

2023 – 2024 Kentucky Bluegrass Award 3-5 Nominee List

The Aquanaut / Dan Santat / Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic, 2021.

With her father lost at sea, Sophie wanders aimlessly around Aqualand, a marine theme park, until an "aquanaut" breaks into the park's research lab, revealing Aqualand's dark side, and vowing to free the captive marine life with her help.

Bartali's Bicycle: The True Story of Gina Bartali, Italy's Secret Hero / Megan Hoyt and Iacopo Bruno (illustrator) / Quill Tree Books, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2021.

This is the inspiring, true story of Italian cyclist Gino Bartali, winner of the 1938 Tour de France, who secretly worked with the Italian resistance to save more than eight hundred Jewish men, women, and children, and others, from certain death during World War II.

Endlessly Ever After: Pick YOUR Path to Countless Fairy Tale Endings! / Laurel Snyder and Dan Santat (illustrator) / Chronicle Books, 2022.

In this rhyming mash-up of many fairy tales, the reader is invited to follow Rosie down the many possible paths which may lead to a sleeping maiden, a hungry wolf, a girl locked in a tower, or a goose that lays golden eggs--but with some luck, and some smart choices, Rosie may save herself and her fellow fairy tale characters.

Hummingbird / Natalie Lloyd / Scholastic, 2022.

When twelve-year-old Olive, who suffers from brittle bone disease and has been homeschooled all her life, finally attends school in person, she soon discovers fitting in is not that easy. If she can find the magical wish-granting hummingbird that supposedly lives nearby, and prove herself worthy, however, maybe her deepest wish will be granted.

Just Right Jillian / Nicole D. Collier / Versify, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2022.

Fifth-grader, Jillian, loses a classroom challenge because she won't speak up, but breaking out of her shell is easier said than done. Jillian has only a month to keep her promise to her grandmother and prove to herself that she can speak up and show everyone her true self by winning her school's biggest competition.

Masters of Disguise: Camouflaging Creatures and Magnificent Mimics / Marc Martin / Candlewick Studio, 2021.

Sumptuously detailed spreads combine engaging scientific facts with natural-world artwork in a seek-and-find extravaganza with stylish illustrations and brisk text that unmasks twelve of the most elusive creatures on earth that use camouflage to survive.

Odder / Katherine Applegate / Feiwel and Friends, 2022.

Odder spends her days off the coast of central California practicing her underwater acrobatics and spinning the quirky stories for which she's known. When Odder comes face-to-face with a hungry great white shark, however, her life takes a dramatic turn, one that will challenge everything she believes about herself--and about the humans who hope to save her.

A Rover's Story / Jasmine Warga / Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2022.

Built to explore Mars, Resilience begins to develop human-like feelings as he learns from the NASA scientists who assembled him, and as he blasts off and inspects Mars, Resilience must overcome different obstacles during his exploration of the red planet.

Stinetinglers: All New Stories by the Master of Scary Tales / R.L. Stine / Feiwel and Friends, 2022.

From R.L. Stine, the master of horror for young readers, comes ten new stories that are sure to leave you shivering. Stine, himself, introduces each story, a collection that includes a boy who hates bugs who starts to see them everywhere; a basketball player whose skin starts to almost drip off his hands--but no one else can see it; a tale about three friends who find a hole in the ground that just gets bigger, and bigger, and bigger...and more!

The Unforgettable Logan Foster / Shawn Peters / Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2022

Logan, an undersized twelve-year-old orphan with a photographic memory and no filter, discovers that his foster parents are superheroes in grave danger and only Logan's highly logical mind can save them.