

### **Stef Soto, Taco Queen by Jennifer Torres**

Mexican-American Stef Soto is hoping to break free from her overprotective parents and embarrassing reputation from her family's taco truck business, but she soon learns that family, friendship, and the taco truck are important and wonderful parts of her life.



### **Super Max and the Mystery of Thornwood's Revenge by Susan Vaught**

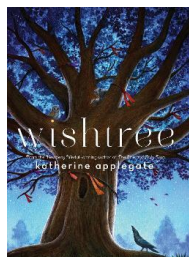
Twelve-year-old Max is determined to investigate the connection between a hacker's online attacks of her grandfather and other town officials and suspicious activity at the supposedly haunted Thornwood Manor, even though her grandfather, who is Blue Creek's police chief, wants to keep Max and her souped-up wheelchair out of police business.

### **The Van Gogh Deception by Deron Hicks**

When a young boy is discovered in Washington, Gallery of Art without any recollection of who he is, together the disjointed clues of his origins while knowledge to stop one of the greatest art frauds



DC's National is, he must piece using his limited ever attempted.



### **Wishtree by Katherine Applegate**

An old red oak tree tells how he and his crow friend, Bongo, help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family is carved into the tree's trunk.

### **You Go First by Erin Entrada Kelly**

Charlotte, twelve, and Ben, eleven, are highly-skilled competitors at online Scrabble and that connection helps both as they face family issues and the turmoil of middle school.



**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 program, see a library staff member.

**Media Specialists:** 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 K-8 Plus database: [www.scdiscus.org](http://www.scdiscus.org).

## **2019 – 2020 South Carolina Children's Book Award Nominees**

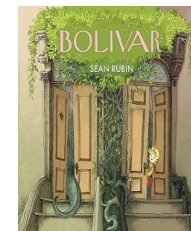


### **Amina's Voice by Hena Khan**

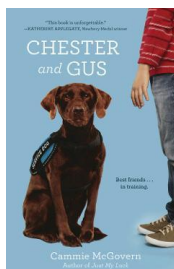
Amina, a Pakistani-American Muslim girl, struggles to stay true to her family's culture while dealing with the vandalism of the local Islamic Center and mosque and her best friend Soojin's new friendship with their former nemesis.

### **Bolivar by Sean Rubin**

Living a quiet life in New York City, Bolivar, a dinosaur, finds his life complicated when Sybil, the girl next door, tries to prove his existence.



### **Chester and Gus by Cammie McGovern**



Chester has always wanted to become a service dog. When he fails his certification test, though, it seems like that dream will never come true—until a family adopts him. They want him to be a companion for their ten-year-old son, Gus, who has autism. But Gus acts so differently than anyone Chester has ever met. He never wants to pet Chester, and sometimes he doesn't even want Chester in the room. Chester's not sure how to help Gus since this isn't exactly the job he trained for—but he's determined to figure it out. Because after all, Gus is now his person.

### **Confessions from the Principal's Kid by Robin Mellom**

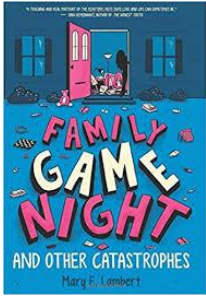
Being the principal's kid makes fifth grade difficult for Allie West as she struggles to make new friends and stay true to her old ones in this funny and poignant novel from Robin Mellom, a former principal's kid.



### **The Exact Location of Home by Kate Messner**

Kate Messner pens a new moving tale of family and friendship about a tech-savvy boy searching for his father during tough times.

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

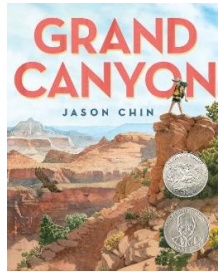


***Family Game Night and Other Catastrophes* by Mary E. Lambert**

Seventh-grader Annabelle's mother is a hoarder, and their whole house is full of canned goods, broken toys, fabric, and old newspapers—but when a pile of newspapers (organized by weather reports) falls on Annabelle's younger sister Leslie and their mother is more concerned about the newspapers, it sets off a chain of events that brings their fix-it-all grandmother in and Annabelle realizes that if there is any hope for change she can not isolate herself and keep her family's problems secret.

***Grand Canyon* by Jason Chin**

An exploration of the Grand Canyon on a grand scale, as only Jason Chin can illustrate and explain.



***Granted* by John David Anderson**

Everyone who wishes upon a star, or a candle, or a penny thrown into a fountain knows that you're not allowed to tell anyone what you've wished for. But even so, there is someone out there who hears it.

***Joplin, Wishing* by Diane Stanley**

Discovering magic in a beautiful Dutch platter that depicts the image of a girl, a middle-grade New Yorker wishes for a new friend before the girl depicted on the platter appears and reveals that she has been cursed for centuries and is being targeted by a sinister enemy.

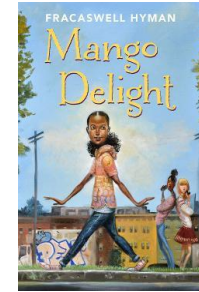
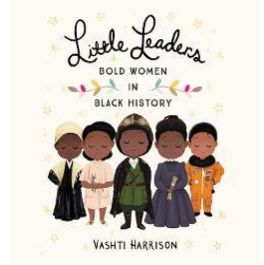


***Let's Pretend We Never Met* by Melissa Walker**

Struggling to adapt when her family moves halfway through her sixth-grade year, Mattie makes friends with a fun and dynamic girl next door during winter break only to confront unpopularity when she learns that her new friend has a reputation for being the weird girl who no one likes.

***Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History* by Vashti Harrison**

Features female figures of black history, including abolitionist Sojourner Truth, pilot Bessie Coleman, chemist Alice Ball, politician Shirley Chisholm, mathematician Katherine Johnson, poet Maya Angelou, and filmmaker Julie Dash.

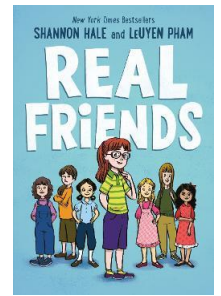


***Mango Delight* by Fracaswell Hyman**

A first novel by an award-winning Disney and Nickelodeon writer and producer follows the experiences of a seventh-grader whose clumsy accident costs her social status, her spot on the track team and her father's job before becoming an unexpected YouTube sensation and confronting difficult choices about friendship.

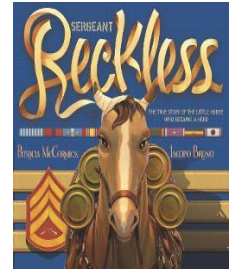
***Real Friends* by Shannon Hale**

Shannon and Adrienne have been best friends ever since they were little. But one day, Adrienne starts hanging out with Jen, the most popular girl in class and the leader of a circle of friends called The Group. Everyone in The Group wants to be Jen's #1, and some girls would do anything to stay on top . . . even if it means bullying others.



***Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero* by Patricia McCormick**

When a group of US Marines fighting in the Korean War found a bedraggled little mare, they wondered if she could be trained as a packhorse. They had no idea that the skinny, underfed horse had one of the biggest and bravest hearts they'd ever known. And one of the biggest appetites! Soon Reckless showed herself more than willing to carry ammunition too heavy for the soldiers to haul. As cannons thundered and shells flew through the air, she marched into battle—again and again—becoming the only animal ever to officially hold military rank and receive two Purple Hearts.



***Spirit Hunters* by Ellen Oh**

Feeling uncomfortable from the moment she arrives in her new home, Harper is dismayed by local rumors that her house is haunted and that every family that has ever lived there has suffered terrible tragedies, a situation that turns sinister when her cheerful little brother begins acting in alarming ways.