

Picture Book Nominees

2023 North Carolina Children's Book Award

Barton, Bethany. *I'm Trying to Love Garbage*. New York : Viking Books for Young Readers, 2021.

From scavengers to detritivore to decomposers, nature's garbage collectors are everywhere. But humans play an important role too, and our favorite narrator is back to tell us all about it.

Eady, Antwan. *Nigel and the Moon*. Illus. Gracey Zhang. New York : Katherine Tegen Books, 2022.

It's Career Week at school, and Nigel can't find the courage to share his dreams. It's easy to whisper them to the moon, but not to his classmates — especially when he already feels out of place.

Engle, Margarita. *A Song of Frutas*. Illus. Sara Palacios. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2021.

A lively, rhythmic picture book about a little girl visiting her grandfather who is a pregonero—a singing street vendor in Cuba—and helping him sell his frutas.

Fan, Terry and Eric. *It Fell From the Sky*. New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2021.

A whimsical and elegantly illustrated picture book about community, art, the importance of giving back—and the wonder that fell from the sky.

Finison, Carrie. *Dozens of Doughnuts*. Illus. Brianne Farley. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2020.

A generous but increasingly put-upon bear makes batch after batch of doughnuts for her woodland friends without saving any for herself.

Gholz, Sophia. *The Boy Who Grew a Forest: The True Story of Jadav Payeng*. Illus. Kayla Harren. Sleeping Bear Press, 2019.

As a boy, Jadav Payeng was distressed by the destruction deforestation and erosion was causing on his island home in India's Brahmaputra River. So he began planting trees. What began as a small thicket of bamboo, grew over the years into 1,300 acre forest filled with native plants and animals.

Keating, Jess. *Eat Your Rocks, Croc!*. Illus. Pete Oswald. New York : Orchard Books, 2020.

Dr. Sugar Glider travels around the world to help animals (and, on occasion, plants!) with all sorts of problems. Whether it's a crocodile with a sick stomach, a creeped-out krill, a stressed meerkat, or a male praying mantis trying to date, Dr. Glider is ready to offer advice!

McAnulty, Stacy. *Mars! Earthlings Welcome*. Illus. Stevie Lewis. New York : Henry Holt & Co, 2021.

The red planet. Planet Marvelous. Favorite sibling of Earth (or so he claims). Sometimes they're close (just 34.5 million miles apart). Sometimes they need space (250 million miles apart)! Earth and Mars have a lot in common—clouds, mountains, polar icecaps. And while Earth has Earthlings, Mars makes a persuasive case for why people should make the journey to spend time with him.

Roeder, Vanessa. *The Box Turtle*. New York : Dial Books, 2020.

An irresistibly cute story about finding the confidence to be yourself, starring a turtle in search of the perfect shell.

Sturgell, Todd. *Except Antarctica!*. Naperville, IL : Sourcebooks Explore, 2021.

Turtles are found on every continent EXCEPT Antarctica. But not for long! Follow along as a rogue group of determined animals embark on an adventure (and defy their flustered narrator in the process).

Wang, Andrea. *Watercress*. Illus. Jason Chin. New York : Neal Porter Books, 2021.

Embarrassed about gathering watercress from a roadside ditch, a girl learns to appreciate her Chinese heritage after learning why the plant is so important to her parents.

Winstanley, Nicola. *How to Give Your Cat a Bath in Five Easy Steps*. Illus. John Martz. Toronto, ON : Tundra Books, 2019.

A little girl and a know-it-all narrator are thwarted by a cat who refuses to take a bath.