

Young Adult Books

1991-2023

The Children's Literature Association of Utah does not necessarily recommend that all young adults read all books. These nominees offer a balance in reading level, interest level, types of fiction, and relevant, contemporary social issues for young adults in grades 7 to 12. We encourage parents to read and discuss these books with their teenagers. (indicates mature reader)*

2023 Young Adult Nominees

- *The Cost of Knowing* by Brittney Morris *
- *Curses* by Lish McBride
- *Furia* by Yamile Saied Méndez
- *Ground Zero* by Alan Gratz
- *In The Wild Light* by Jeff Zentner *
- *Instructions for Dancing* by Nicola Yoon
- *The Left-Handed Booksellers of London* by Garth Nix
- *The Silver Blonde* by Elizabeth Ross
- *Six Crimson Cranes* by Elizabeth Lim
- *XOXO* by Axie Oh

2022 Young Adult Nominees

- *Bone Crier's Moon* by Kathryn Purdie
- *Frankly in Love* by David Yoon *
- *A Good Girls Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson *
- *I'll Be the One* by Lyla Lee
- *The Inheritance Games* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
- *Lost and Found* by Orson Scott Card
- *The Paper Girl of Paris* by Jordyn Taylor
- *Thorn* by Intisar Khanani
- *Verify* by Joelle Charbonneau
- *When the Ground Is Hard* by Malla Nunn

2021 Young Adult Nominees

- *Aurora Rising* by Amie Kaufman
- *Call It What You Want* by Brigid Kemmerer *

- *The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein* by Kiersten White
- *Illegal* by Eoin Colfer
- *Rayne & Delilah's Midnight Matinee* by Jeff Zentner *
- *Resistance* by Jennifer Nielson
- *The Rest of the Story* by Sarah Dessen
- *Skyward* by Brandon Sanderson
- *A Very Large Expanse of the Sea* by Tahera Mafi *
- *We Walked the Sky* by Lisa Fiedler

2020 Young Adult Nominees

- *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi
- *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone
- *The Epic Crush of Genie Lo* by F. C. Yee
- *Not If I Save You First* by Ally Carter
- *The Other Side of Lost* by Jessie Kirby
- *The Prince and the Dressmaker* by Jen Wang
- *Sea Witch* by Sarah Henning
- *Truly Devious* by Maureen Johnson
- *The Valiant* by Lesley Livingston
- *Words In Deep Blue* by Cath Crowley

2019 Young Adult Nominees

- *Eliza and Her Monsters* by Francesca Zappia
- *Ever the Hunted* by Erin Summerill
- *Exo* by Fonda Lee
- *Forget Me Not* by Ellie Terry
- *Letters to the Lost* by Brigid Kemmerer
- *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman
- *Starflight* by Melissa Landers
- *A Taste for Monsters* by Matthew Kirby
- *Warcross* by Marie Lu
- *The Wingsnatchers* by Sarah Jean Horwitz

2018 Young Adult Nominees

- *Booked* by Kwame Alexander

- *The Fixer* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
- *Learning to Swear in America* by Katie Kennedy
- *The Novice* by Taran Matharu
- *Railhead* by Philip Reeve
- *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys
- *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo
- *Tell Me Three Things* by Julie Buxbaum
- *Walk On Earth a Stranger* by Rae Carson
- *Zero Day* by Jan Gangsei

2017 Young Adult Nominees

- *The Hired Girl* by Laura Amy Schlitz
- *I am Princess X* by Cherie Priest
- *Ink and Bone* by Rachel Caine
- *Jackaby* by William Ritter
- *Kissing in America* by Margo Rabb
- *The Leveller* by Julie Durango
- *A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen
- *Nimona* by Noelle Stevenson
- *The Six* by Mark Alpert
- *Under a Painted Sky* by Stacey Lee

2016 Young Adult Nominees

- *All the Truth That's In Me* by Julie Berry
- *Buzz Kill* by Beth Fantaskey
- *Counting by 7s* by Holly Sloan
- *Grandmaster* by David Klass
- *If We Survive* by Andrew Klavan
- *The Mark of the Dragonfly* by Jaleigh Johnson
- *The Naturals* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
- *One Came Home* by Amy Timberlake
- *The Screaming Staircase* by Jonathan Stroud
- *Steelheart* by Brandon Sanderson
- *Tesla's Attic* by Neal Shusterman
- *The Tragedy Paper* by Elizabeth LaBan

2015 Young Adult Nominees

- *Born of Illusion* by Teri Brown
- *The Caged Graves* by Dianne K. Salerni
- *Cardboard* by Doug TenNapel
- *Guitar Notes* by Mary Amato
- *Insomnia* by J.R. Johansson
- *My Family for the War* by Anne C. Voorhoeve
- *The Name of the Star* by Maureen Johnson
- *Ship Out of Luck* by Neal Shusterman
- *Skinny* by Donna Cooner
- *Slated* by Teri Terry
- *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight* by Jennifer E. Smith *
- *The Testing* by Joelle Charbonneau *

2014 Young Adult Nominees

- *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer
- *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein*
- *The False Prince* by Jennifer A. Nielsen
- *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green*
- *Legend* by Marie Lu
- *Lions of Little Rock* by Kristin Levine
- *Rot and Ruin* by Jonathan Maberry
- *The Scorpio Races* by Maggie Stiefvater*
- *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo*
- *Ungifted* by Gordon Korman
- *Welcome Caller, This is Chloe* by Shelley Coriell
- *Wrapped* by Jennifer Bradbury

2013 Young Adult Nominees

- *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Septys *
- *Blood Red Road* by Moira Young *
- *Death Cloud* by Andrew Lane
- *The False Princess* by Ellis O'Neal
- *The Last Thing I Remember* by Thomas Nelson *
- *Okay For Now* by Gary Schmidt
- *Ruby Red* by Kerstin Gier

- *The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen
- *Sean Griswold's Head* by Lindsey Leavitt
- *Ten Miles Past Normal* by Frances O'Roark Dowell
- *Texas Gothic* by Rosemary Clement-Moore *
- *Variant* by Robison Wells

2012 Young Adult Nominees

- *After Ever After* by Jordan Sonnenblick
- *Birthmarked* by Caragh M. O'Brien
- *Bruiser* by Neal Shusterman
- *Boy Who Dared* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
- *Dark Life* by Kat Falls
- *Dragonfly* by Julia Golding
- *Heist Society* by Ally Carter
- *The Hunchback Assignments* by Arthur Slade
- *Mirrorscape* by Mike Wilks and Patricia Moffett
- *A Spy in the House* by Y. S. Lee
- *Three Rivers Rising: A Novel of the Johnstown Flood* by Jame Richards
- *The Wide-Awake Princess* by E.D. Baker

2011 Young Adult Nominees

- *Along for the Ride* by Sarah Dessen
- *Brooklyn Nine: A Novel in Nine Innings* by Alan Gratz
- *The Chosen One: A Novel* by Carol Lynch Williams
- *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *The Compound* by S.A. Bodeen
- *The Devil's Paintbox* by Victoria McKernan*
- *Eon* by Alison Goodman*
- *Flygirl* by Sherri L. Smith
- *The Musician's Daughter* by Susanne Emily Dunlap
- *My Fair Godmother* by Janette Rallison
- *Princess of the Midnight Ball* by Jessica Day George
- *Project Sweet Life* by Brent Hartinger

2010 Young Adult Nominees

- *Airman* by Eoin Colfer
- *Beastly* by Alex Flinn*
- *Book of a Thousand Days* by Shannon Hale
- *Climbing the Stairs* by Padma Venkatraman
- *Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature* by Robin Brande
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins*
- *House of Many Ways* by Diana Wynne Jones
- *Schooled* by Gordon Korman
- *Shift* by Jennifer Bradbury
- *Sun and Moon, Ice and Snow* by Jessica Day George
- *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman*
- *Waiting for Normal* by Leslie Connor

2009 Young Adult Nominees

- *The Case of the Left-Handed Lady: an Enola Holmes Mystery* by Nancy Springer
- *Epic* by Conor Kostick
- *Fight Game* by Kate Wild
- *Hot Lunch* by Alex Bradley
- *It's a Mall World After All* by Janette Rallison
- *Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City* by Kirsten Miller
- *The King of Attolia* by Megan Whalen Turner
- *Life As We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer
- *Pigboy* by Vicki Grant
- *Red Moon at Sharpsburg* by Rosemary Wells
- *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt
- *Wildwood Dancing* by Juliet Marillier

2008 Young Adult Nominees

- *Alphabet of Dreams* by Susan Fletcher
- *Bad Kitty* by Michele Jaffe
- *Dairy Queen* by Catherine Gilbert Murdock
- *Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp* by Richard Yancey
- *The Time Travelers* by Linda Buckley-Archer
- *Golden: a Retelling of Rapunzel* by Cameron Dokey
- *Hit the Road* by Caroline B. Cooney
- *The Lighthouse Land* by Adrian McKinty
- *The Light of the Oracle* by Victoria Hanley

- *Mimus* by Lilli Thal & translated by John Brownjohn
- *Pieces of Georgia* by Jen Bryant
- *The Rhyming Season* by Edward Averett
- *The Warrior Heir* by Cinda Williams Chima

2007 Young Adult Nominees

- *The Cry of the Icemark* by Stuart Hill
- *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick
- *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan
- *Missing Abby* by Lee Weatherly
- *Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman?* by Eleanor Updale
- *On the Run* by Michael Coleman
- *The Schwa was Here* by Neal Shusterman
- *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* by David Lubar
- *The Star of Kazan* by Eva Ibbotson
- *Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083* by Andrea White
- *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld
- *The Witch's Boy* by Michael Gruber

2006 Young Adult Nominees

- *Airborn* by Kenneth Oppel
- *Heir Apparent* by Vivian Vande Velde
- *The Last Chance Texaco* by Brent Hartinger
- *Milkweed* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Mississippi Trial, 1955* by Chris Crowe
- *Overboard* by Elizabeth Fama
- *The Secret Hour* by Scott Westerfeld
- *Shadow of a Doubt* by S.L. Rottman
- *Taylor Five* by Ann Halam
- *The Truth About Forever* by Sarah Dessen
- *The Wee Free Men* by Terry Pratchett
- *Wishing Moon* by Michael O. Tunnell

2005 Young Adult Nominees

- *Cheating Lessons* by Nan Willard Cappo

- *East* by Edith Pattou
- *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini
- *For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Full Tilt* by Neal Shusterman
- *Girl in a Cage* by Jane Yolen
- *The Goose Girl* by Shannon Hale
- *Kite Rider* by Geraldine McCaughrean
- *Red Midnight* by Ben Mikaelson
- *Search on the Moon King's Daughter* by Linda Holeman
- *Son of the Mob* by Gordon Korman

2004 Young Adult Nominees

- *Battle Dress* by Amy Efav
- *Bronx Masquerade* by Nikki Grimes
- *Goddess of Yesterday* by Caroline B. Cooney
- *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer
- *Lord of the Nutcracker Men* by Iain Lawrence
- *Once Upon a Marigold* by Jean Ferris
- *Stetson* by S.L. Rottman
- *Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz
- *Things Not Seen* by Andrew Clements
- *What My Mother Doesn't Know* by Sonya Sones

2003 Young Adult Nominees

- *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan
- *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Goose Chase* by Patrice Kindl
- *Homeless Bird* by Gloria Whelan
- *Hope was Here* by Joan Bauer
- *The Last Book in the Universe* by Rodman Philbrick
- *The Seer and the Sword* by Victoria Hanley
- *Stuck in Neutral* by Terry Trueman
- *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson

2002 Young Adult Nominees

- *A Dance for Three* by Louise Plummer
- *Downsiders* by Neal Schusterman
- *The Horizontal Man* by Michael Dahl
- *In My Enemy's House* by Carol Matas
- *Mary, Bloody Mary* by Carolyn Meyer
- *Night Hoops* by Carl Deuker
- *Oy Joy!* by Lucy Frank
- *Skellig* by David Almond
- *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Stop Pretending : What Happened When My Big Sister Went Crazy* by Sonya Sones
- *What Became of Her* by M. E. Kerr
- *A Wolf at the Door and Other Retold Fairy Tales* by Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling

2001 Young Adult Nominees

- *Armageddon Summer* by Jane Yolen
- *Dark Side of Nowhere* by Neal Shusterman
- *For Mike* by Shelley Sykes
- *Hidden Talents* by David Lubar
- *A Long Way from Chicago: A Novel in Stories* by Richard Peck
- *Maze* by Will Hobbs
- *Peeling the Onion* by Wendy Orr
- *Rough Waters* by S.L. Rottman
- *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman
- *Shadow Spinner* by Susan Fletcher
- *Soldier's Heart: Being the Story of the Enlistment and Due Service of the Boy Charley Goddard in the First Minnesota Volunteers* by Gary Paulsen
- *Under A Different Sky* by Deborah Savage

2000 Young Adult Nominees

- *Alias* by Mary E. Ryan
- *I Rode a Horse of Milk White Jade* by Diane Lee Wilson
- *The Iron Ring* by Lloyd Alexander
- *Little Sister* by Kara Dalkey
- *My Louisiana Sky* by Kimberly Willis Holt
- *Necessary Roughness* by Marie G. Lee
- *Prophecy Rock* by Rob MacGregor
- *Rules of the Road* by Joan Bauer

- *Swallowing Stones* by Joyce McDonald
- *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor
- *The Transall Saga* by Gary Paulsen
- *What Child is This?: A Christmas Story* by Caroline B. Cooney

1999 Young Adult Nominees

- *After the War* by Carol Matas
- *Crash* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey* by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- *Far North* by Will Hobbs
- *Letters from the Mountain* by Sherry Garland
- *Sabriel* by Garth Nix
- *The Snake-Stone* by Berlie Doherty
- *SOS Titanic* by Eve Bunting
- *Under the Mermaid Angel* by Martha Moore
- *The Unlikely Romance of Kate Bjorkman* by Louise Plummer
- *With Every Drop of Blood: A Novel of the Civil War* by James Lincoln Collier & Christopher Collier.

1998 Young Adult Nominees

- *Beyond the Burning Time* by Kathryn Lasky
- *How I Changed My Life* by Todd Strasser
- *Indio* by Sherry Garland
- *The Merlin Effect* by T.A. Barron
- *Missing Pieces* by Norma Fox Mazer
- *The Only Alien on the Planet* by Kristen D. Randle
- *Phoenix Rising* by Karen Hesse
- *Rio Grande Stories* by Carolyn Meyer
- *Sarah On Her Own* by Karen Mueller Coombs
- *Thwonk* by Joan Bauer
- *Under the Blood-Red Sun* by Graham Salisbury
- *Winners and Losers* by Stephen Hoffius

1997 Young Adult Nominees

- *Catherine, Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman

- *Cattail Moon* by Jean Thesman
- *Drummers of Jericho* by Carolyn Meyer
- *Harper and Moon* by Ramon Royal Ross
- *Haveli* by Suzanne Fisher Staples
- *In My Father's House* by Ann Rinaldi
- *Liars* by P.J. Peterson
- *The Man Who Loved Clowns* by June Rae Wood
- *The Primrose Way* by Jackie French Koller
- *The Shark Callers* by Eric Campbell

1996 Young Adult Nominees

- *Angie* by Pat Bezzant
- *April and the Dragon Lady* by Lensey Namioka
- *The Big Wander* by Will Hobbs
- *Death Walk* by Walt Morey
- *The Fifth of March: A Story of the Boston Massacre* by Ann Rinaldi
- *Heart of a Champion* by Carl Deuker
- *Kiss the Dust* by Elizabeth Laird
- *Nightjohn* by Gary Paulsen
- *Nothing to Fear* by Jackie French Koller
- *Song of the Buffalo Boy* by Sherry Garland
- *Song of the Gargoyle* by Zilpha Keatley Snyder
- *Squashed* by Joan Bauer
- *Walker of Time* by Helen Hughes Vick

1995 Young Adult Nominees

- *Amazing Gracie* by A. E. Cannon
- *Across the Grain* by Jean Ferris
- *The Brave* by Robert Lipsyte
- *Dealing with Dragons* by Patricia C. Wrede
- *Flight #116 is Down!* by Caroline B. Cooney
- *Land of Hope* by Joan Lowery Nixon
- *Nothing But the Truth* by Avi
- *Steal Away* by Jennifer Armstrong
- *Trouble with Lemons* by Daniel Hayes
- *When the Road Ends* by Jean Thesman
- *White Lilacs* by Carolyn Meyer

1994 Young Adult Nominees

- *Anything to Win* by Gloria D. Miklowitz
- *Dawn Rider* by Jan Hudson
- *How Could You Do It, Diane?* by Stella Pevsner
- *Lyddie* by Katherine Paterson
- *Monkey Island* by Paula Fox
- *Nightmare* by Willo Davis Roberts
- *Riders of the Silver Rim* by Brock and Bodie Thoene
- *Shadow Brothers* by A.E. Cannon
- *The Shining Company* by Rosemary Sutcliff
- *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi
- *Twenty Pageants Later* by Caroline B. Cooney
- *Year of Impossible Goodbyes* by Sook Nyul Choi

1993 Young Adult Nominees

- *An Acceptable Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- *Canyons* by Gary Paulsen
- *Children of the River* by Linda Crew
- *Downriver* by Will Hobbs
- *Face on the Milk Carton* by Caroline B. Cooney
- *Family Pose* by Dean Hughes
- *On Fortune's Wheel* by Cynthia Voigt
- *Show Me the Evidence* by Alane Ferguson
- *Sniper* by Theodore Taylor
- *Strange Attractors* by William Sleator
- *Voices After Midnight* by Richard Peck
- *White Jenna* by Jane Yolen

1992 Young Adult Nominees

- *A Killing Freeze* by Lynn Hall
- *A Sudden Silence* by Eve Bunting
- *December Stillness* by Mary Downing Hahn
- *Don't Look Behind You* by Lois Duncan
- *The Fantastic Freshman* by Bill Brittain

- *The Island of Dangerous Dreams* by Joan Lowery Nixon
- *Mossflower* by Brian Jacques and Gary Chalk
- *No Way Home* by Marilyn Levy
- *Pocket Change* by Kathryn Jensen
- *Tell Us Your Secret* by Barbara Cohen
- *Wise Child* by Monica Furlong

1991 Young Adult Nominees

- *After the Dancing Days* by Margaret I. Rostkowski
- *After the Rain* by Norma Fox Mazer
- *Beheaded, Survived* by Barbara Williams
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *Here at the Scenic-Vu Motel* by Thelma Hatch Wyss
- *Izzy, Willy-Nilly* by Cynthia Voigt
- *No Way Out* by Ivy Ruckman
- *Other Side of Dark* by Joan Lowery Nixon
- *Probably Still Nick Swansen* by Virginia Euwer Wolff
- *Romantic Obsessions and Humiliations of Annie Sehlmeier* by Louise Plummer
- *The Village by the Sea* by Paula Fox