerges from the shadows, Clara suspects Boaz might be behind it all. They will need to work together to face hidden demons. Clara will have to break all her rules—of love, of life, and of death itself—before her rules break everyone she loves.

## WHAT ARE YOU READING THIS SUMMER?