



2026 Monarch Award Nominees

(Kindergarten through Third Grade)

For every five Monarch nominees read and turned in by May 15, 2026, you will earn a special Monarch scratch-off ticket for a chance at prizes and get entered in the grand-prize drawing! You can stop in to get your ticket(s) as you read them or wait until the end of the program. You can earn up to four tickets by reading all twenty books. Be sure to check back in March to vote for your favorite. You will also get your name on our Award Wall of Fame, on our Facebook page, and in the newspaper!

Each year, 20 books are nominated for this award and then voted on by students in kindergarten through third grade in Illinois. The name was chosen because it's familiar to children and works great to symbolize the growth, change, and freedom of becoming a reader. The award is designed to help children become familiar with books, authors, and illustrators and help them read critically with a variety of fiction and nonfiction titles.

✓	Title & Author	Call Number	L=Libby C=cloudLibrary P=Playaway
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bathe the Cat by Alice McGinty & David Roberts	E McGinty	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beneath by Cori Doerrfeld	E Doerrfe	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Butt or Face?: A Hilarious Animal Guessing Game by Kari Lavelle	J 571.31 Lavelle Vol. 1	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Claude: The True Story of a White Alligator by Emma Bland Smith & Jennifer Potter	J 597.98 Smith	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Flower Garden by Renee Kurilla	JF [GRN] Kurilla	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hamsters Make Terrible Roommates by Cheryl Klein & Abhi Alwar	E Klein	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Homegrown by DeAnn Wiley	E Wiley	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Home is Calling: The Journey of the Monarch Butterfly by Katherine Pryor & Ellie Peterson	J 595.78 Pryor	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Just SNOW Already! by Howard McWilliam	E McWilli	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Knight Owl by Christopher Denise	E Denise	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. S by Monica Arnaldo	E Arnaldo	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative Cat by Sophie Blackall	E Blackal	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Red Jacket by Bob Holt	E Holt	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sydney and Taylor Explore the Whole Wide World by Jacqueline Davies & Deborah Hocking	JF Davies Bk. 1	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Time to Make Art by Jeff Mack	E Mack	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thunder and Cluck: Friends Do Not Eat Friends by Jill Esbaum & Miles Thompson	RL 1 E Esbaum Bk. 1	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	We Are Definitely Human by X Fang	E Fang	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Who's Afraid of the Light by Anna McGregor	E McGregor	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The World's Best Class Plant by Liz Garton Scanlon, Audrey Vernick, & Lynnor Bontigao	E Scanlon	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yoshi, Sea Turtle Genius by Lynne Cox & Richard Jones	J 597.92 Cox	L



2026 Bluestem Award Nominees

(Third Grade through Fifth Grade)

For every five Bluestem nominees read and turned in by May 15, 2026, you will earn a special Bluestem scratch-off ticket for a chance at prizes and get entered in the grand-prize drawing! You can stop in to get your ticket(s) as you read them or wait until the end of the program. You can earn up to four tickets by reading all twenty books. Be sure to check back in March to vote for your favorite. You will also get your name on our Award Wall of Fame, on our Facebook page, and in the newspaper!

Each year, 20 books are nominated for the Bluestem Award and then voted on by students in third through fifth grade in Illinois. It's designed for students who want more challenging books than Monarch, but who aren't quite ready for Rebecca Caudill. It's named for Big Bluestem, which is the state prairie grass.

✓	Title & Author	Call Number	L=Libby C=cloudLibrary P=Playaway
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Area 51 Files by Julie Buxbaum & Lavanya Naidu	JF Buxbaum Bk.1	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Batcat by Meggie Ramm	JF [GRN] Ramm Bk.1	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Better with Butter by Victoria Piontek	JF Piontek	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Butt or Face?: A Hilarious Animal Guessing Game for Kids by Kari Lavelle	J 571.31 Lavelle Vol.1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Deep! Wild Life at the Ocean's Darkest Depths by Lindsey Leigh	J 591.77 Leigh	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dogtown by Katherine Applegate, Gennifer Choldenko, & Wallace West	JF Applega Bk. 1	L, P
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Double Life of Danny Day by Mike Thayer	JF Thayer	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Escape at 10,000 Feet: D.B. Cooper and the Missing Money by Tom Sullivan	J [GRN] 364.155 Sulliva	L, C
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fighting for Yes! The Story of Disability Rights Activist Judith Heumann by Maryann Cocca-Leffler & Vivien Mildenberger	J 362.409 Cocca-Leffler	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good Different by Meg Eden Kuyatt	JF Kuyatt	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Guardian Test by Christina Soontornvat & Kevin Hong	JF Soontor Bk. 1	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Lost Library by Rebecca Stead & Wendy Mass	JF Stead	L, P
<input type="checkbox"/>	Millionaires for the Month by Stacy McAnulty	JF McAnulty	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Misfits: A Royal Conundrum by Lisa Yee & Dan Santat	JF Yee Bk. 1	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nell of Gumbling: My Extremely Normal Fairy-Tale Life by Emma Steinkellner	JF [GRN] Steinke Bk. 1	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	New in Town by Sharee Miller	JF [GRN] Miller Bk. 1	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Plate of Hope: The Inspiring Story of Chef Jose Andres and World Central Kitchen by Erin Frankel & Paola Escobar	J 641.509 Frankel	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rumsaya: A Fairytale by Radiya Hafiza	JF Hafiza	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Squished by Megan Lloyd & Michelle Mee Nutter	JF [GRN] Lloyd	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swim Team by Johnnie Christmas	JF [GRN] Christm	L



2026 Rebecca Caudill Award Nominees

(Fourth Grade through Eighth Grade)

For every five Rebecca Caudill nominees read and turned in by May 15, 2026, you will earn a special Rebecca Caudill scratch-off ticket for a chance at prizes and get entered in the grand-prize drawing! You can stop in to get your ticket(s) as you read them or wait until the end of the program. You can earn up to four tickets by reading all twenty books. Be sure to check back in February/March to vote for your favorite. You will also get your name on our Award Wall of Fame, on our Facebook page, and in the newspaper!

Each year, 20 books are nominated for this award and then voted on by students in fourth through eighth grade in Illinois. It is given in honor of Rebecca Caudill in recognition of her writing talent and the love of her books by children and young adults. She lived and wrote in Urbana, IL for almost 50 years.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Title & Author	Call Number	L=Libby Interest C=cloudLibrary Levels P=Playaway (grades)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Bellwoods Game by Celia Krampien	JF Krampie	L	4-7
<input type="checkbox"/>	D&D Dungeon Club: Roll Call by Molly Ostertag & Xanthe Bouma	JF [GRN] Ostertag Bk. 1		4-8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't Want to Be Your Monster by Deke Moulton	JF Moulton	L	5-8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eb & Flow by Kelly Baptist	JF Baptist	L	5-8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Final Season by Tim Green	JF Green	L	4-8
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn by Sally Pla	JF Pla	L	5-8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ghost Book by Remy Lai	JF [GRN] Lai	L	4-7
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenwild: The World Behind the Door by Pari Thompson	JF Thomson Bk. 1	L	4-6
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hands by Torrey Maldonado	JF Maldona	L	5-8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Impossible Escape: A True Story of Survival & Heroism in Nazi Europe by Steve Sheinkin	J 940.53 Sheinki	L	7-8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medusa: The Myth of Monsters by Katherine Marsh	JF Marsh Bk. 1	L	4-7
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mexikid by Pedro Martin	JF [GRN] 973.046 Martin	L	5-8
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Misfits: A Royal Conundrum by Lisa Yee & Dan Santat	JF Yee Bk. 1	L	4-7
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parachute Kids by Betty Tang	JF [GRN] Tang Bk. 1	L	4-8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Simon Sort of Says by Erin Bow	JF Bow	L	5-8
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Swifts: A Dictionary of Scoundrels by Beth Lincoln	JF Lincoln Bk. 1	L	4-7
<input type="checkbox"/>	Warrior Girl by Carmen Tafolla	JF Tafolla		5-7
<input type="checkbox"/>	What Happened to Rachel Riley? by Claire Swinarski	JF Swinars	L	6-8
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Work in Progress by Jarrett Lerner	JF Lerner	L	4-7
<input type="checkbox"/>	World Made of Glass by Ami Polonsky	JF Polonsk	L	6-8



2026 Lincoln Award Nominees (Ninth Grade through Twelfth Grade)

For every five Lincoln nominees read and turned in by May 15, 2026, you will earn a special Lincoln scratch-off ticket for a chance at prizes and get entered in the grand-prize drawing! You can stop in to get your ticket(s) as you read them or wait until the end of the program. You can earn up to four tickets by reading all twenty books. Be sure to check back in March to vote for your favorite. You will also get your name on our Award Wall of Fame, on our Facebook page, and in the newspaper!

Each year, 20 books are nominated for this award and then voted on by teens in ninth through twelfth grade in Illinois. The Lincoln Award is designed to encourage reading for enjoyment and to become lifelong readers. It helps teens become familiar with young adult & adult authors and books. The award is named after former President and one of Illinois' most famous residents, Abraham Lincoln, who was an avid reader and noted author.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Title & Author	Call Number	L=Libby C=cloudLibrary P=Playaway
<input type="checkbox"/>	Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account & the Teenagers Whose Lives It Changed by Dashka Slater	YA 371.827 Slater	
<input type="checkbox"/>	As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow by Zoulfa Katouh	YA Katouh	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Divine Rivals by Rebecca Ross	YA Ross Bk. 1	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dungeons and Drama by Kristy Boyce	YA Boyce Bk. 1	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Face for Picasso: Coming of Age with Crouzon Syndrome by Ariel Henley	YA 921 Henley April	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea by Axie Oh	YA Oh	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hell Followed With Us by Andrew White	YA White	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	The House in the Cerulean Sea by T.J. Klune	F Klune	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Looking for Smoke by K.A. Cobell	YA Cobell	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books by Kristen Miller	F Miller	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lunar New Love Story by Gene Luen Yang & LeUyan Pham	Graphic Yang	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monstrous: A Transracial Adoption Story by Sarah Myer	Graphic 921 Myer Sarah	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan A by Deb Caletti	YA Caletti	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Promise Boys by Nick Brooks	YA Brooks	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby VanPelt	F VanPelt	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rez Ball by Byron Graves	YA Graves	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shut Up, This is Serious by Carolina Ixta	YA Ixta	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Starter Villain by John Scalzi	SF Scalzi	L
<input type="checkbox"/>	This is My America by Kim Johnson	YA Johnson	C, L
<input type="checkbox"/>	You're Not Supposed to Die Tonight by Kalynn Bayron	YA Bayron	L