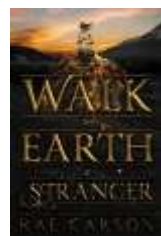


Terror at Bottle Creek by Watt Key

Lexile: 650; Adventure/Survival

Thirteen-year-old Cort's father is a local expert on hunting and swamp lore in lower Alabama who has been teaching his son everything he knows. But when a deadly Gulf Coast hurricane makes landfall, Cort must unexpectedly put his all skills – and bravery – to the test.



Walk on Earth a Stranger by Rae Carson

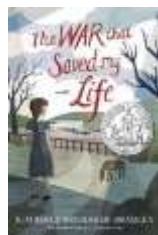
Lexile: 740; Historical Fantasy

Lee Westfall, a young woman with the magical ability to sense the presence of gold, must flee her home to avoid people who would abuse her powers, so when her best friend Jefferson heads out across Gold Rush-era America to stake his claim, she disguises herself as a boy and sets out on her own dangerous journey.

The War that Saved my Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Lexile: 580; Historical Fiction

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.



The Worst Class Trip Ever by Dave Barry

Lexile: 770; Humor & Suspense

When the eighth grade civics class of Miami's Culver Middle School goes on a trip to Washington, D.C., Wyatt Palmer finds himself in deep trouble before the plane even lands because his best friend, Matt, has decided the men sitting behind them are terrorists and it is up to the boys to stop them.

2017-2018 South Carolina Junior Book Award Nominees



Adrift by Paul Griffin

Lexile: 580; Adventure/Survival

Working in Montauk for the summer, Matt and Mike meet three girls who invite them to their Hamptons mansion, where the group decides to sail out into the ocean in a small boat, become lost at sea, and must learn to work together to survive.

Beneath by Roland Smith

Lexile: 610; Adventure

Pat O'Toole has always idolized his older brother, Coop, right up until the day Coop ran away from their home just outside Washington, D.C. -- now a year later he has received a package containing a digital voice recorder and a cryptic message from his brother, which will lead Pat on a strange and dangerous journey to the mysterious Community living **beneath** the streets of New York.



Big Top Burning: The Story of an Arsonist, a Missing Girl, and the Greatest Show on Earth by Laura A. Woollett

Lexile: NA; Narrative Nonfiction

Draws upon primary source documents and survivor interviews to recount the story of one of the worst disasters in American history, the 1944 Hartford circus fire, which claimed the lives of over one hundred people.

Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

Lexile: 810; Mystery

Just after twelve-year-old Emily and her family move to San Francisco, she teams up with new friend James to follow clues in an odd book they find, hoping to figure out its secrets before the men who attacked Emily's hero, publisher Garrison Griswold, solve the mystery or come after the friends.



Students:

To be eligible to vote for your favorite book, you must read at least **three** of the nominee titles. Voting takes place in February. For more information about the SC Junior Book Award program, see a library staff member.

All media specialists should review all titles and add them to their collection only if the titles meet the criteria established by District Board Policy and Library Media Center Policy & Procedure guidelines. We recommend that others interested in purchasing these titles read reviews and scan materials to determine the appropriateness for their intended readers.

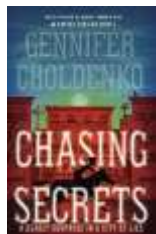
Book summaries and images courtesy of *Novelist Plus* database: www.scdiscus.org.

South Carolina Association of School Librarians
PO Box 2442, Columbia, SC 29202
<http://scasl.net/awards/book-awards/>

Chasing Secrets by Gennifer Choldenko

Lexile: 540; Historical Mystery

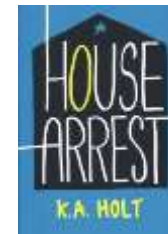
Thirteen-year-old Lizzie and her secret friend Noah, who is hiding in her house, plan to rescue Noah's father from the quarantined Chinatown, and save everyone they love from contracting the plague that is spreading in 1900 San Francisco.



House Arrest by K.A. Holt

Lexile: 610; Novel in Verse

Young Timothy is sentenced to house arrest after impulsively stealing a wallet, and he is forced to keep a journal into which he pours all his thoughts, fears, and frustrations.



The Chosen Prince by Diane Stanley

Lexile: 730; Historical Fantasy

Prince Alexos, the long-awaited champion of the goddess Athene, follows the course of his destiny through war and loss and a deadly confrontation with his enemy to its end: shipwreck on a magical, fog-shrouded island. There he meets the unforgettable Aria and faces the greatest challenge of his life. Based loosely on Shakespeare's The Tempest.



I am Princess X by Cherie Priest

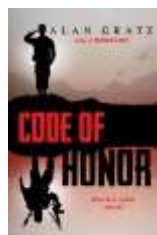
Lexile: 790; Graphic Novel Hybrid Mystery

Best friends Libby Deaton and May Harper invented Princess X when they were in fifth grade, but when the car Libby is in goes off a bridge, she is presumed dead, and the story came to an end – except now, three years later, Princess X is suddenly everywhere, with a whole underground culture focused on a webcomic, and May believes her friend must be alive.

Code of Honor by Alan Gratz

Lexile: 660; Thrillers & Suspense

When Iranian-American Kamran Smith learns that his big brother, Darius, has been labelled a terrorist, he sets out to piece together the codes and clues that will save his brother's life and his country from a deadly terrorist attack.



I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives by Caitlin Alifirenka & Martin Ganda with Liz Welch

Lexile: 790; Memoir

Chronicles the friendship between an American girl and her pen pal from Zimbabwe, discussing how a class assignment was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives.



Fast Break by Mike Lupica

Lexile: 840; Sports Fiction

Since his mother's death, Jayson, twelve, has focused on basketball and surviving but he is found out and placed with an affluent foster family of a different race, and must learn to accept many changes, including facing his former teammates in a championship game.



Mark of the Thief by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Lexile: 740; Historical Fantasy

Forced to enter a sealed cavern that reputedly holds the lost treasures of Caesar, slave boy Nic discovers an amulet imbued with divine power and finds himself at the center of a conspiracy to overthrow the emperor and spark the Praetor War.

Fort by Cynthia DeFelice

Lexile: 700; Realistic Fiction

A middle-grade summer adventure about two boys who build an awesome fort and tangle with two older bullies.



Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson

Lexile: 440; Graphic Novel

A graphic novel adventure about a girl who discovers roller derby right as she and her best friend are growing apart.



Ghostlight by Sonia Gensler

Lexile: 680; Ghost Story

A summer film project turns spooky when the setting turns out to actually be haunted.



The Seventh Most Important Thing by Shelley Pearsall

Lexile: 760; Historical Fiction

In 1963, 13-year-old Arthur is sentenced to community service helping the neighborhood Junk Man after he throws a brick at the old man's head in a moment of rage, but the junk he collects might be more important than he suspects. Inspired by the work of American folk artist James Hampton.