



2017 Winners

2018 Nominations

Melanie Hetrick, Tillamook County Library

Kiva Liljequist, Metropolitan Learning Center (Portland)

MacKenzie Ross, Beaverton City Library

What is ORCA?

- Founded in 2010
- Fun and exciting way for Oregon youth in grades 3-12 to become enthusiastic and discriminating readers
- Students choose their favorite book in a real-life democratic process

How are the books chosen?

- Oregon students, teachers, and librarians may nominate titles
- Copyright date must be two years prior to when the list is announced
- Nominations are reviewed by a committee of Oregon librarians, educators, and booksellers
- Committee creates the final list!

Committee Members

Chair: Kiva Liljequist (Metropolitan Learning Center, Portland)

Jen Blair (Beaverton School District)

Billie Bloebaum (Third Street Books, McMinnville)

Anna Bruce (Happy Valley Library)

Grace Butler (Whitman Elementary School, Portland)

Melanie Hetrick (Tillamook County Library)

Elizabeth Johnson (Corvallis-Benton County Public Library)

Beth LaForce (George Fox University, Newberg)

Jessica Marie (Salem Public Library)

Laurie Nordahl (North Bend High School)

MacKenzie Ross (Beaverton City Library)

Karren Timmermans (Pacific University, Eugene)

Rebekah Westmark (Coos Bay Public Library)



Source: GIPHY, <https://tinyurl.com/laxhrjh>

And the 2017 winners are...



Source: GIPHY, <https://tinyurl.com/kclw8jv>

2017 ORCA Upper Elementary Winner

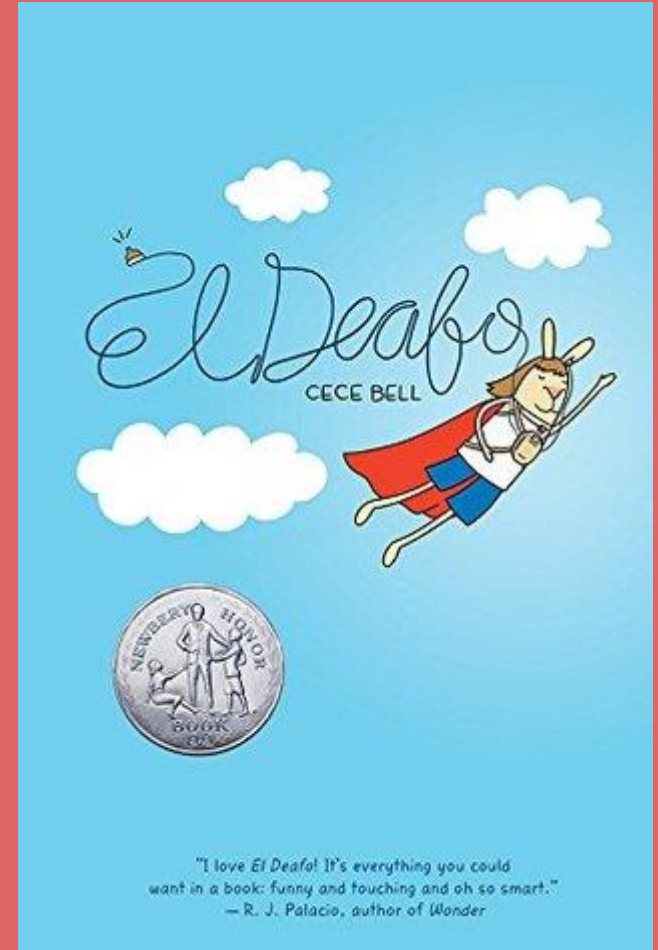
El Deafo

Cece Bell

- ◆ Will Eisner Award for Best Publication for Kids
- ◆ Kirkus Prize Nominee for Young Readers' Literature
- ◆ Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Middle Grade and Children's

Read-alikes: *Wonder* (Palacio), *Roller Girl* (Jamieson), *Smile* (Telgemeier)

Author's website: <https://cecebell.wordpress.com/>



2017 ORCA Middle School Winner

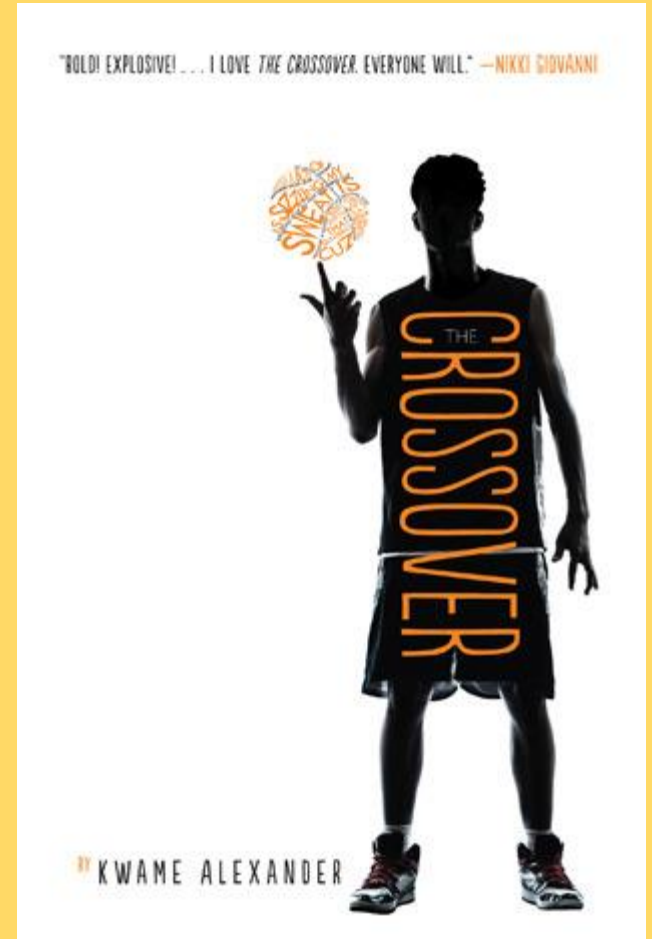
The Crossover

Kwame Alexander

- ◆ Newbery Medal
- ◆ Coretta Scott King Award for Author Honor
- ◆ Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Middle Grade and Children's
- ◆ 2016-2017 Oregon Battle of the Books

Read-alikes: *Brown Girl Dreaming* (Woodson), *Serafina's Promise* (Burg), *Full Cicada Moon* (Hilton)

Author's website: <http://kwamealexander.com/>



2017 ORCA High School Winner

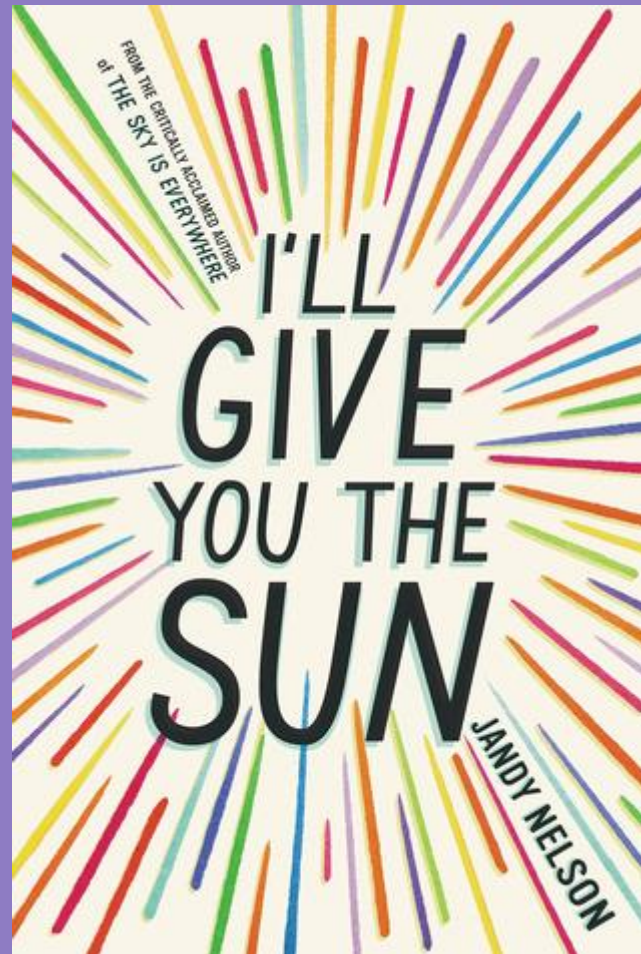
I'll Give You the Sun

Jandy Nelson

- ◆ Printz Award
- ◆ Stonewall Honor Book for Young Adult Literature
- ◆ Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Young Adult Fiction
- ◆ 2016-2017 Oregon Battle of the Books

Read-alikes: *Fangirl* (Rowell), *Two Boys Kissing* (Levithan),
More Happy Than Not (Silvera)

Author's website: <http://jandynelson.com/>



2018 ORCA Upper Elementary Nominees

The Terrible Two

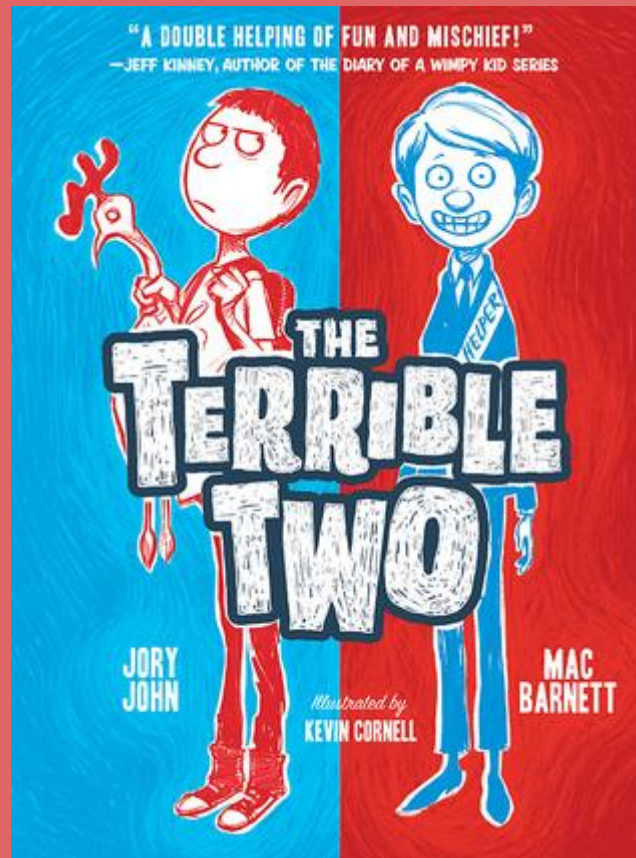
Mac Barnett

- ◆ E.B. White Read Aloud Award Honor
- ◆ Great Stone Face Book Award Nominee

Author website: <https://www.macbarnett.com/>

Sequel: *The Terrible Two Get Worse*

Read-alikes: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series (Kinney), *The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher* (Levy), *Pickle: The (Formerly) Anonymous Prank Club of Fountain Point Middle School* (Baker), *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer* (Jones)



2018 ORCA Upper Elementary Nominees

Circus Mirandus

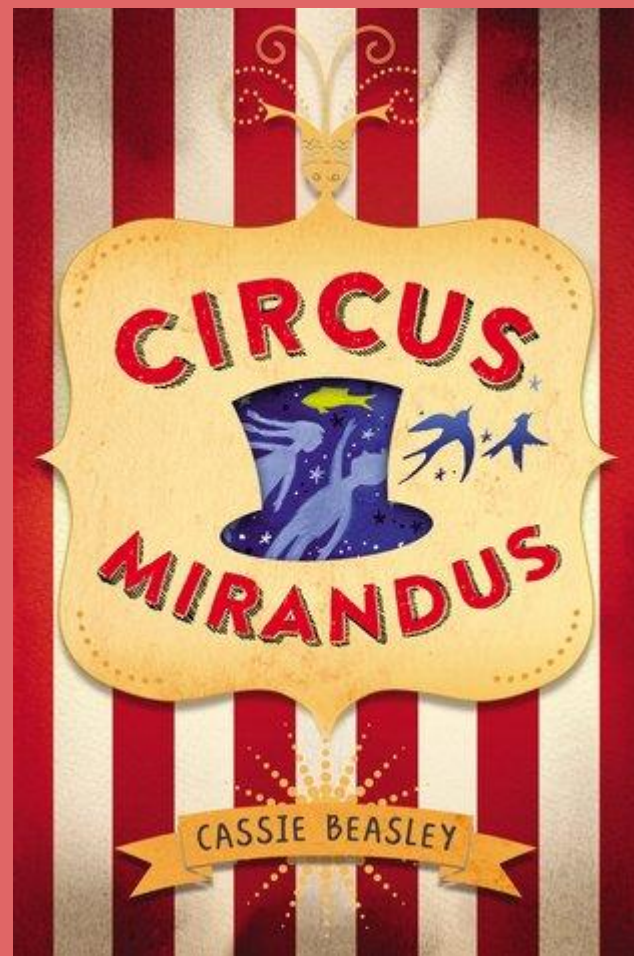
Cassie Beasley

Author website: <http://cassiebeasley.com/>

Read-alikes: *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer* (Jones), *Gabriel Finley and the Raven's Riddle* (Hagen), *Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy* (Foxlee), *Nightingale's Nest* (Loftin)

Educator's guide: http://www.penguin.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CircusMirandus_EducatorsGuide_16_4p_FO_RWEB.pdf

Next book: *Tumble & Blue* (August 2017)



2018 ORCA Upper Elementary Nominees

My Near-Death Adventures (99% True!)

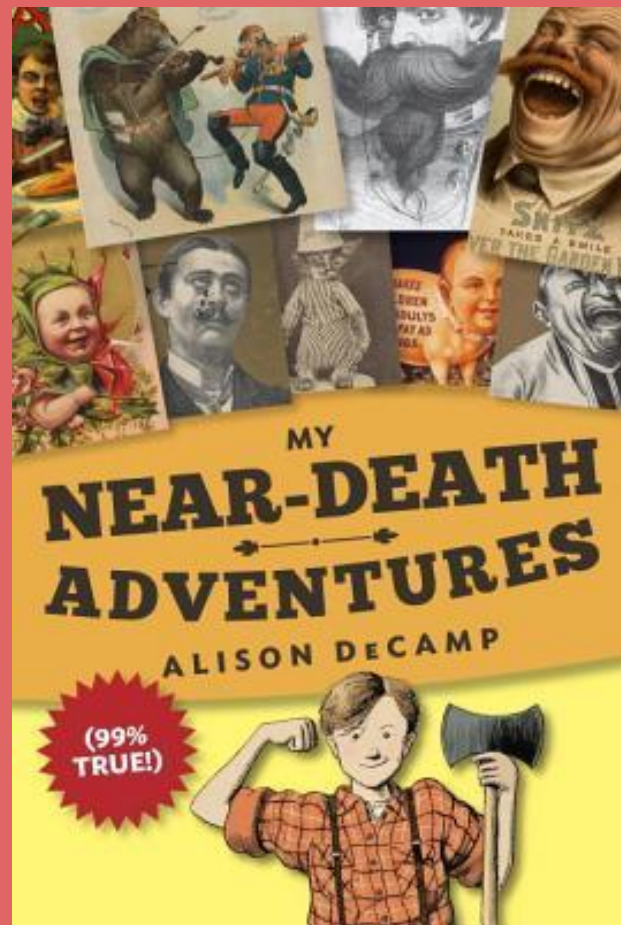
Alison DeCamp

Author website: <http://www.alisondecamp.com/>

Sequel: *My Near-Death Adventures: I Almost Died. Again.*

Read-alikes: *Fake Mustache* (Angleberger), *The Willoughbys* (Lowry),
The Mysterious Howling (Wood)

Discussion guide: https://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/MNDA_TeachersGuide.pdf



2018 ORCA Upper Elementary Nominees

Stella by Starlight

Sharon M. Draper

- ◆ Charlotte Huck Award Winner for Outstanding Fiction for Children
- ◆ Parents Choice Awards Silver Medal Winner

Author website: <http://sharondraper.com/>

Read-alikes: *Sugar* (Rhodes), *The Madman of Piney Woods* (Curtis),
Gone Crazy in Alabama (Williams-Garcia), *Full Cicada Moon* (Hilton)

Study guide: <http://sharondraper.com/guides.asp?id=74>



2018 ORCA Upper Elementary Nominees

George

Alex Gino

- ◆ Stonewall Book Award for Children's
- ◆ Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Middle Grade and Children's
- ◆ Charlotte Huck Award for Outstanding Fiction for Children

Author website: <http://www.alexgino.com/>

Read-alikes: *Gracefully Grayson* (Polonsky), *Better Nate Than Ever* (Federle)

Human Rights Campaign: Transgender Children and Youth:
<http://www.hrc.org/explore/topic/transgender-children-youth>

ALEX GINO

2018 ORCA Upper Elementary Nominees

Fish in a Tree

Lynda Mullaly Hunt

◆ Schneider Family Book Award for Middle School

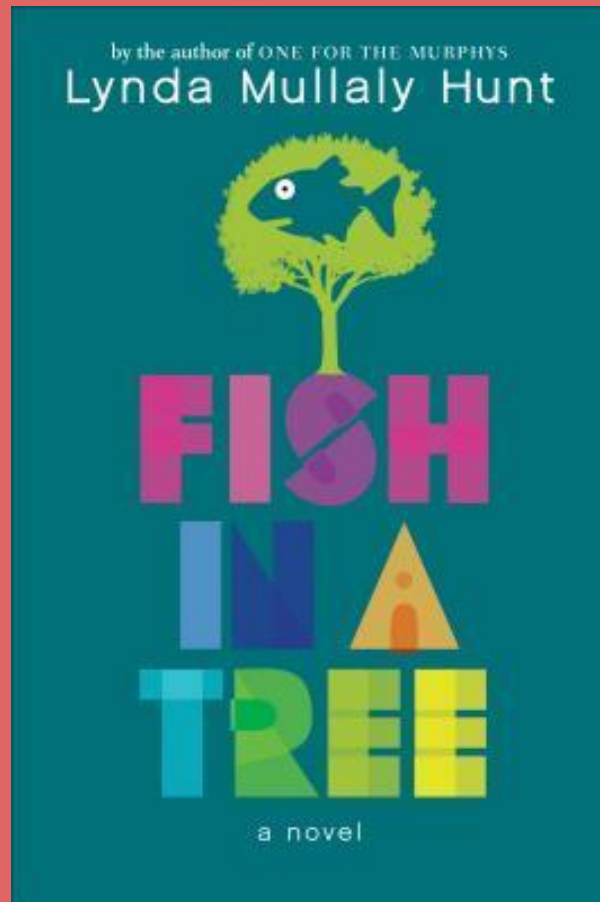
Author website: <http://www.lyndamullalyhunt.com/>

Read-alikes: *Absolutely Almost* (Graff), *Stella By Starlight* (Draper), *A Handful of Stars* (Lord)

Educator's guide:

http://www.penguin.com/static/images/yr/pdf/FishInATree_lessonplans_Final_LR.pdf

Next book: *Out of Order* (2018)



2018 ORCA Upper Elementary Nominees

Roller Girl

Victoria Jamieson

- ◆ Newbery Honor
- ◆ Oregon Spirit Book Award for Graphic Novel

Author website: <http://www.victoriajamieson.com/>

Read-alikes: *Sunny Side Up* (Holm), *El Deafo* (Bell), *Smile and Sisters* (Telgemeier)

Next book: *All's Faire in Middle School* (September 2017)

Fun fact: Local author who lives in Portland!



2018 ORCA Upper Elementary Nominees

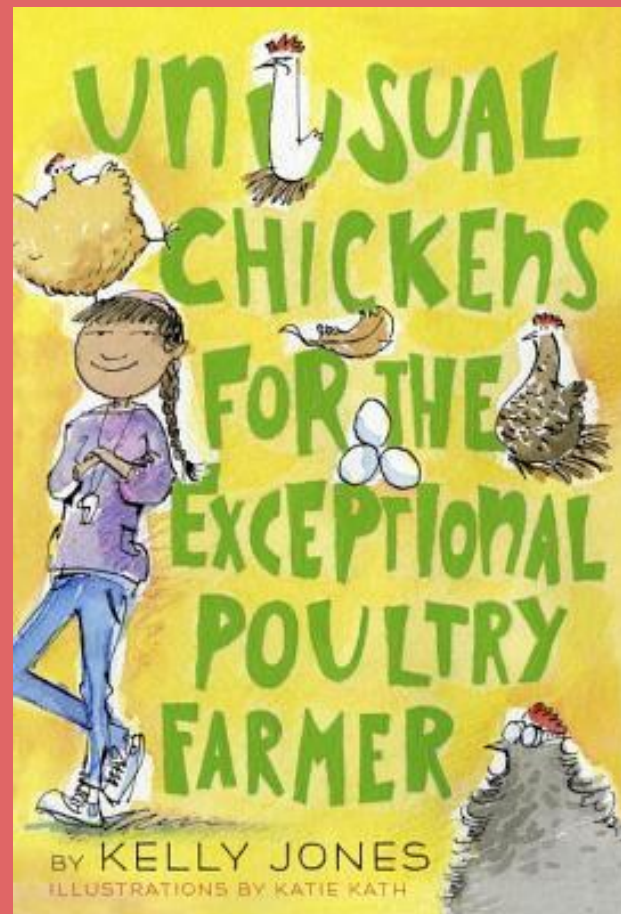
Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer

Kelly Jones

- ◆ Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award Nominee
- ◆ Georgia Children's Book Award Finalist

Author website: <http://curiosityjones.net/>

Read-alikes: *Everything on a Waffle* (Horvath), *Fantastic Mr. Fox* and *Matilda* (Dahl), *The Star of Kazan* (Ibbotson)



2018 ORCA Middle School Nominees

The War That Saved My Life

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

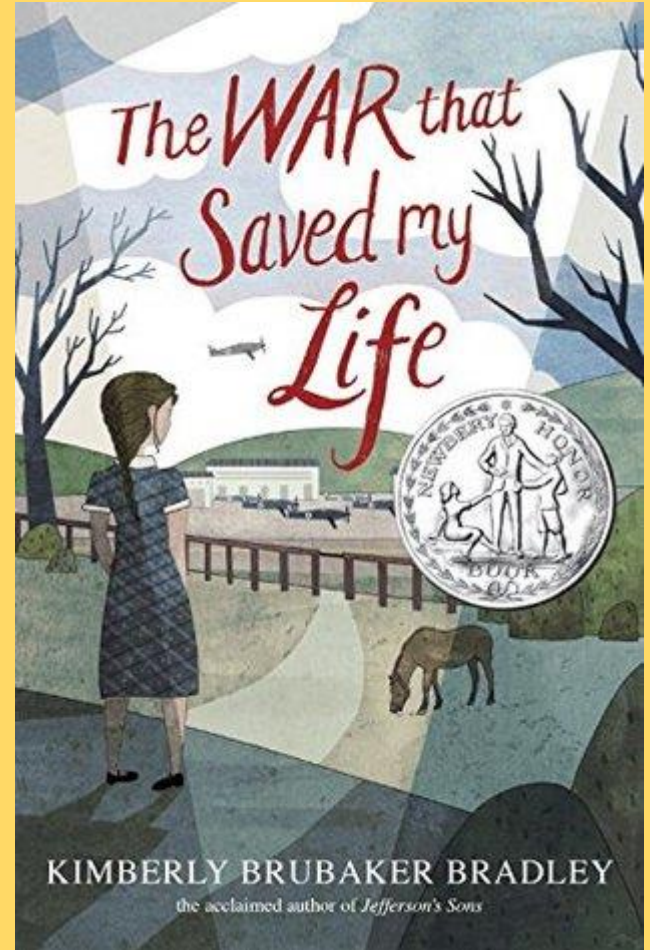
- ◆ Newbery Medal Honor
- ◆ E.B. White Read Aloud Award Honor
- ◆ 2017-2018 Oregon Battle of the Books

Author website: <http://www.kimberlybrubakerbradley.com/>

Read-alikes: *Number the Stars* (Lowry), *Wolf Hollow* (Wolk), *Chasing Secrets* (Choldenko)

Rumored sequel: *The War I Finally Won*

Educator's guide: http://www.penguin.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/WarThatSavedMyLife_Guide_15_4p_LR.pdf



2018 ORCA Middle School Nominees

Lost in the Sun

Lisa Graff

- ◆ Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award Nominee
- ◆ Texas Lone Star Reading List
- ◆ 2017-2018 Oregon Battle of the Books

Author website: <http://www.lisagraff.com/>

Read-alikes: *The Thing About Georgie* (Graff), *Wonder* (Palacio)

Educator's guide:

http://www.lisagraff.com/LisaGraff_StudyGuide_FNL-revise-lo.pdf

Next book: *The Great Treehouse War* (May 2017)



2018 ORCA Middle School Nominees

Full Cicada Moon

Marilyn Hilton

- ◆ Jane Addams Children's Book Award Nominee for Older Children
- ◆ Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature for Children
- ◆ Cybils Finalist for Poetry

Author website: <http://www.marilynhilton.com/>

Read-alikes: *Listen, Slowly* (Lai), *Countdown* (Wiles), *Brown Girl Dreaming* (Woodson)

Book group guide:

[http://www.marilynhilton.com/cmsdocuments/Full Cicada Moon Book Group Guide.pdf](http://www.marilynhilton.com/cmsdocuments/Full_Cicada_Moon_Book_Group_Guide.pdf)



2018 ORCA Middle School Nominees

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler

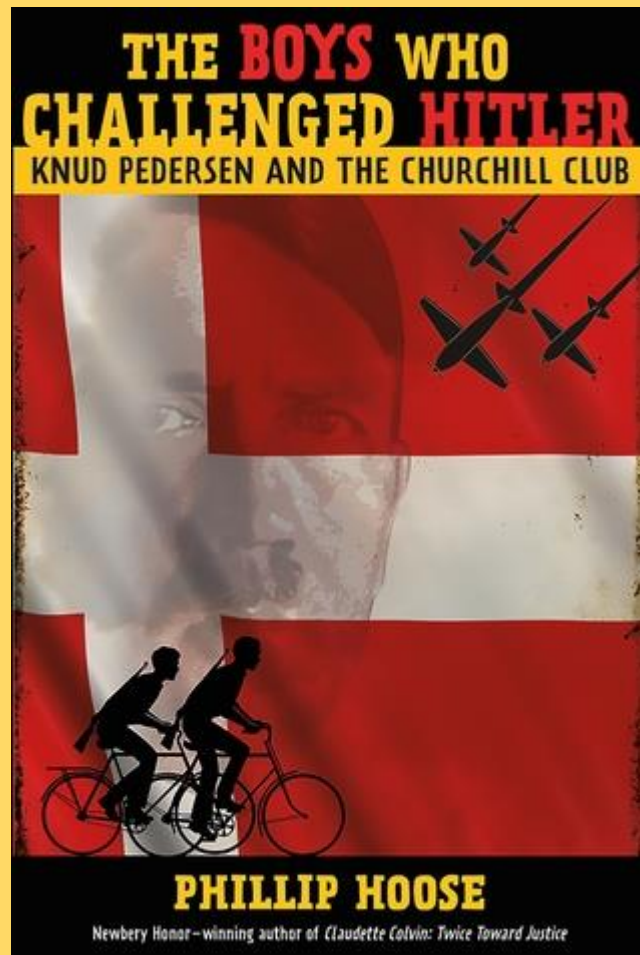
Phillip M. Hoose

- ◆ Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Honor
- ◆ Sibert Informational Book Award Honor
- ◆ YALSA Award Nominee for Excellence in Nonfiction

Author website: <http://www.philliphoose.com/>

Read-alikes: *Courage & Defiance* (Hopkinson), *Beyond Courage* (Rappaport)

Teacher's guide: <http://www.philliphoose.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/The-Boys-Who-Challenged-Hitler-FINAL.pdf>



2018 ORCA Middle School Nominees

Listen, Slowly

Thanhha Lai

◆ Cybils Finalist for Middle Grade Fiction

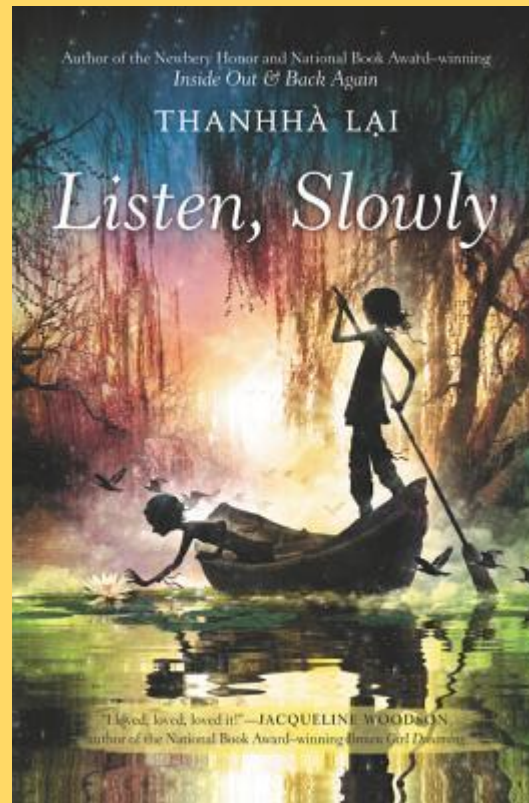
Author website: <https://www.thanhhalai.com/>

Read-alikes: *Full Cicada Moon* (Hilton), *Inside Out & Back Again* (Lai),
One Crazy Summer (Williams-Garcia)

NPR interview with Lai:

<http://www.npr.org/2015/02/12/385793936/listen-slowly-about-connecting-to-a-heritage-you-dont-know>

Fun fact: Lai started a non-profit ([Viet Kids, Inc.](#)) to “buy bicycles for poor students in Vietnam.”



2018 ORCA Middle School Nominees

The Nest

Kenneth Oppel

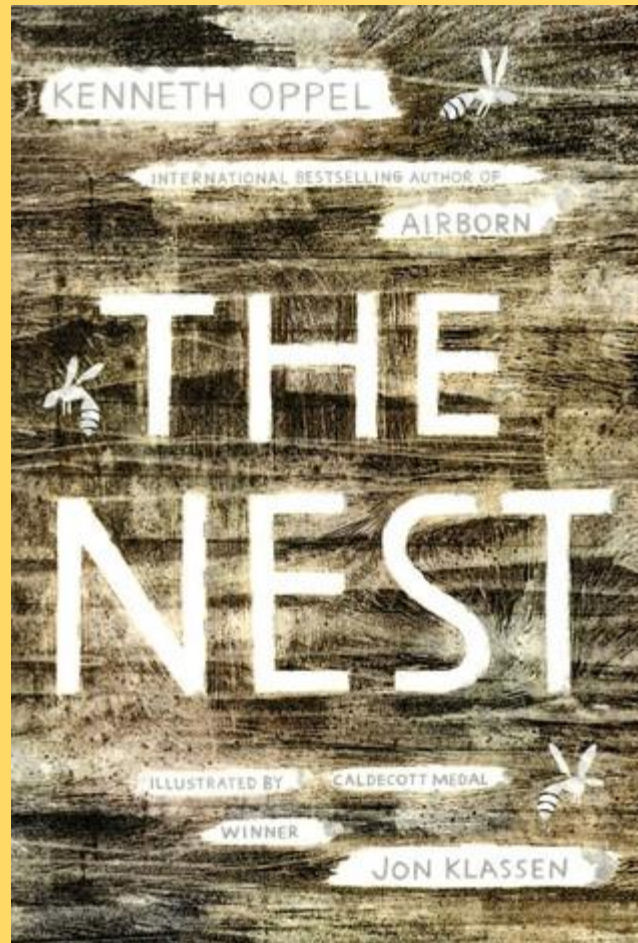
◆ Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award Nominee

Author website: <http://www.kennethoppel.ca/>

Read-alikes: *The Night Gardener* (Auxier), *Circus Mirandus* (Beasley), *A Path Begins [Thickety]* (White)

Reading group guide: http://www.simonandschuster.com/books/The-Nest/Kenneth-Oppel/9781481432337/reading_group_guide

Next book: *Inkling* (2018)



2018 ORCA Middle School Nominees

Orbiting Jupiter

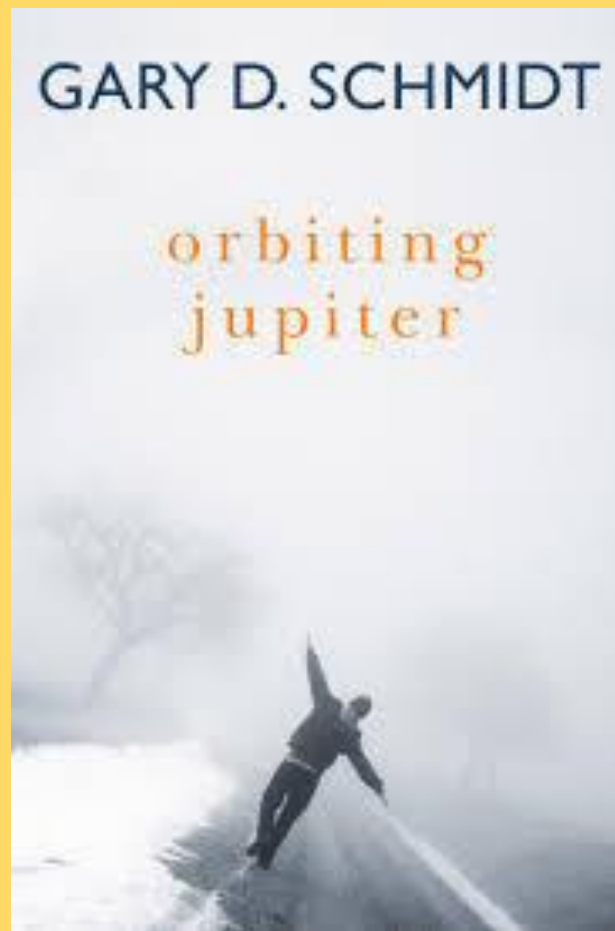
Gary Schmidt

- ◆ALA Notable Book for Children, Older Readers
- ◆YALSA 2017 Best Fiction for Young Adults
- ◆VOYA's Perfect Tens; 2015

Author website: <http://www.hmhbooks.com/schmidt/>

Read-alike: *The Crossover* (Alexander), *House Arrest* (Holt), *The Seventh Most Important Thing* (Pearsall)

BookPage interview: <https://bookpage.com/interviews/18869-gary-d-schmidt#.WPkvjLi1uUk>



2018 ORCA Middle School Nominees

Lumberjanes, Vol. 1: Beware the Kitten Holy

Noelle Stevenson

◆ Will Eisner Comic Industry Award for Best New Series

Author website: <http://www.gingerhaze.com/>

Read-alikes: *Ms. Marvel* (Wilson), *The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl* (North)

Sequels: *Vol. 2: Friendship to the Max*, *Vol. 3: A Terrible Plan*, *Vol. 4: Out of Time*, *Vol. 5: Band Together*, *Vol. 6: Sink or Swim*

Mini Wonder Woman comic:

<http://www.dccomics.com/blog/2015/02/11/exclusive-preview-sensation-comics-featuring-wonder-woman-chap-24>



2018 ORCA High School Nominees

The Wrath and the Dawn

Renée Ahdieh

◆ Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Young Adult Fantasy and Science Fiction

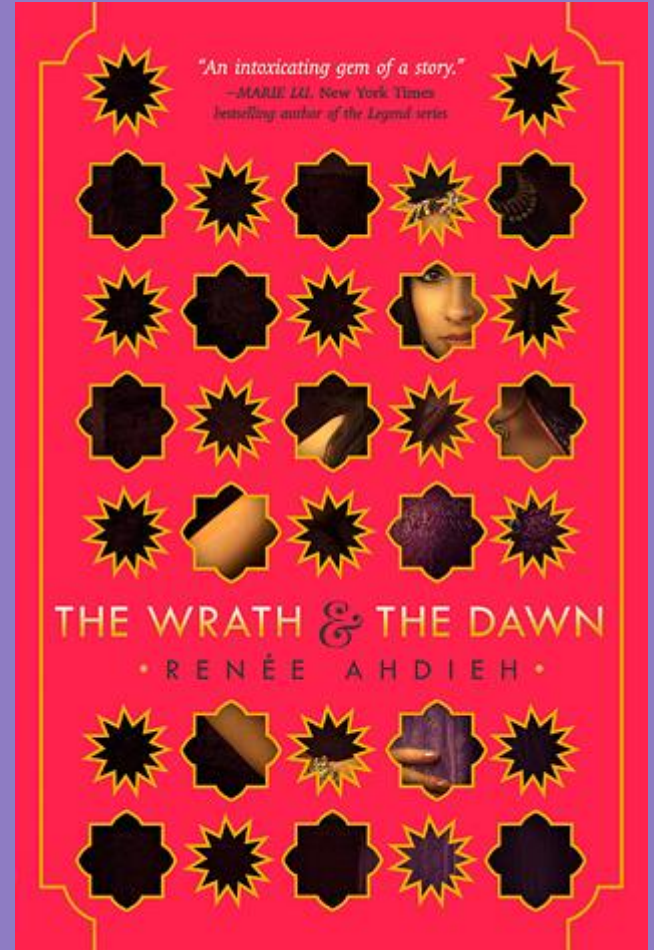
◆ 2017-2018 Oregon Battle of the Books

Author website: <http://www.reneeahdieh.com/>

Sequel: *The Rose and the Dagger*

Read-alikes: *Red Queen* (Aveyard), *An Ember in the Ashes* (Tahir), *Illuminae* (Kaufman), *The Scorpion Rules* (Bow), *A Thousand Nights* (Johnston), *The Arabian Nights*

Next book: *Flame in the Mist* (May 2017)



2018 ORCA High School Nominees

The Game of Love and Death

Martha Brockenbrough

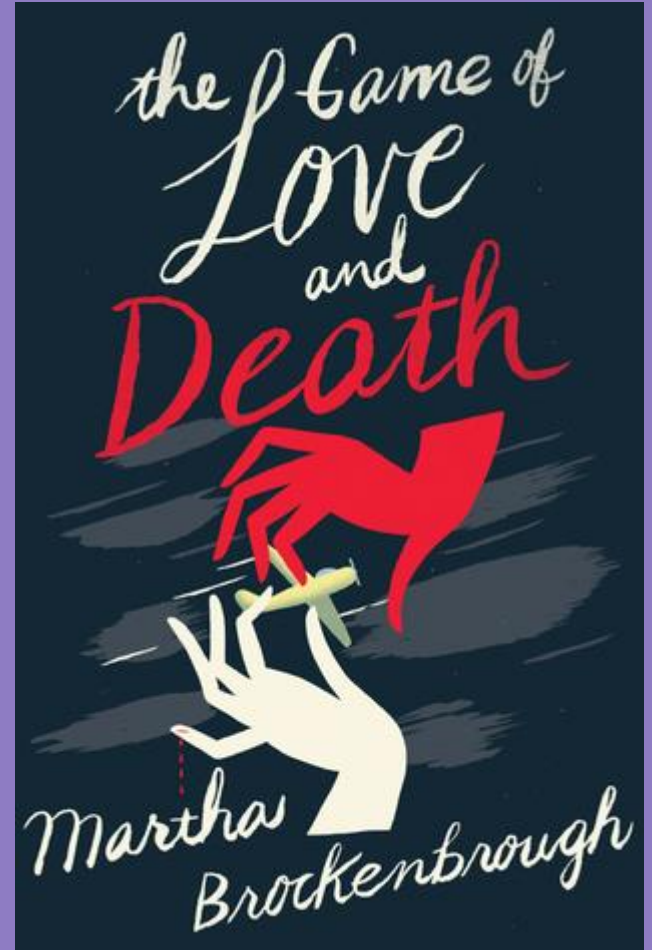
- ◆ Kirkus Prize Nominee for Young Readers' Literature
- ◆ Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award Winner
- ◆ YALSA Teens Top Ten

Author website: <http://martha-brockenbrough.squarespace.com/>

Read-alikes: *Walk on Earth a Stranger* (Carson), *The Book Thief* (Zusak), *Symphony for the City of the Dead* (Anderson)

Next book: *Alexander Hamilton, Revolutionary* (September 2017)

Fun fact: Local-ish author who lives in Seattle!



2018 ORCA High School Nominees

The Weight of Feathers

Anna-Marie McLemore

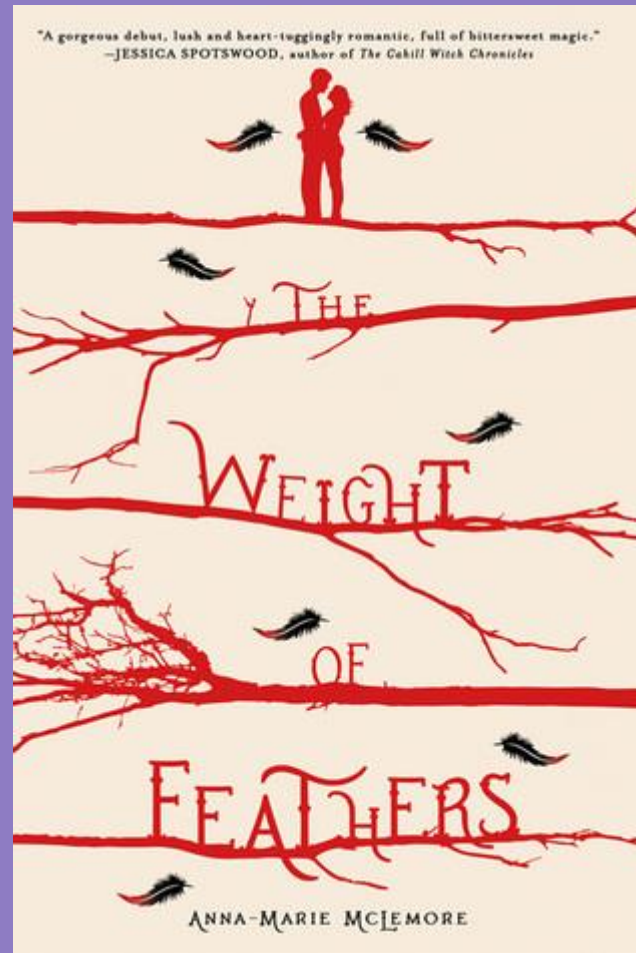
◆ Morris Award Nominee

Author website: <http://author.annamariemclemore.com/>

Read-alikes: *Bone Gap* (Ruby), *The Accident Season* (Fowley-Doyle),
The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender (Walton)

Discussion guide: <http://images.macmillan.com/folio-assets/discusion-guides/9781250058652DG.pdf>

Next book: *Wild Beauty* (October 2017)



2018 ORCA High School Nominees

Dumplin'

Julie Murphy

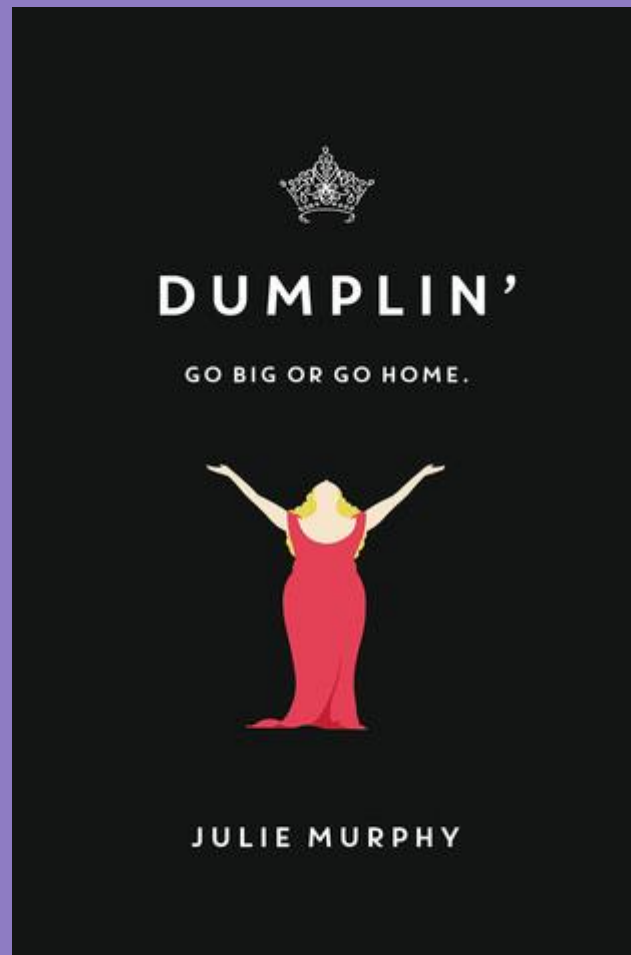
- ◆ Amelia Bloomer Project
- ◆ Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Young Adult Fiction

Author website: <http://juliemurphywrites.com/>

Read-alikes: *Gabi, a Girl in Pieces* (Quintero), *Not Otherwise Specified* (Moskowitz), *I Was Here* (Forman), *The Boy in the Black Suit* (Reynolds)

Next book: *Ramona Blue* (May 2017)

Fun fact: Wrote her first novel during NaNoWriMo while working as a librarian!



2018 ORCA High School Nominees

All American Boys

Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

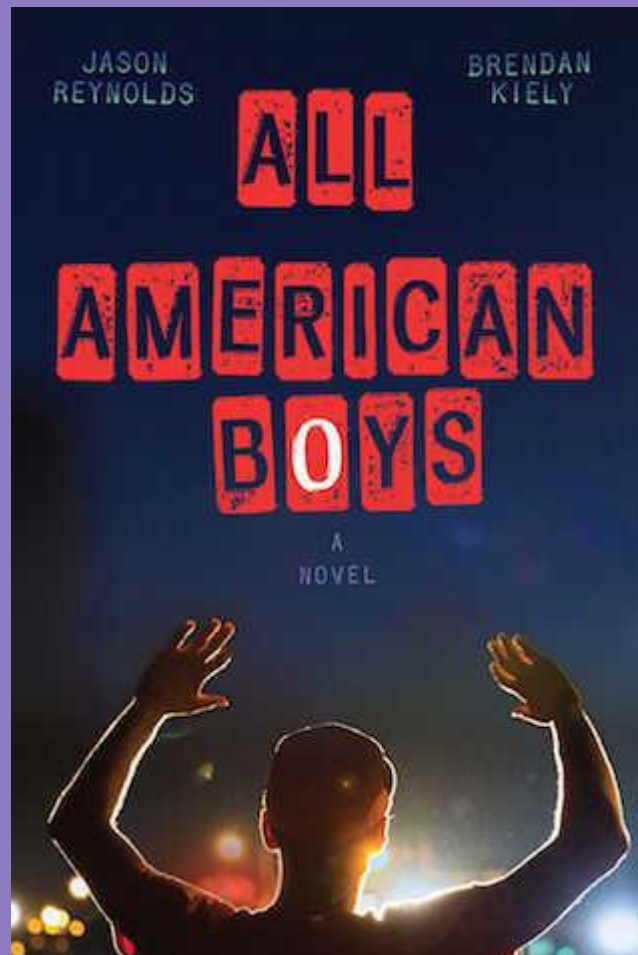
◆ Coretta Scott King Honor

Author website: <http://www.jasonwritesbooks.com/>

Read-alikes: *How It Went Down* (Magoon), *X* (Shabazz), *This Side of Home* (Watson), *Between the World and Me* (Coates)

Reading group guide: http://www.simonandschuster.com/books/All-American-Boys/Jason-Reynolds/9781481463331/reading_group_guide

Keynote address at ABC Children's Institute: <http://www.shelf-awareness.com/issue.html?issue=2976#m36112>



2018 ORCA High School Nominees

More Happy Than Not

Adam Silvera

◆ Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Young Adult Fiction

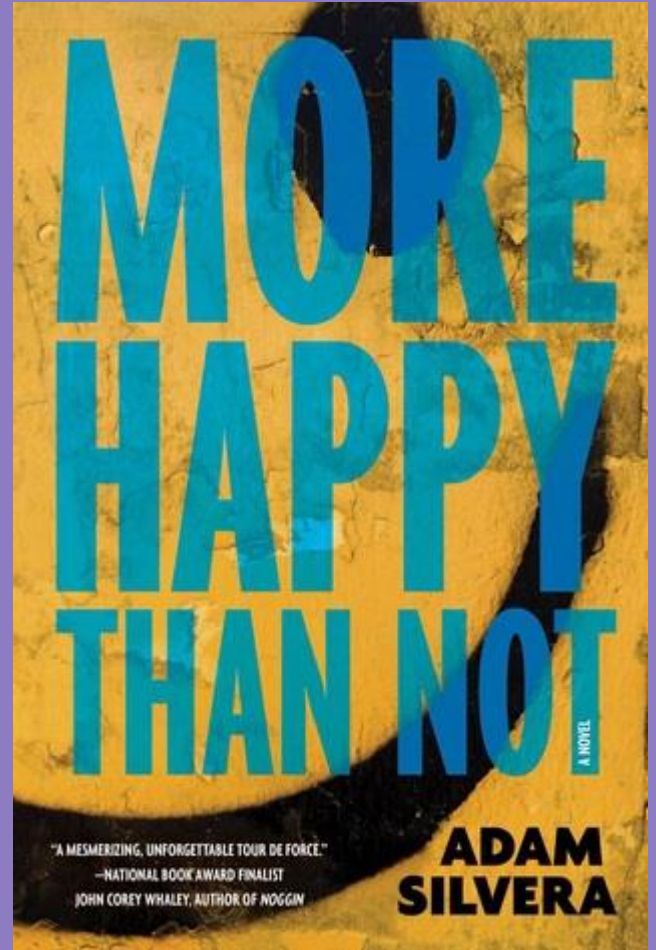
Author website: <http://www.adamsilvera.com/>

Read-alikes: *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* (Albertalli), *The Rest of Us Just Live Here* (Ness), *None of the Above* (Gregorio), *Honor Girl* (Thrash), *We Are the Ants* (Hutchinson)

Next book: *They Both Die at the End* (September 2017)

Fun fact: Silvera published this book (his first) before turning 25, which was a goal of his!

Fun fact #2: Interviewed Ahdieh! <https://youtu.be/BLiW6M044n0>



2018 ORCA High School Nominees

Nimona

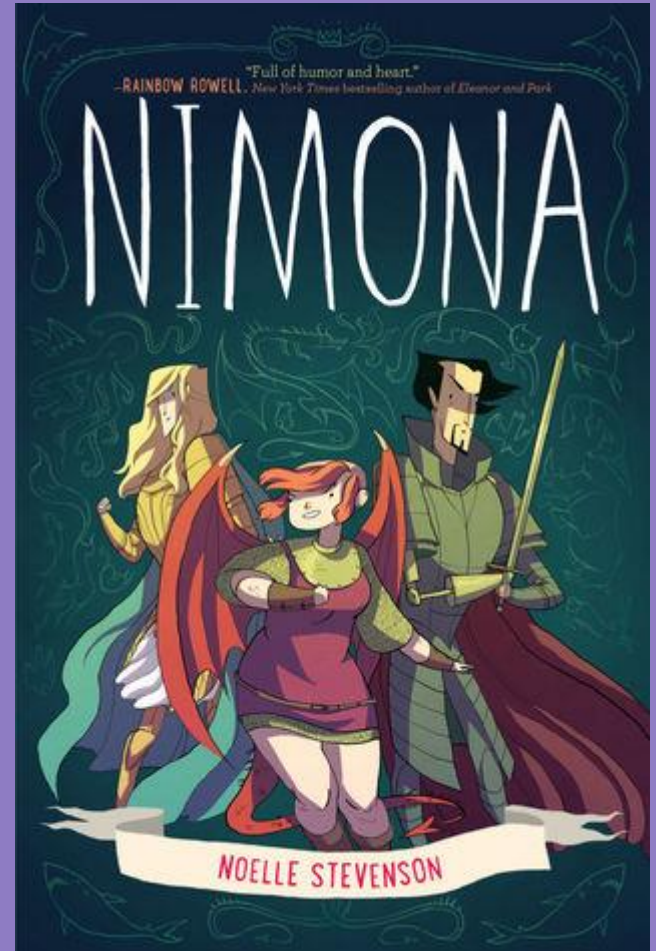
Noelle Stevenson

- ◆ National Book Award Finalist
- ◆ Will Eisner Comic Award for Best Graphic Album Reprint
- ◆ Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Graphic Novels and Comics

Author website: <http://www.gingerhaze.com/>

Read-alikes: *Carry On* (Rowell), *Uprooted* (Novik), *The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl, Vol. 1* (North), *Six of Crows* (Bardugo)

Fun fact: Stevenson used the webcomic as her senior thesis at the Maryland Institute College of Art



2018 ORCA High School Nominees

Everything, Everything

Nicola Yoon

- ◆ Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Debut Author
- ◆ Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Young Adult Fiction

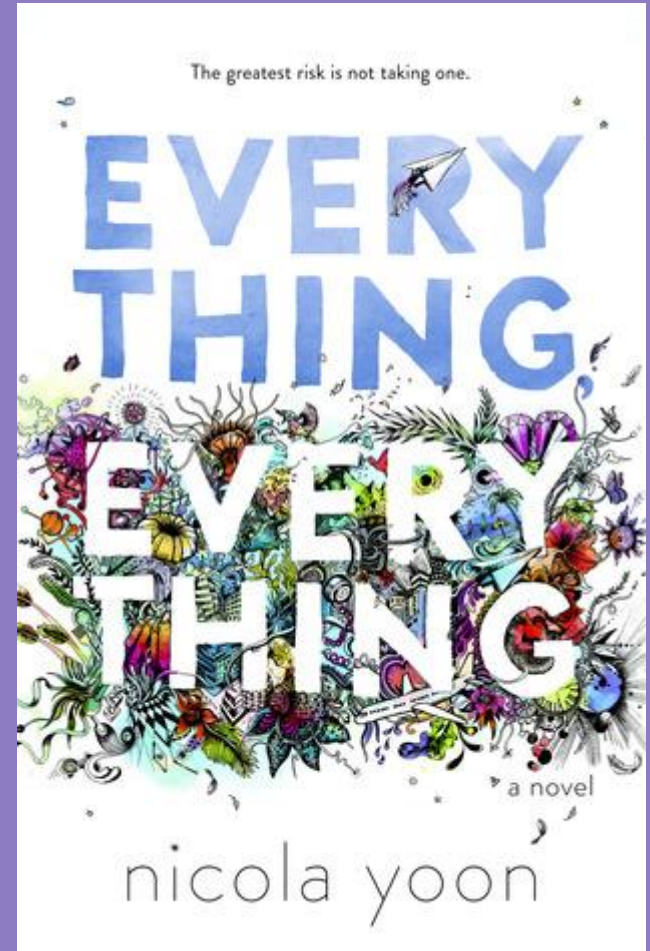
Author website: <http://www.nicolayoon.com/>

Read-alikes: *The Fault in Our Stars* (Green), *Highly Illogical Behavior* (Whaley), *One* (Crossan), *All the Bright Places* (Niven)

Discussion guide:

<http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/resource/everything-everything-discussion-guide/>

Movie trailer: <https://youtu.be/42KNwQ6u42U>



For ORCA Resources, Visit the Blog...

<https://oregonreaderschoiceaward.wordpress.com/>

If you are interested in being involved with the ORCA Committee,
contact the Chair (Kiva) at orca@olaweb.org

Thank you!