

2019 Kentucky Bluegrass Awards Master List for Grades 6-8

Everless / Sara Holland / HarperTeen, an Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2018.

In order to gain more time for her dying father, Jules Ember returns to Everless, where the aristocratic Gerlings tax other people for time itself so they can live longer. She and her father escaped from there long ago and going back to Everless brings more danger--and temptation--than Jules could have ever imagined. Her decisions have the power to change her fate--and the fate of time itself.

Front Desk / Kelly Yang / Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic, Inc, 2018.

Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao is a nasty skinflint who exploits them; while her mother (who was an engineer in China) does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants--not to mention being only one of two Chinese students in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son, Jason.

Game Changer / Tommy Greenwald / Amulet Books, 2018.

While thirteen-year-old Teddy fights for his life after a football injury at training camp, his friends and family gather to support him and discuss events leading to his coma. Told through dialogue, text messages, newspaper articles, transcripts, an online forum, and Teddy's inner thoughts.

Ghost Boys / Jewell Parker Rhodes / Little, Brown & Company, 2018.

After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions.

Greetings from Witness Protection / Jake Burt / Feiwel and Friends, 2017.

Thirteen-year-old Nikki Demere is an orphan and a kleptomaniac, making her the perfect girl to portray the Trevors' daughter in witness protection, but she soon learns that the biggest threat to her new family's security comes from her own past.

Last Pick / Jason Walz / First Second, 2018.

Three years ago, aliens invaded Earth and abducted everyone they deemed useful. The only ones spared were those too young, too old, or too 'disabled' to be of value. Living on Earth under the aliens' harsh authoritarian rule, humanity's rejects do their best to survive. Their captors never considered them a threat--until now. Twins Sam and Wyatt are ready to chuck their labels and start a revolution. It's time for the kids last picked to step into the game.

Mars One / Jonathan Maberry / Simon & Schuster BFYR, 2017.

Tristan has known that he and his family were going to be on the first mission to colonize Mars since he was twelve, and he has been training ever since. But now, at sixteen, it's time to leave Earth, and he's forced to face all that he must leave behind in exchange for an uncertain future.

The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl / Stacy McAnulty / Random House, 2018.

A lightning strike made Lucy, twelve, a math genius but, after years of homeschooling, her grandmother enrolls her in middle school and she learns that life is more than numbers.

Resistance / Jennifer A. Nielsen / Scholastic Press, 2018.

In 1942 sixteen-year-old Chaya Lindner is a Jewish girl living in Nazi-occupied Poland, a courier who smuggles food and documents to the isolated Jewish ghettos in southern Poland, depending on her forged papers and "Aryan" features--but when a mission goes wrong and many of her colleagues are arrested she finds herself on a journey to Warsaw, where an uprising is in the works.

Spirit Hunters / Ellen Oh / Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2017.

Harper doesn't trust her new home from the moment she steps inside, and the rumors are that the Raine family's new house is haunted. Harper isn't sure she believes those rumors, until her younger brother, Michael, starts acting strangely. The whole atmosphere gives Harper a sense of déjà vu, but she can't remember why. She knows that the memories she's blocking will help make sense of her brother's behavior and the strange and threatening sensations she feels in this house, but will she be able to put the pieces together in time?