



2026 GCLS Reading Competition Book List

Elementary

The Magician's Elephant by Kate DiCamillo The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis
Ramona the Pest by Beverly Cleary I Survived: The California Wild Fires, 2018 by Lauren Tarshis
Frindle by Andrew Clements The Spiderwick Chronicles: The Field Guide by Tony DiTerlizzi
Manatee Summer by Evan Griffith Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
The Catman of Aleppo* by Irene Latham The Inventors at no. 8 by A.M. Morgen

Middle School

96 Miles by J.L. Esplin The Dragonet Prophecy (Wings of Fire #1) by Tui T. Sutherland
Rescue by Jennifer A. Nielsen The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya
The Orpheus Plot by Christopher Swidler The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt
The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
The Story that Cannot be Told by J. Kasper Kramer
The Whydah: A Pirate Ship Feared, Wrecked, and Found* by Martin W. Sandler

High School

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens Lovely War by Julie Berry
Dread Nation by Justina Ireland Illusionarium by Heather Dixon
The Unidentified by Rae Mariz House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer
Scythe by Neil Shusterman One of Us is Lying by Karen McManus
A Soul as Cold as Frost by Jennifer Kropf Samurai Rising* by Pamela S. Turner

*non-fiction