

# ASFMS Summer Reading 2016

## Rhode Island Children's Book Award Nominations

### 2016

***Mockingbird*** Kathryn Erskine

Caitlin is a bright fifth grader and gifted artist. She also has Asperger's syndrome. Her brother, Devon, was the one who helped her get by. But a middle-school shooting took his life. Now she has only her widowed father to rely on, and he has problems of his own. With Devon gone, will she have the courage to live fully on her own?

***Absolutely Almost*** Lisa Graff

It's hard not to be good at anything. Just ask ten-year-old Albie, who is failing math and is the target of the school bully. Albie learns to cope with the stress of a new school while learning to stand up to the bully and make new friends.

***Death By Toilet Paper*** Donna Gephardt

Ever dream of entering a sweepstakes and winning the big cash prize? That's exactly Benjamin's plan to save himself and his mom from being evicted. Plans never go smoothly, especially when you are being bullied at school, and your grandfather with Alzheimer's moves in.

***The Night Gardener*** Jonathan Auxier

Irish orphans, Molly and Kip, travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems. Soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed house.

***El Deafo*** Cece Bell

All the other students at Cece's old school were deaf and didn't care about her Phonic Ear. At her new school, the device she needs seems to be repelling the one thing she really wants: a friend. This graphic novel chronicles the author's experience with hearing loss.

***Kinda Like Brothers*** Coe Booth

Jarrett's life is disrupted when his mom takes in a 12-year-old foster child. Jarrett's summer is also being ruined by the foster "brother" who seems to excel in everything. The friction between the boys escalates and threatens both of them as they grow to understand the other's pain.

***Rain Reign*** Ann M. Martin

Rose is a special 12 year-old year who is obsessed with homophones and prime numbers. During a terrible storm, her dog goes missing and it is up to her to find him. When she finds her dog, her reunion does not go exactly as planned.

***Loot*** Jude Watson

Twelve-year-old March has spent his life traveling the world with his father, a cat burglar, learning the family business. This ends when his father dies during their last heist, leaving March alone and caught by the authorities. On his way to a group home, March meets his twin sister Jules, whom he never knew existed.

### 2015

***Athlete vs. Mathlete*** W.C. Mack

When their two worlds collide in seventh grade, fraternal twins and opposites Owen and Russell find themselves in direct competition at school, on the court, and at home.

### 2014

***The One and Only Ivan*** Katherine Applegate

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

***Ungifted*** Gordon Korman

Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

### 2013

***Inside Out & Back Again*** Thanhha Lai

Based on the author's own life, a ten-year-old girl experiences the culture shock of moving to America from Vietnam; this story expresses both the humor and heartbreak of this time in her life.

***The Great Wall of Lucy Wu Shang*** Wendy Wan-Long

Eleven-year-old aspiring basketball star and interior designer Lucy Wu is excited about finally having her own bedroom, until she learns that her great-aunt is coming to visit from China and Lucy will have to share a room with her for several months. Will this and her parents forcing her to attend Chinese school bring to an end of her plans for a perfect sixth-grade year?

# ASFMS Summer Reading 2016

## Rhode Island Teen Book Nominations

### 2016

***Brown Girl Dreaming*** Jacqueline Woodson

In this verse memoir, Woodson describes how the love and support of her family, during the turbulent time of the civil rights movement, helped her to “hold fast” to her dreams.

***Dogs of War*** Sheila Keenan

Based on true stories, these fictional graphic novel vignettes showcase soldiers in World Wars 1 & 2, and the Vietnam War who were aided by combat dogs.

***The Life and Times of Benny Alvarez*** Peter Johnson

Everyone thinks Benny Alvarez is Mr. Negativity. According to Benny, he's just realistic about seeing the "other side" of things—when it comes to just about everything. Eventually, Benny Alvarez will have to decide—is the glass half empty or half full?

***Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek*** Maya Van Wagenen

With mixed results and many surprises, Maya attempts to become part of the “in” crowd by following advice found in a 1950's popularity guide in this humorous memoir.

***The Scar Boys*** Len Vlahos

A severely burned teenager. A guitar. Punk rock. A rock ‘n’ roll road trip. Through an unconventional college application essay, Harry tells about finding his place in the world.

***Swim That Rock*** John Rocco & Jay Primiano

A working-class Rhode Island teen fights to save his family's diner after his father is lost in a fishing boat accident.

***Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass*** Meg Medina

Before school, someone tells Piddy Sanchez that Yaqui Delgado wants to beat her up. At first, Piddy is unconcerned, but as the harassment escalates, avoiding Yaqui and her gang starts to take over Piddy's life.

### 2015

***Eleanor & Park*** Rainbow Rowell

Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits—smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.

***Weight of Water*** Sarah Crossan

As she and her mother move to a crumbling apartment, recent immigrant Kasienka has a difficult transition when girls at school tease her for being different and as well as for her broken English.

***Steelheart*** Brandon Sanderson

At age eight, David watched as his father was killed by an Epic, a human with superhuman powers, and now, ten years later, he joins the Reckoners-- the only people who are trying to kill the Epics and end their tyranny.

### 2014

***Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip*** Jordan Sonnenblick

Peter's athletic dreams are shattered by injury, though he becomes a sports photographer gaining insight and equipment from his aging grandfather as well as a new girlfriend.

***Drama*** Raina Telgemeier

With budding relationships everywhere, Callie rides an emotional rollercoaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school theater production. (Graphic novel)

## Other Recommendations

***The Crossover*** Kwame Alexander

Josh and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood; he's got mad beats, too, and tells his family's story in verse. This is a fast and furious novel of family and brotherhood.

***I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)*** Malala Yousafzai & Patricia McCormick

Malala was taught to stand up for what she believed, and she fought for her right to be educated. She nearly lost her life for her cause, shot point-blank on the school bus. Malala survived and became an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner.

***Hope: a School, a Team, a Dream*** Bill Reynolds

Hope High School was known for its state championship basketball teams in the 1960s, but its 2012 team is much different. Disobedient, distracted, and overwhelmed by family troubles, with mismatched sneakers and a penchant for profanity and anger, these boys represent Coach Dave Nyblom's dream of a championship, however unlikely that might seem.

***All American Boys*** Brendan Kiely & Jason Reynolds

Rashad and Quinn—one black, one white, both American—face the unspeakable truth that racism and prejudice didn't die after the civil rights movement. This is a multi-faceted look at race relations in America.