

RHODE ISLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOK AWARD 2018 NOMINEES

All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook by Leslie Connor

Perry T. Cook has lived happily with his mom, an inmate at the Blue River Correctional Facility, for the last 11 years. After they are separated, Perry works to uncover the truth about her crime and show everyone the value of home and family. Realistic Fiction

Beneath by Roland Smith

Pat has always looked up to his big brother, Coop. When Coop leaves home and completely disappears, Pat decides his hero might need some saving. He tracks down Coop's last known whereabouts and finds a secret society beneath the streets of New York. Adventure

Blind Guide to Stinkville by Beth Vrabel

It's hard enough being the new kid in town but try adding blindness and albinism to the mix! Alice must learn to navigate Stinkville with her "guide dog," Tooter, by her side. Realistic Fiction

Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

Emily's best friends have always been books and the online game "Book Scavenger," until she meets James, a fellow puzzle enthusiast. Together they find a hidden book, full of clues and ciphers that lead them deep into a dangerous game. Mystery

Dust of Eden

Free verse tells the story of thirteen-year-old Mina Tagawa and her Japanese American family as they are forced to evacuate their Seattle home and relocate to an internment camp in Idaho, where they live for three years. Historical Fiction

Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan

From Pre-WWII Germany, to 1935 Philadelphia, to a Southern California town reeling in the wake of Pearl Harbor, this epic novel tells the stories of three individuals whose lives are brought together by a magical harmonica. Historical Fiction

Firefly Code by Megan Frazer

Blakemore Mori and her friends live in a utopian community where every kid knows he or she is genetically engineered to be better and smarter. When a strangely-perfect new girl named Ilana moves in, the friends begin to question their world. Science Fiction

I Will Always Write Back by Caitlin Alifirenka & Martin Ganda

A riveting, true story about friendship, race, and class, told through letters exchanged between Caitlin, a girl from Pennsylvania and Martin, a boy from Zimbabwe. Biography/Memoir

It Ain't So Awful, Falafel by Firoozeh Dumas

Zomorod wants to be a normal, Californian girl. She tries to blend in by changing her name and joining the Girl Scouts. When the Iranian Revolution erupts, everything becomes more difficult for "Cindy" but she navigates her shifting world with a heavy dose of humor. Historical Fiction

The Nest by Kenneth Oppel

Steve's baby brother is sick. When Steve is stung by a wasp in his backyard, he starts having strange dreams. In one of his visions, the Queen offers to "fix" the baby. All he has to do is say "yes." Horror

The Scourge by Jennifer A. Nielsen

As a lethal plague sweeps through the land, Ani is captured, tested, and quarantined on Attic Island where victims can only expect to live out short, painful lives. With her best friend Weevil beside her, she discovers the truth of what is happening. Fantasy, Adventure

The Seventh Most Important Thing by Shelley Pearsall

Why are these seven "pieces of trash" so important to The Junkman? To pay for throwing a brick at the Junkman's head, Arthur is sentenced to help him collect trash. Is it possible to find something beautiful and sparkling in piles of broken garbage? Historical Fiction

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom by Lynda Blackmon Lowery

Lynda Blackmon Lowery was 15 years old when she participated in the 1965 civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery. Her strength shows how one voice is able to make a difference. Non-Fiction

When Friendship Followed Me Home by Paul Griffin

Ben keeps people at a distance; as a former foster kid, he knows how quickly they can disappear. When he and his adoptive mom rescue Flip, a stray dog, Flip selects Halley to be Ben's new friend. Will her struggle with cancer make it too hard for Ben to open his heart? Realistic Fiction

Oral Presentation Rubric

	4	3	2	1
Voice	Used a clear voice and correct pronunciation so all audience members could hear well	Used a mostly clear voice with few mispronunciations; most audience members could hear well	Used a soft, low voice, with many mispronunciations; audience had a difficult time hearing	Student spoke too quietly for the audience to hear the presentation
Eye Contact	Held attention of audience with direct eye contact, seldom looked at notes	Mostly looked at the audience, only glancing at notes some of the time	Minimal eye contact with audience, while reading mostly from notes	No eye contact with audience; read from notes the whole time
Expression	Demonstrated a strong, positive interest about the topic throughout the presentation	Occasionally showed positive feelings toward the topic.	Showed some negativity toward the project	Showed no interest in the topic presented.
Information	Demonstrated full knowledge by thoroughly presenting information in logical sequence	Student presented information in a logical sequence, without much elaboration	Audience had difficulty following presentation; student appeared uncomfortable with information	Audience struggled to understand the presentation; information was out of sequence and unclear
Preparation	Presentation demonstrated the student practiced the talk prior to presenting.	Student presentation showed some practice & preparation	Student had difficulty presenting information, showing minimal preparation	Presentation lacked preparation

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