

Sunshine State Young Readers Award Program (SSYRA)  
2018-2019 Nominated Titles  
Grades 3-5

Co-sponsored by the Florida Department of Education and Florida Association for Media in Education, the SSYRA is a statewide reading motivation program for students in grades 3-8. Students who read three or more books may participate in the statewide vote. Students in third grade are encouraged to read three Sunshine State books. Students in grades 4 & 5 are required to read and pass RC quizzes on three books by March 31st. The link is found on our virtual library page at: <https://tinyurl.com/virtual-lib>

NOTE: There are a variety of reading levels, genres and themes on the list below. Please read the annotations and browse the books to determine titles appropriate for your child.

eBooks and/or audio books available on our NBPS Overdrive collection: <http://nblibrary.lib.overdrive.com>.



\* ***The Ark Plan*** by Laura Martin - Five years ago, Sky Mundy's father vanished from North Compound without a trace. Now she has just stumbled on a clue that not only suggests his disappearance is just the tip of an even larger mystery, but also points directly to the surface. To find her dad—and possibly even save the world—Sky and her best friend, Shawn, must break out of their underground home and venture topside to a land reclaimed by nature and ruled by dinosaurs. *Jurassic World* meets *Planet of the Apes*! **790L, 368p, 16pts.**



\* ***The Doublecross: (And Other Skills I Learned as a Superspy)*** by Jackson Pearce - Everyone in twelve-year-old Hale's family is a spy going way back. They've all worked for the Sub Rosa Society, an elite organization that's so top secret that new agents aren't recruited; they're born. His parents may be the ultimate spy team at SRS, but Hale isn't your typical stealthy spy—he is, as his mother puts it, "big-boned," and as some of his classmates put it, "fat." Still, he's convinced he will someday be a great field agent. After all, it's his legacy. **780L, 259p, 13pts.**



\* ***Dragons and Marshmallows*** by Asia Citro - Zoey discovers a glowing photo and learns an amazing secret. Injured magical animals come to their backyard barn for help! When a sick baby dragon appears, it's up to Zoey and Sassafras to figure out what's wrong. Will they be able to help little Marshmallow before it's too late? **640L, 96p. (no quiz yet)**



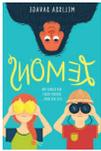
\* ***The Great Treehouse War*** by Lisa Graff - Winnie's last day of fourth grade ended with a pretty life-changing surprise. That was the day Winnie's parents got divorced and decided that Winnie would live three days a week with each of them and spend Wednesdays by herself in a treehouse between their houses, to divide her time perfectly evenly. It was the day Winnie's seed of frustration with her parents was planted, a seed that grew until it felt like it was as big as a tree itself. **890L, 272p, 7pts.**



\* ***Home Sweet Motel*** by Chris Grabenstein - Eleven-year-old P. T. Wilkie may be the greatest storyteller alive. But he knows one thing for a fact: the Wonderland Motel is the best place a kid could ever live! There's only one thing the Wonderland doesn't have, though—customers. And if the Wonderland doesn't get them soon, P.T. and his friend Gloria may have to say goodbye to their beloved motel forever. They need to think BIG. They need to think BOLD. They need an OUTRAGEOUS plan. **690L, 284p, 10pts.**



\* ***I Love You, Michael Collins*** by Lauren Baratz-Logsted - It's 1969 and the country is gearing up for the most exciting moment in U.S. history: men landing on the moon. Ten-year-old Mamie's class is given an assignment to write letters to the astronauts. Only Mamie writes to Michael Collins, the astronaut who will come so close but never achieve the dream of walking on the moon – he's the one who must stay with the ship. After school ends, Mamie keeps writing to Michael Collins, taking comfort in telling someone about what's going on with her family, one by one, they leave the house thinking that someone else is taking care of her—until she is all alone except for her cat and her best friend, Buster. As the date of the launch nears, Mamie can't help but wonder: Does no one stay with the ship anymore? **800L, 230p. (no quiz yet)**



\* **Lemons** by Melissa Savage - Lemonade Liberty Witt's mama always told her: When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. But Lem can't possibly make lemonade out of her new life in Willow Creek, California— the Bigfoot Capital of the World—where she's forced to live with a grandfather she's never met after her mother passes away. **630L, 308p, 15pts.**



\* **Lights, Camera, Cook!** By Charise Mericle Harper - A zesty series for fans of MasterChef Jr. and Kids Cook-off! In episode one, four talented tween chefs step into the spotlight to prove that they have what it takes to become the Next Best Junior Chef. Who will have the grits to get through week one of the competition? **600L, 185p, 7pts.**



\* **Overboard!** by Terry Lynn Johnson - Eleven-year-old Travis and his family are on a whale watch off the coast of Washington when disaster strikes. The boat capsizes, throwing everyone into the ice-cold chaotic waves. Separated from their families and struggling to stay afloat, Travis and twelve-year-old Marina must use all of their grit and knowledge to survive. **540L, 103p, 5pts.**



\* **Podkin One-Ear** by Kieran Larwood - In a classic fantasy world of anthropomorphic rabbits, three young siblings are on the run from the villainous Gorm tribe who have killed and enslaved their clan. Podkin, once destined to be clan leader, has always been spoiled, but now he must act bravely as he, his older sister, and baby brother flee for their lives. Facing pursuit and treachery, the three collect allies in their search for refuge, until at last they are ready to fight back against the Gorm and attempt to rid the land of an evil scourge. **820L, 244p, 11pts.**



\* **Spirit Week Showdown** by Crystal Allen - Nine-year-old Mya Tibbs is excited for the best week of the whole school year—SPIRIT WEEK! She and her megapopular best friend, Naomi Jackson, even made a pinky promise to be Spirit Week partners so they can win the big prize: special VIP tickets to the Fall Festival! But when the partner picking goes horribly wrong, Mya gets paired with Connie Tate—the biggest bully in school. And she can't get out of it. Can Mya work with Mean Connie to win the VIP tickets and get her best friend back? **630L, 227p, 10pts.**



\* **The Sweetest Sound** by Sherri Winston - For ten-year-old Cadence Jolly, birthdays are a constant reminder of all that has changed since her mother skipped town with dreams of becoming a star. Cadence inherited that musical soul, but otherwise she couldn't be more different – she's shy as can be. She did make a promise last year that she would try to break out of her shell, just a little. And she prayed that she'd get the courage to do it. When a secret recording of her singing leaks and catches the attention of her whole church, she needs to decide what's better: deceiving everyone by pretending it belongs to someone else, or finally stepping into the spotlight? **263p. (no quiz/Lexile yet)**



\* **A True Home** by Kallie George - When Mona the Mouse stumbles across the wondrous world of the Heartwood Hotel in the middle of a storm, she desperately hopes they'll let her stay. As it turns out, Mona is precisely the maid they need at the grandest hotel in Fernwood Forest, where animals come from far and wide for safety, luxury, and comfort. But the Heartwood Hotel is not all acorn soufflé and soft moss-lined beds. Danger lurks, and as it approaches, Mona finds that this hotel is more than a warm place to spend the night. It might also be a home. **650L, 162p, 6pts.**



\* **Ugly Cat & Pablo** by Isabel Quintero - Ugly Cat is dying for a *paleta*, or ice pop, and his mouse friend Pablo is determined to help him get one by scaring a little girl who is enjoying a coconut pop in the park. But things go horribly wrong when, instead of being scared, the little girl picks Pablo up and declares that he would make a great snack for her pet snake. In all of the commotion and confusion, Ugly Cat wonders if he might have accidentally swallowed Pablo himself! **700L, 88p, 4pts.**



\* **Wish** by Barbara O'Connor - Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese has been making the same secret wish every day since fourth grade. She even has a list of all the ways there are to make the wish, such as cutting off the pointed end of a slice of pie and wishing on it as she takes the last bite. But when she is sent to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to live with family she barely knows, it seems unlikely that her wish will ever come true. That is, until she meets Wishbone, a skinny stray dog who captures her heart, and Howard, a neighbor boy who proves surprising in lots of ways. Suddenly Charlie is in serious danger of discovering that what she thought she wanted may not be what she needs at all. **850L, 227p, 11pts.**