

# 2025-2026 Young Hoosier Picture Book

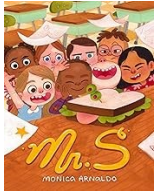
Annotated Nominee List (by author)

Grades K-2



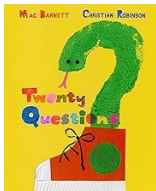
## Acorn Was a Little Wild by Jen Arena

A young acorn jumps off his tree into the waiting world and discovers many exciting—and sometimes scary—adventures.



## Mr. S by Monica Arnaldo

Room 2B is missing its teacher on the first day of school! The only clues left for the kindergarteners are three letters: “Mr. S.” written on the board and a sandwich on the desk. How will they find their teacher?



## Twenty Questions by Mac Barnett

Full of story-starting questions, readers are given picture clues to guide them to the answers.



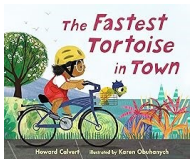
## Cranky Chicken by Katherine Battersby

Chicken is always in a bad mood until he meets Speedy, a worm who becomes his best friend, and who teaches him to look on the bright side of life.



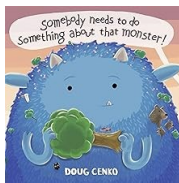
## Heavy Metal Badger by Duncan Beddie

When Badger’s animal neighbors complain about his loud music, he leaves to find a new place to play. Will he find the perfect venue for his musical style?



## The Fastest Tortoise in Town by Howard Calvert

A twist on the classic fairy tale, Barbara Hendricks, a leopard green tortoise learns to believe in herself and “just put one foot in the front of the other” when her owner Lorraine enters her into a foot race with other animals.



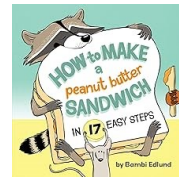
## Somebody Needs to Do Something About That Monster by Doug Cenko

Merv the Monster is busy going about his monster ways until he hears the others complaining about a monster. Not realizing they are talking about him, he decides to do something. Will anyone help solve this problem?



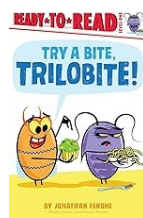
## Our Pool by Lucy Ruth Cummins

A perfect story for summertime! This story celebrates a day at the community pool and the fun that awaits the swimmers.



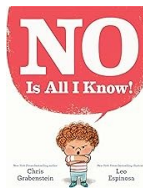
## How to Make a Peanut Butter Sandwich in 17 Easy Steps by Bambi Edlund

Find out how crows, raccoons, squirrels, a badger, a beaver, four mice, a skunk and one donkey make a peanut butter banana sandwich.



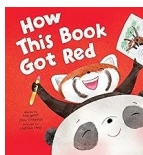
## Try a Bite, Trilobite! by Jonathan Fenske

A modern take on the famous premise of Dr. Seuss’ *Green Eggs and Ham*, this story is about a bug who tries to convince his friend Trilobite to try his snack and is met with resistance.



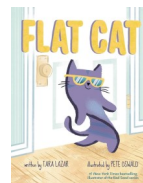
## No Is All I Know by Chris Grabenstein

Oliver McSnow loves the word “No!”. He refuses to sleep, take baths and eat anything except mac and cheese. Until one day, his cousin Jess visits and shows him what fun he can have with “Yes!”.



## How This Book Got Red by Margaret Chiu Greanias

Frustrated by not finding a panda book about red pandas, Red decides to write one herself.



## Flat Cat by Tara Lazar

Flat Cat, who is perfectly happy being flat, accidentally becomes fluffy. Not sure at first if he likes being fluffy, he learns to appreciate both worlds.



## Hello Opportunity: the story of our friend on Mars by Shaelyn McDaniel

A nonfiction tribute to the first rover launched in July 2003 to explore the red planet, Mars. What was supposed to be a 3 month mission turned into 15 years of discoveries until a sandstorm ended her abilities in 2018.



## Just Snow Already! by Howard McWilliam

The anticipation of snow sends a little boy to stare out the window all morning. In the meantime, he misses all sorts of activity happening on his street from monkeys to clowns.



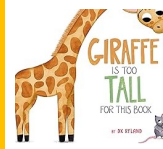
## The Scariest Kitten in the World by Kate Messner

Threats of seeing the “Terrifying Kitten” try to warn kids of turning the page. But when they encounter even more cute creatures, they try one more time to be scary until they face something scary themselves.



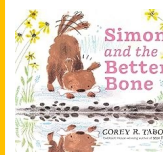
## The King Penguin by Vanessa Roeder

Percival, a king penguin, thinks he was born to rule until his fellow penguins challenge him. When the search for a new kingdom doesn’t go as planned he finds a way to compromise with his fellow penguins.



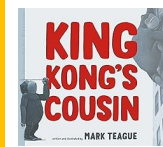
## Giraffe is Too Tall for This Book by DK Ryland

Giraffe and his animal friends all struggle to fit inside a book. Asking the reader for help turning this way and that, they try to find a way for all of them to fit.



## Simon and the Better Bone by Corey R. Tabor

Using the familiar theme of “the grass is better on the other side”, a pup thinks he sees a friend with a bone he wants for himself. How can he find a way to get the other pup to agree?



## King Kong's Cousin by Mark Teague

How do you compare with your relatives? Junior finds himself not measuring up to his cousin Kong until his bravery makes him feel better.

# 2025-2026 Young Hoosier Intermediate

## Annotated Nominee List (by author)

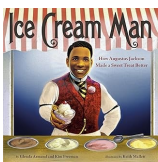
### Grades 3-5



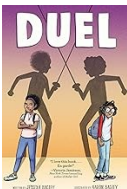
**The Greatest Kid in the World** by John David Anderson  
When Zeke, an admittedly “bad” kid, is mistakenly chosen to compete in the Greatest Kid in the World contest, he must change his behavior for the better.



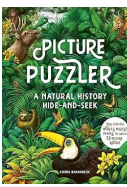
**Dogtown** by Katherine Applegate and Gennifer Choldenko  
The tale of Chance, a real dog and Metal Head, a robot dog, with the help of their friend Mouse, try and escape Dogtown, a shelter for dogs in search of their forever homes.



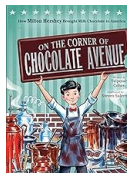
**Ice Cream Man: How Augustus Jackson Made a Sweet Treat** by Glenda Armand and Kim Freeman  
A lesser known invention story explains how inventor Augustus “Gus” Jackson fulfilled his dream of cooking for the President of the United States where he first made a dessert that we now call ice cream and how he took that treat nationwide.



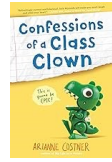
**Duel** by Jessica Bagley  
Fencing sisters Gigi and Lucy are now in the same school and feel compelled to compete against each other. After a teasing incident, Lucy challenges Gigi to a school-wide fencing match. Can the sisters figure out how to get along?



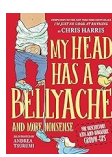
**Picture Puzzler: A Natural History Hide and Seek** by Rachel Williams and Ksenia Bakhareva  
Learn amazing facts about different exotic locations around the world while trying to spot the animals hidden in the pictures.



**On the Corner of Chocolate Avenue: How Milton Hershey Brought Chocolate to America** by Tziporah Colten  
Shares the story of entrepreneur Milton Hershey and how he finally landed a successful business in the world of chocolate after many failed attempts in other fields. His discovery of milk chocolate was the key to making this delicious food available throughout the world.



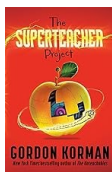
**Confessions of a Class Clown** by Arienne Costner  
Class clown Jack Reynolds has gained a following on his MyTube channel for posting hilarious videos. However, he feels compelled to up the ante each time and for that he needs to find a collaborator. But who to choose?



**My Head Has a Bellyache and more nonsense for mischievous kids and immature grown-ups** by Chris Harris  
The follow-up to *I'm Just No Good at Rhyming*, this collection of hilarious poetry features all sorts of new characters from an Elderly Caveman to the nighttime teeth deliverer, the Nail-Clipping Fairy.



**102 Days of Lying About Lauren** by Maura Jortner  
After having been abandoned in an amusement park by her mother, Mouse has carefully constructed a secret life so that she won't get caught. Until someone comes looking for a girl named Lauren and notices Mouse. How will Mouse keep from being discovered?



**The Superteacher Project** by Gordon Korman  
Class clowns Oliver and Nathan are convinced something is strange about the new teacher at their school, Mr. Aidact. He is always preventing Oliver's pranks, knows too much trivia and becomes the girls' field hockey coach. Its time to do something to stop him from becoming the most popular teacher ever.



**Table Titans Club** by Scott Kurtz  
Valeria Winters has found the perfect place to fit in at her new school—The Table Titans Club. This tabletop gaming club offers her instant friendship and acceptance. That is until the gym teacher and popular girl Kate try to take it down. Can Valeria game her way into saving the club?



**Squished** by Megan Wagner Lloyd  
Avery loves art and her hometown of Hickory Valley, Maryland. What she doesn't love is being squished by her six siblings. All she wants is her own room and space to create her beloved art. When her older brother gets his own room, Avery hatches a plan to find her one of her own.



**Animal Rescue Friends** by Meiko Hashimoto and Gina Loveless  
Animal Rescue Friends shelter helps stray animals find forever families. This collection of 5 animal rescue stories will inspire animal lovers everywhere.



**Shelley Frankenstein: Cow Piggy** By Colleen Madden  
Trying to live up to her family's spooky heritage, Shelley Frankenstein and her little brother Iggy collaborate to create terrifying monsters. But most of their creations aren't scary at all. Then, Shelley gets a fantastic idea after a visit to the family graveyard—CowPiggy!



**Maple's Theory of Fun** by Kate McMillan  
Aspiring astronaut Maple McNutt is a worrier. She worries about everything from a blackhole swallowing Earth and coackroaches in her toothpaste! But when best friend Sunny accuses her of being “unfun”, she hatches a plan to win her back.



**The Wild Journey of Juniper Berry** by Chad Morris  
Juniper's family has always lived “off the grid” until her brother falls ill and they must move to be closer to a hospital. When the bills start piling up, Juniper fears they'll never move back. So she decides to find a way to help her family pay the bills.



**Emma Just Medium: The Beach Dilemma** by Laura Wiltse Prior  
Emma is tired of being in the middle of her two brothers. So, she feels “medium”. When her family takes a beach vacation trip, she decides to take act “BIG”. But will this cause her another dilemma?



**A Seed in the Sun** by Aida Salazar  
In this historical look back to the 1965 migrant workers' strike, the story features Lula, a girl who meets activist Dolores Huerta, learns that she can become a voice for change despite her father's traditional views on the roles of women.



**Ghosts, Toast, and Other Hazards** by Susan Tan  
Mo, who has an irrational fear of fires (and toasters catching fire), must thrive in a new town after a recent move. When she's suddenly seeing an elephant in her dreams and dealing with mysterious spirit attacks, she enlists her new friend Nathaniel to investigate the cause.



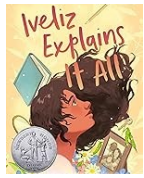
**Jawbreaker** by Christina Wyman  
Bullied by her own sister for having to wear braces and headgear nicknamed “the jawbreaker”, Max Plink suffers from complicated dental issues. This hasn't stopped her from wanting to be a journalist. However, a journalism competition that requires a video entry just might!



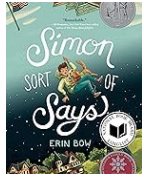
# 2025-2026 Young Hoosier Middle Grade

## Annotated Nominee List (by author)

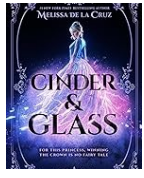
### Grades 6-8



**Iveliz Explains It All**  
by **Andrea Beatriz Arango**  
No one seems to understand Iveliz. Starting seventh grade is challenging enough but she must also deal with her abuela from Puerto Rico moving in. This triggers more mental health issues for Iveliz but no one seems to care or listen.



**Simon Sort of Says**  
by **Erin Bow** Set in the near future, Simon is a teen who survives a school shooting. Two years later, his family moves to the “National Quiet Zone”, the only place in America to ban the internet. This gives Simon a chance to rewrite his history.



**Cinder & Glass** by **Melissa De La Cruz** A new take on the traditional *Cinderella*, Cendrillon attends a ball to leave the life of her hateful stepmother and sisters. While there, she falls for the younger brother of the prince. But can he rescue her?



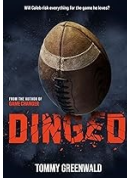
**Undercover Latina**  
by **Ava De León**  
Andrea’s family is full of spies that work for The Factory, an organization that protects BIPOC citizens. She gets an assignment from The Factory to become white girl to ferret dangerous people out of a white supremacist terrorist group.



**The Liars Society**  
by **Alyson Gerber**  
Weatherby lands a scholarship to the prestigious Boston School, she’s excited to join the world of the father she’s never known. She also must not let anyone know the secret she’s hiding. She meets Jack, a boy who is trying to live up to the standards of the rest of his family. Both Weatherby and Jack are tapped to solve a high-stakes mystery and will earn entry to one of the oldest societies in Boston as a prize.



**Not An Easy Win**  
by **Chrystal D. Giles**  
Lawrence is forced to move from Charlotte, North Carolina to Larenville to live with his granny. While there he is expelled from school for fighting—even though it wasn’t his fault. This leads him to begin hanging out at the rec center where he feels at home learning to play chess. When a chess tournament in Charlotte is announced, Lawrence feels this might be his chance to go home.



**Dinged** by **Tommy Greenwald**  
Caleb Springer, son of a famous NFL superstar, was looking forward to his own career playing football until he notices his dad exhibiting strange behavior like getting angry at odd times and forgetfulness. Caleb suspects it could be related to his football injuries. Will this change Caleb’s plans?



**Strong as Fire, Fierce as Flame**  
by **Supriya Kelkar**  
Its 1857 colonial India and newly widowed 12-year-old Meera is told to through herself on her husband’s funeral pyre as their religion dictates. Instead she runs away only to become a servant in a British army captain’s home. While there, she learns about a secret stockpile of ammo to continue the colonization. What will she do?



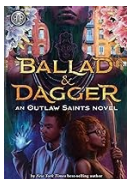
**The Girl From the Sea**  
by **Molly Knox Ostertag**  
Morgan, a 15-year-old girl desperately wants to escape her island life where she feels misunderstood. One night when she’s saved from drowning by another girl named Keltie, she realizes that she’s falling in love with her. But both girls have secrets that could upend everything.



**Hands** by **Torrey Maldonado**  
Trev learns how to box to protect his mother and sisters from their step-dad. But he’s also a gifted artist who could use his hands for a better future. The future though doesn’t matter to Trev right now. Only he can choose how to use his hands.



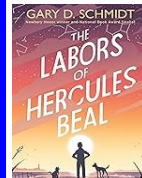
**Select** by **Christie Matheson**  
Alex loves playing soccer and is invited to play on an elite team called Select that guarantees a soccer scholarship and bright future. But when her coach on Select begins to bully the girls, Alex and her teammates must decide what to do.



**Ballad & Dagger: an Outlaw Saints Novel**  
by **Daniel Jose Older**  
Surviving the sinking of his homeland island, Mateo escapes to New York. While there, he attends Grand Fete, a party celebrating their culture, where he witnesses a murder that awakens an unknown power within him.



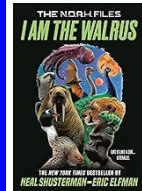
**Thin Air** by **Kellie Parker**  
Given the opportunity of a lifetime, boarding school student Emily finds herself in a high-stakes competition in Europe. She must compete against some very determined people to win a college scholarship. However when people begin dying, she has to figure out who’s behind this to



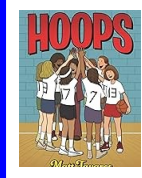
**The Labors of Hercules Beal**  
By **Gary D. Schmidt**  
Herc Beal, who’s named after the mythical superhero, knows he’s not the same. When his middle school homeroom teacher assigns him to complete the 12 labors of the fabled hero in real life, he wonders how to accomplish this in real life.



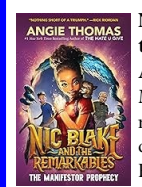
**Squire** by **Nadia Shammas and Sara Alfageeh** As a member of the enslaves Ornu people in the Bayt-Sajji kingdom, Aiza has always wanted to be a Knight that will grant her citizenship. But when war threatens, this gives her a chance to become a Squire. She must hide her background to succeed while facing unimaginable harsh training.



**I Am the Walrus**  
By **Neal Schusterman**  
Noah is confused by his sudden strange behavior: falling out of trees, bird-shrieks at the school dance and the ability to blend into the background. His best friend Ogden has a theory, but its WAY out there! Could it be true?



**Hoops** by **Matt Tavares**  
Set in 1975 Indiana, and featuring a rookie girls basketball team, the Lady Bears of Wilkins Regional High School. The Lady Bears are far inferior to their male counterparts. They don’t have real uniforms; only ones made from old t-shirts and duct tape. No team bus to take them to their games and practices. Yet despite all these obstacles, they keep winning and winning!



**Nic Blake and the Remarkables: the Manifestor Prophecy**  
by **Angie Thomas** Nic Blake wants to be a Manifestor like her dad. However, her relatives are refuse to teach her magic, certain she’ll us it against her neighbors. Before she can learn the craft, she is thrust into the hunt for a powerful magic tool to save her dad from possible imprisonment.



**The In-Between**  
by **Katie Van Heidrich**  
An autobiographical look at the author’s life as she recounts her experiences her family’s constant moving from place to place.



**Greymist Fair**  
by **Francesca Zappia**  
The people of the village of Greymist Fair know that stepping off the road into the woods can only be bad. When Heike, the village tailor, finds a body she looks for the culprit only to lead her to more strange happenings.