

Picture Books

1996-2023

The Children's Literature Association of Utah does not necessarily recommend that all children read all books. These nominees offer a balance in reading level, interest level, and types of fiction for grades K through 3. We encourage parents to read and discuss these books with their children.

2023 Picture Book Nominees

- *Can We Be Friends? Unexpected Animal Friendships from Around the World* by Erica Sirocich
- *Bumble and Bee: Don't Worry, Bee Happy* by Ross Burach
- *Mel Fell* by Corey R. Tabor
- *On Account of the Gum* by Adam Rex
- *See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog* by David LaRochelle, illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka
- *Soaked!* by Abi Cushman
- *Someone Builds the Dream* by Lisa Wheeler, illustrated by Loren Long
- *Something's Wrong! A Bear, a Hare, and Some Underwear* by Jory John, illustrated by Erin Balzer & Erin Kraan
- *The Yawns Are Coming!* by Christopher Eliopoulos
- *Wishes* by Muon Thi Van, illustrated by Victo Ngai

2022 Picture Book Nominees

- *The Box Turtle* by Vanessa Roeder
- *In a Jar* by Deborah Marcero
- *Let's All Creep Through Crocodile Creek* by Jonny Lambert
- *Lift* by Minh Le and Dan Santat
- *Naughty Ninja Takes a Bath* by Todd Tarpley and Vin Vogel
- *Rita and Ralph's Rotten Day* by Carmen Agra Deedy and Pete Oswald
- *Snail Crossing* by Corey R. Tabor
- *Sulwe* by Lupita Nyong'o and Vashti Harrison
- *Swim Swim Sink* by Jenn Harney
- *When Pencil Met Eraser* by Karen Kilpatrick and Luis O. Ramos, Jr., and German Blanco

2021 Picture Book Nominees

- *Bear Came Along* by Richard T. Morris, illustrated by LeUyen Pham
- *Harold & Hog Pretend for Real!* by Dan Santat
- *Jasper & Ollie* by Alex Willan

- *The Neighbors* by Einat Tsarfati, illustrated by Annette Appel
- *Oliver: The Second-Largest Living Thing on Earth* by Josh Crute, illustrated by John Taesoo Kim
- *Sign Off* by Stephen Savage
- *Skulls!* by Blair Thornburgh, illustrated by Scott Campbell
- *SumoKitty* by David Biedrzycki
- *The Very Impatient Caterpillar* by Ross Burach
- *The Wall in the Middle of the Book* by Jon Agee

2020 Picture Book Nominees

- *Can I Be Your Dog?* by Troy Cummings
- *A Cooked-Up Fairy Tale* by Penny Parker Klostermann
- *Knock Knock* by Tammi Sauer
- *My Pillow Keeps Moving!* by Laura Gehl
- *Petra* by Marianna Coppo
- *My Toothbrush Is Missing* by Jan Thomas
- *The Rabbit Listened* by Cori Doerrfeld
- *Walrus in the Bathtub* by Deborah Underwood
- *We Don't Eat Our Classmates* by Ryan T. Higgins
- *When Pigs Fly* by James Burks

2019 Picture Book Nominees

- *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall
- *The Legend of Paper Rock Scissors* by Drew Daywalt
- *Lion Lessons* by Jon Agee
- *Penguin Problems* by Jory John, illustrated by Lane Smith
- *Alan's Big, Scary Teeth* by Jarvis
- *Not Quite Narwhal* by Jessie Sima
- *A Perfect Day* by Lane Smith
- *Toad on the Road: A Cautionary Tale* by Stephan Shaskan
- *What To Do With a Box* by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Chris Sheban
- *Where is Bear?* by Jonathan Bentley

2018 Picture Book Nominees

- *The Cow Who Climbed a Tree* by Gemma Merino
- *It Came in the Mail* by Ben Clanton
- *The Lion Inside* by Rachel Bright, illustrated by Jim Field

- *Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion* by Alex T. Smith
- *Mother Bruce* by Ryan T. Higgins
- *The Night Gardener* by The Fan Brothers
- *Normal Norman* by Tara Lazar, illustrated by S. Britt
- *Poor Little Guy* by Elanna Allen
- *Strictly No Elephants* by Lisa Mantchev, illustrated by Taeun Yoo
- *There's Giraffe in My Soup* by Ross Burach

2017 Picture Book Nominees

- *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich* by Julia Sarcone-Roach
- *Blizzard* by John Rocco
- *The Book With No Pictures* by B.J. Novak
- *Duck's Vacation* by Gilad Soffer
- *Duncan the Story Dragon* by Amanda Driscoll
- *Goodnight Already!* by Jory John, illustrated by Benji Davies
- *I Don't Want to be a Frog* by Dev Petty, illustrated by Mike Boldt
- *It's Only Stanley* by Jon Agee
- *Ninja!* by Arree Chung
- *Pool* by Jihyeon Lee

2016 Picture Book Nominees

- *Battle Bunny* by Jon Scieszka & Mac Barnett, illustrated by Matthew Myers
- *Because I Stubbed My Toe* by Shawn Byous
- *Buddy and the Bunnies In: Don't Play With Your Food!* by Bob Shea
- *The Girl and the Bicycle* by Mark Pett
- *How to Babysit a Grandma* by Jean Reagan, illustrated by Lee Wildish
- *I'm a Frog* by Mo Willems
- *I'm My Own Dog* by David Ezra Stein
- *Maple* by Lori Nichols
- *The Odd One Out* by Britta Teckentrup
- *Picture Day Perfection* by Deborah Diesen, illustrated by Dan Santat
- *This is a Moose* by Richard T. Morris, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld
- *The Tooth Fairy Wars* by Kate Coombs, illustrated by Jake Parker

2015 Picture Book Nominees

- *Andrew Drew and Drew* by Barney Saltzberg

- *Count the Monkeys* by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Kevin Cornell
- *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt, illustrated by Oliver Jeffers
- *Journey* by Aaron Becker
- *I Hate Picture Books!* by Timothy Young
- *I Need My Own Country!* by Rick Walton, illustrated by Wes Hargis
- *Mustache Baby* by Bridget Heos, illustrated by Joy Ang
- *Penguin and Pinecone* by Salina Yoon
- *Ribbit!* by Rodrigo Folgueira, illustrated by Poly Bernatene
- *Sophie's Squash* by Pat Zietlow Miller, illustrated by Anne Wilsdorf
- *That Is Not a Good Idea!* by Mo Willems
- *Xander's Panda Party* by Linda Sue Park, illustrated by Matt Phelan

2014 Picture Book Nominees

- *Bink & Gollie: Two For One* by Kate DiCamillo & Alison McGhee, illustrated by Tony Fucile
- *Boy + Bot* by Ame Dyckman, illustrated by Dan Yaccarino
- *Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs* by Mo Willems
- *How to Babysit a Grandpa* by Jean Reagan, illustrated by Lee Wildish
- *It's a Tiger* by David LaRochelle, illustrated by Jeremy Tankard
- *Mitchell's License* by Hallie Durand, illustrated by Tony Fucile
- *My Garden* by Kevin Henkes
- *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons* by Eric Litwin, illustrated by James Dean
- *Plant a Kiss* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds
- *The Princess and the Pig* by Jonathan Emmett, illustrated by Poly Bernatene
- *Stars* by Mary Lyn Ray, illustrated by Marla Frazee
- *Z is for Moose* by Paul O. Zelinsky

2013 Picture Book Nominees

- *Art & Max* by David Wiesner
- *Betty Bunny Loves Chocolate Cake* by Michael Kaplan, illustrated by Stephane Jorisch
- *Blackout* by John Rocco
- *Children Make Terrible Pets* by Peter Brown
- *Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow* by Susan A. Shea, illustrated by Tom Slaughter
- *Doodleday* by Ross Collins
- *Earth to Clunk* by Pam Smallcomb, illustrated by Joe Berger
- *Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator* by Mo Willems
- *Me and My Dragon* by David Biedrzycki

- *Press Here* by Herve Tullet

2012 Picture Book Nominees

- *All the World* by Liz Garton Scanlon, illustrated by Marla Frazee
- *Brontorina* by James How, illustrated by Randy Cecil
- *Chalk* by Bill Thompson
- *City Dog, Country Frog* by Mo Willems, illustrated by Jon J. Muth
- *Clever Jack Takes the Cake* by Candace Fleming, illustrated by G. Brian Karas
- *The Cow Loves Cookies* by Karma Wilson, illustrated by Marcellus Hall
- *Princess Hyacinth (The Surprising Tale of a Girl Who Floated)* by Florence Parry Heide, illustrated by Lane Smith
- *A Small Brown Dog With a Wet Pink Nose* by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen, illustrated by Linzie Hunter
- *Shark vs Train* by Chris Barton, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld
- *Spells* by Emily Gravett

2011 Picture Book Nominees

- *The Apple-Pip Princess* by Jane Ray
- *Birds* by Kevin Henkes, illustrated by Laura Dronzek
- *Chicken Cheeks* by Michael Ian Black, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes
- *The Circus Ship* by Chris Van Dusen
- *Duck! Rabbit!* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, illustrated by Tom Lichtenfeld
- *Higher! Higher!* by Leslie Patricelli
- *Just What Mama Needs* by Sharlee Mullins Glenn, illustrated by Amiko Hirao
- *Most Loved In All The World* by Tonya Cherie Hegamin, illustrated by Cozbi Cabrera
- *That Book Woman* by Heather Henson, illustrated by David Small
- *Tsunami* by Kimiko Kajikawa, illustrated by Ed Young

2010 Picture Book Nominees

- *The Black Book of Colors* by Menena Cottin, illustrated by Rosana Faria
- *The Chicken of the Family* by Mary Amata, illustrated by Delphine Durand
- *The Cow that Laid an Egg* by Andy Cutbill, illustrated by Russell Ayto
- *The End* by David LaRochelle, illustrated by Richard Egielski
- *I Am Invited to a Party!* by Mo Willems
- *Louder, Lili* by Gennifer Choldenko, illustrated by S.D. Schindler

- *Mary Had a Little Lamp* by Jack Lechner, illustrated by Bob Staake
- *My Travelin' Eye* by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw
- *South* by Patrick McDonnell
- *When Dinosaurs Came With Everything* by Elise Broach, illustrated by David Small

2009 Picture Book Nominees

- *Adele & Simon* by Barbara McClintock
- *Black? White? Day? Night! A Book of Opposites* by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
- *The Boy Who Was Raised by Librarians* by Carla Morris, illustrated by Brad Sneed
- *Coming On Home Soon* by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis
- *If I Built a Car* by Chris Van Dusen
- *The Incredible Book-Eating Boy* by Oliver Jeffers
- *Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity* by Mo Willems
- *Not Norman: a Goldfish Story* by Kelly Bennett, illustrated by Noah Z. Jones
- *Un-Brella* by Scott E. Franson
- *Would I Ever Lie to You?* by Caralyn Buehner, illustrated by Jack E. Davis

2008 Picture Book Nominees

- *Baby Brains: The Smartest Baby in the Whole World* by Simon James
- *Fancy Nancy* by Jane O'Conner, illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser
- *John, Paul, George & Ben* by Lane Smith
- *Keeper of Soles* by Teresa Bateman, illustrated by Yayo
- *Library Lion* by Michelle Knudsen, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes
- *Mommy?* by Maurice Sendak, Arthur Yorinks and Matthew Reinhart
- *Mrs. Crump's Cat* by Linda Smith, illustrated by David Roberts
- *The Secret Science Project That Almost Ate the School* by Judy Sierra, illustrated by Stephen Gammell
- *Tudley Didn't Know* by John Himmelman
- *The Witch's Walking Stick* by Susan Meddaugh

2007 Picture Book Nominees

- *America's White Table* by Margot Theis Raven, illustrated by Mike Benny
- *Diary of a Spider* by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Harry Bliss
- *The Dog Who Cried Wolf* by Keiko Kasza
- *Leonardo, the Terrible Monster* by Mo Willems

- *Mother, Mother, I Want Another* by Maria Polushkin Robbins, illustrated by Jon Goodell
- *Mrs. McBloom, Clean Up Your Classroom!* by Kelly S. DiPucchio, illustrated by Guy Francis
- *Russell the Sheep* by Rob Scotton
- *Show Way* by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Hudson Talbott
- *Toughest Cowboy: or How the Wild West Was Tamed* by John Frank, illustrated by Zachary Pullen
- *Where's the Dragon?* by Jason Hook, illustrated by Richard Hook
- *While Mama Had a Quick Little Chat* by Amy Reichert, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger

2006 Picture Book Nominees

- *Falling for Rapunzel* by Leah Wilcox, illustrated by Lydia Monks
- *Knockin' on Wood: Starring Peg Leg Bates* by Lynn Barasch
- *Knuffle Bunny: a Cautionary Tale* by Mo Willems
- *My Teacher for President* by Kay Winters, illustrated by Denise Brunkus
- *The Printer* by Myron Uhlberg, illustrated by Henri Sorenson
- *Some Dogs Do* by Jez Alborough
- *Superdog: the Heart of a Hero* by Caralyn Buehner, illustrated by Mark Buehner
- *Unwitting Wisdom: an Anthology of Aesop's Fables* by Helen Ward
- *Up the Learning Tree* by Marcia Vaughan, illustrated by Derek Blanks
- *Wild About Books* by Judy Sierra & Marc Brown

2005 Picture Book Nominees

- *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin
- *The Elves and the Shoemaker* by Jacob Grimm & Jim LaMarche
- *How I Became a Pirate* by Melinda Long, illustrated by David Shannon
- *I Know a Rhino* by Charles Fuge
- *King Midas and the Golden Touch* by Charlotte Craft, illustrated by Kinuko Y. Craft
- *Late For School* by Mike Reiss, illustrated by Michael Austin
- *Mary Smith* by Andrea U'Ren
- *Noah's Ark* by Jerry Pinkney
- *One Dark Night* by Lisa Wheeler, illustrated by Ivan Bates
- *Secret Remedy Book: the Story of Comfort and Love* by Karin Cates

2004 Picture Book Nominees

- *Bertie Was a Watchdog* by Rick Walton
- *Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School* by Mark Teague
- *Gleam and Grow* by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Peter Sylvada
- *The Great Show-and-Tell Disaster* by Mike Reiss, illustrated by Mike Cressy
- *Hip, Hip, Hooray for Annie McRae* by Brad Wilcox, illustrated by Julie Olson
- *The Magic Hat* by Mem Fox, illustrated by Tricia Tusa
- *Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed* by Emily Pearson, illustrated by Fumi Kosaka
- *The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis
- *A Quiet Place* by Douglas Wood, illustrated by Dan Andreasen
- *School Picture Day* by Lynn Plourde, illustrated by Thor Wickstrom
- *Smile A Lot!* by Nancy L. Carlson
- *Snowmen at Night* by Carolyn Buehner, illustrated by Mark Buehner
- *What's the Time, Grandma Wolf?* by Ken Brown

2003 Picture Book Nominees

- *Albert* by Donna Jo Napoli, illustrated by Jim LaMarche
- *Celebrate the Fire Within* by Kathy Larsen
- *Coolies* by Yin, illustrated by Chris Soentpiet
- *Don't Need Friends* by Carolyn Crimi
- *Eat Your Peas* by Kes Gray, illustrated by Nick Sharratt
- *Enemy Pie* by Derek Munson, illustrated by Tara Calahan King
- *Hog Music* by Mary-Claire Helldorfer
- *More Parts* by Ted Arnold
- *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi
- *Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon* by Patty Lovell, illustrated by David Catrow
- *Ted* by Tony DeTerlizzi
- *Wait! No Paint!* by Bruce Whatley

2002 Picture Book Nominees

- *The Butterfly* by Patricia Polacco
- *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin
- *Henry Hikes to Fitchburg* by D. B. Johnson
- *My Monster Mama Loves Me So* by Laura Leuck, illustrated by March Buehner
- *Raising Sweetness* by Diane Stanley
- *Sector 7* by David Wiesner

- *Sitting Ducks* by Michael Bedard
- *Tacky and the Emperor* by Helen Lester, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger
- *Wemberly Worried* by Kevin Henkes
- *The Worrywarts* by Pamela Duncan Edwards, illustrated by Henry Cole

2001 Picture Book Nominees

- *Ed and Fred Flea* by Pamela Duncan Edwards, illustrated by Henry Cole
- *Farmer Brown Goes Round and Round* by Teri Sloat, illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott
- *Hooway for Wodney Wat* by Helen Lester, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger
- *Midnight Fridge* by Bruce S. Glassman, illustrated by Brian Lies
- *The Quiltmaker's Gift* by Jeff Brumbeau, illustrated by Gail De Marcken
- *Tell Me Something Happy Before I Go to Sleep* by Joyce Dunbar
- *Tomas and the Library Lady* by Pat Mora, illustrated by Raul Colon
- *Weslandia* by Paul Fleischman, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes
- *What! Cried Granny: an Almost Bedtime Story* by Kate Lum, illustrated by Adrian Johnson
- *The Wolf is Coming!* by Elizabeth MacDonald, illustrated by Ken Brown

2000 Picture Book Nominees

- *Aunt Nancy and Cousin Lazybones* by Phyllis Root
- *A Bad Case of Stripes* by David Shannon
- *Dragon Scales and Willow Leaves* by Terry! Givens, illustrated by Andrew Portwood
- *Edwina the Emu* by Sheena Knowles, illustrated by Rod Clement
- *The Greatest Treasure* by Demi
- *Home Run: the Story of Babe Ruth* by Robert Burleigh, illustrated by Mike Wimmer
- *Honk! The Story of a Prima Swanerina* by Pamela Duncan Edwards, illustrated by Henry Cole
- *If You Give a Pig a Pancake* by Laura Numeroff, illustrated by Felicia Bond
- *Waltz of the Scarecrows* by Constance W. McGeorge, illustrated by Mary Whyte
- *When Jessie Came Across the Sea* by Amy Hest, illustrated by P.J. Lynch

1999 Picture Book Nominees

- *Down the Road* by Alice Schertle, illustrated by E.B. Lewis
- *Edward and the Pirates* by David McPhail

- *Gotcha!* by Gail Jorgensen, illustrated by Kerry Argent
- *Mailing May* by Michael O. Tunnell, illustrated by Ted Rand
- *One Grain of Rice: a Mathematical Folktale* by Demi
- *Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Road* by Lynn Plourde, illustrated by John Schoenherr
- *The Seven Silly Eaters* by Mary Ann Hoberman, illustrated by Marla Frazee
- *Verdi* by Janell Cannon
- *Watch Out! Big Bro's Coming!* by Jez Alborough
- *Water Dance* by Thomas Locker

1998 Picture Book Nominees

- *Anansi and the Talking Melon* by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Janet Stevens
- *Fanny's Dream* by Caralyn Buehner, illustrated by Mark Buehner
- *Homeplace* by Anne Shelby, illustrated by Wendy Anderson Halperin
- *How Many, How Many, How Many* by Rick Walton, illustrated by Cynthia Jabar
- *Just a Little Bit* by Ann Tompert, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger
- *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes
- *Miss Spider's Tea Party* by David Kirk
- *More Than Anything Else* by Marie Bradby, illustrated by Chris K. Soentpiet
- *When the Teddy Bears Came* by Martin Waddell, illustrated by Penny Dale
- *Whitefish Will Ride Again* by Arthur Yorinks, illustrated by Mort Drucker

1997 Picture Book Nominees

- *Boundless Grace* by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Caroline Binch
- *Coyote Steals the Blanket* by Janet Stevens
- *A Job for Wittilda* by Caralyn Buehner, illustrated by Mark Buehner
- *Martha Speaks* by Susan Meddaugh
- *My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother* by Patricia Polacco
- *Once There Was a Bull...(frog)* by Rick Walton, illustrated by Greg Hally
- *The Rattlebang Picnic* by Margaret Mahy, illustrated by Steven Kellogg
- *A Regular Flood of Mishap* by Tom Birdseye, illustrated by Megan Lloyd
- *Under the Moon* by Dyan Sheldon, illustrated by Gary Blythe
- *Yettele's Feathers* by Joan Rothenberg

1996 Picture Book Nominees

- *Amber on the Mountain* by Tony Johnston, illustrated by Robert A. Duncan

- *Go Away, Big Green Monster* by Ed Emberley
- *Harvey Potter's Balloon Farm* by Jerdine Nolen, illustrated by Mark Buehner
- *The Itsy Bitsy Spider* by Iza Trapani
- *My Great-Aunt Arizona* by Gloria Houston, illustrated by Susan Condie Lamb
- *Owen* by Kevin Henkes
- *The Rough-Face Girl* by Rafe Martin, illustrated by David Shannon
- *Something From Nothing* by Phoebe Gilman
- *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon
- *Two of Everything: a Chinese Folk Tale* by Lily Toy Hong