

2019 - 2020 Kentucky Bluegrass Award Master List for 9-12 KBA

Bonnie and Clyde: The Making of a Legend / Karen Blumenthal / Viking Books for Young Readers, 2018.

Bonnie and Clyde are remembered mostly for their storied romance and tragic deaths. But what was life really like for Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker in the early 1930s? How did two dirt-poor teens from west Texas morph from vicious outlaws to legendary couple? And why?

Dry / Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman / Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018.

The drought—or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it—has been going on for a while now. Everyone’s lives have become an endless list of don’ts: don’t water the lawn, don’t fill up your pool, don’t take long showers. Until the taps run dry. Suddenly, Alyssa’s quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors and families turn against each other on the hunt for water. When her parents don’t return and her life—and her brother’s—are threatened, Alyssa has to make impossible choices if she’s going to survive.

Hide With Me / Sorboni Banerjee / Razorbill, 2018.

In the dying cornfields of his family’s farm, seventeen-year-old Cade finds a girl broken and bleeding. She has one request: hide me. Tucked away in an abandoned barn on the edge of the farm, the mysterious Jane Doe starts to heal and details of her past begin to surface. But it’s not that easy to disappear; her past is far from over, and the secret she holds could kill them all.

History of Jane Doe, The / Michael Belanger / Dial, 2018.

History buff Ray knows everything about the peculiar legends and lore of his rural Connecticut hometown. Burgerville’s past is riddled with green cow sightings and human groundhogs, but the most interesting thing about the present is the new girl--we’ll call her Jane Doe. Inscrutable, cool, and above all mysterious, Jane seems as determined to hide her past as Ray is to uncover it. As fascination turns to friendship and then to something more, Ray is certain he knows Jane’s darkest, most painful secrets and Jane herself. But when the unthinkable happens, Ray is forced to acknowledge that perhaps history can only tell us so much.

I Am Still Alive / Kate Alice Marshall / Viking Books for Young Readers, 2018.

Jess hasn’t seen her survivalist, off-the-grid dad in over a decade. But after a car crash kills her mother, leaving Jess seriously injured, she is forced to move to his cabin in the

remote Canadian wilderness. Just as she is beginning to get to know him, a secret from his past pays them a visit, leaving her father dead and Jess stranded and alone. Her cabin has burned to the ground. She is still alive----for now, however if she doesn't act fast, the cold will kill her before she has time to worry about food. With only her father's dog for company, Jess must forage and hunt for food, build shelter, and keep herself warm.

Losers Bracket / Chris Crutcher / Greenwillow Books, 2018.

Families are complicated and when it comes to family, Annie is in the losers bracket. While her foster parents are great (mostly), her birth family would never have been her first pick. When a family argument breaks out at Annie's swim meet and her nephew goes missing, Annie might be the only one who can get him back. With help from her friends, her foster brother, and her social service worker, Annie puts the pieces of the puzzle together, determined to find her nephew and finally get him into a safe home.

Orphan, Monster, Spy / Matt Killeen / Viking Books for Young Readers, 2018.

Her name is Sarah, she's blonde, blue-eyed, and Jewish in 1939 Germany, and her act of resistance is about to change the world. After her mother is shot at a checkpoint, fifteen-year-old Sarah meets a mysterious man with an ambiguous accent, in a suspiciously bare apartment with a lockbox full of weapons. He's part of the secret resistance against the Third Reich, and he needs Sarah to hide in plain sight at a school for the daughters of top Nazi brass, posing as one of them.

Poet X / Elizabeth Acevedo / Harper Teen, 2018.

Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about. With Mami's determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts might be best kept to herself. However, when she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she can't stop thinking about performing her poems.

Sadie / Courtney Summers / Wednesday Books, 2018.

A missing girl on a journey of revenge. Growing up on her own, Sadie's been raising her sister Mattie in an isolated small town, trying her best to provide a normal life and keep their heads above water. But when Mattie is found dead, Sadie's entire world crumbles. With no help from the police, Sadie is determined to bring her sister's killer to justice.

She vanishes, hitting the road, following a few meager clues to find the killer. West McCray—a radio personality working on a segment about small, forgotten towns in America—overhears Sadie’s story at a local gas station, becomes obsessed with finding the missing girl. He starts his own podcast as he tracks Sadie’s journey, trying to figure out what happened, hoping to find her before it’s too late.

Seafire / Natalie C. Parker / Razorbill, 2018.

After her family is killed by corrupt warlord Aric Athair and his bloodthirsty army of Bullets, Caledonia Styx is left to chart her own course on the dangerous and deadly seas. She captains her ship, the Mors Navis, with a crew of girls and women just like her, who have lost their families and homes because of Aric and his men. The crew has one mission: stay alive, and take down Aric’s armed and armored fleet. But when Caledonia’s best friend and second-in-command barely survives an attack, thanks to help from a defector of Aric’s crew, Caledonia finds herself questioning whether to let him join aid in their mission. Is this boy the key to taking down Aric Athair once and for all...or will he threaten everything the women of the Mors Navis have worked for?