

2021-2022 Kentucky Bluegrass Award Master List for 3-5

The Fabled Life of Aesop / Ian Lendler and Pamela Zagarenski, ill. / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020.

This dramatic picture book biography, and concise anthology of Aesop's most child-friendly fables, shows how storytelling not only liberated him from captivity in ancient Greece but also helped him speak out against injustice.

Fins / Randy Wayne White / Roaring Books Press, 2020.

Scanning the waters off of Florida, Luke, Maribel, and Sabina, transplants to the area, help tag sharks for a local marine biologist. Little do they know they are floating into danger each day and must find true courage and rely on each other to face poachers whose mission is to destroy their work.

Insect Superpowers: 18 Real Bugs That Smash, Zap, Hypnotize, Sting, and Devour! / Kate Messner and Jillian Nickell, ill. / Chronicle Books, 2019.

Dive into this book of insects, with a focus on their 'super-powers'--their extraordinary and very real abilities--that pits different insects against each other in a "who would win" action format using an art/design style that evokes comic-book-hero-and-villain awesomeness.

The Lonely Heart of Maybelle Lane / Kate Shaughnessy / Alfred A. Knopf, 2020.

Eleven-year-old Maybelle Lane, who collects sounds, is looking for her father, but on the road to Nashville she finds so much more: courage, brains, heart, and true friends.

Mañanaland / Pam Munoz Ryan / Scholastic Press, 2020.

Twelve-year-old Max, who loves the legend Buelo tells him about a mythical gatekeeper who can guide brave travelers on a journey into tomorrow, sets out on a dangerous quest to discover if he is true of heart and what the future holds, armed with a treasured compass, a mysterious stone rubbing, and Buelo's legend as his only guides.

Over the Moon / Natalie Lloyd / Scholastic Press, 2020.

To save her younger brother from being forced to work in the mines, twelve-year-old Mallie pretends to be a boy and learns to ride and train flying horses to battle the monsters that lurk beneath Coal Top.

Roll With It / Jamie Sumner / Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2019.

Twelve-year-old Ellie, who has cerebral palsy, finds her life transformed when she moves with her mother to small-town Oklahoma to help care for her grandfather, who has Alzheimer's Disease.

Stepping Stones / Lucy Knisley / Random House Graphic, 2020.

Jen moves out to the country and has to put up with her mom and her mom's new boyfriend, as well as his kids. Suddenly part of a larger family in a new place, Jen isn't sure there is a place for her in this different world.

Things Seen From Above / Shelley Pearsall and Xingye Jin, ill. / Alfred A. Knopf, 2020.

Sixth-grader April isn't quite sure where she fits in, but when she volunteers to be a "buddy bench monitor" during the fourth graders' recess, she meets Joey, whose incredible 'bird's eye' drawings remind us all of the value of looking at things from different perspectives.

Ways to Make Sunshine / Renee Watson and Nina Mata, ill. / Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2020.

The Hart family of Portland, Oregon, faces many setbacks after Ryan's father loses his job, but no matter what, Ryan tries to bring sunshine to her loved ones.