

2021 Oregon Library Association Conference -- 4/22/2021

ORCA -- Books that Engage Students

Lori Lieberman
Teacher Librarian at Lincoln High School, Portland
ORCA Chair 2020-2022

Special thanks to my Lincoln HS Library TA's Leah Etchison, Lia Godino, and Sasha Harriman

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: Lori Lieberman (Lincoln High School, Portland)

Dawn Alexander (Tom McCall ES, Redmond)

Laura Axon (Forest Park ES & Sellwood MS, Portland)

Jen Blair (Beaverton School District)

MaryKay Dahlgreen (Lincoln County Library District)

Earl Dizon (Green Bean Books, Portland)

Ellie Gilbert (St. Mary's Academy, Portland)

Amy Korst (Willamina High School)

Carol Lauritzen (Oregon State Literacy Association)

Anna Moser (Oregon State Literacy Association)

Heather Roberts (Durham ES & Byrom ES, Tigard-Tualatin)

Marian Rose (Seaside Public Library)

Geralyn Schultz (Wilsonville Public Library)

Kathy Street (Oregon Trail Library District)



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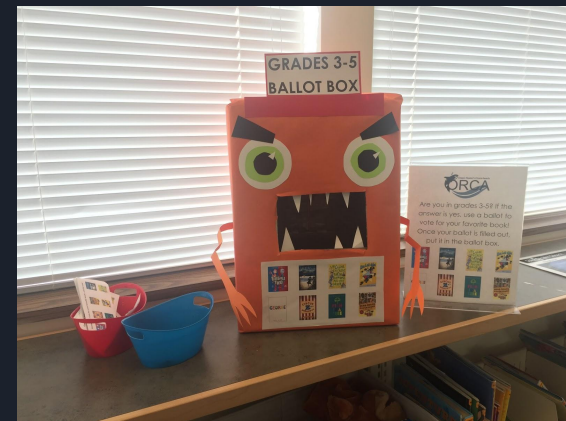
Title Selection

Criteria: The committee creates the final ballots based upon a number of criteria, including literary quality, creativity, reading enjoyment, reading level, and diversity.

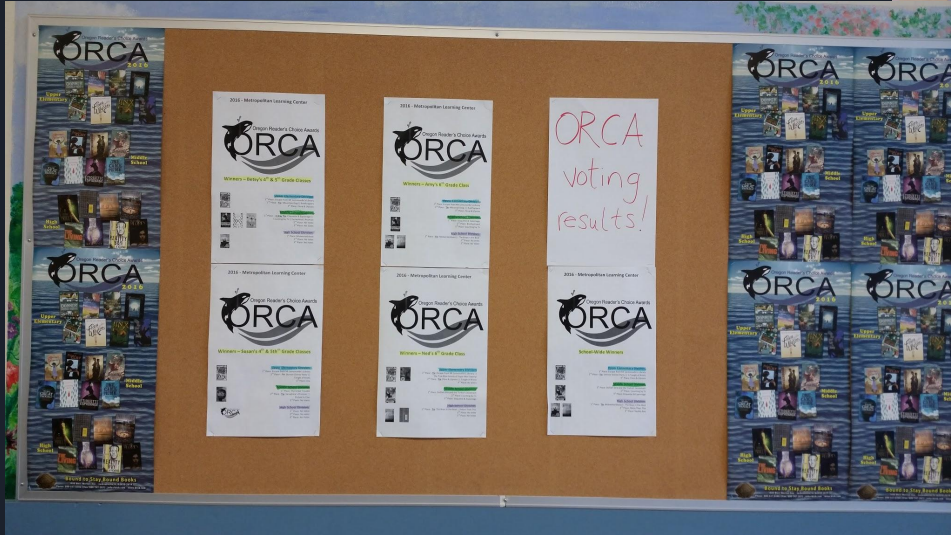
Look for the link to submit public nominations in the winter!



Using ORCA in your schools and libraries



Using ORCA in your schools and libraries





Check out the ORCA Resource Guide!

[2020-2021 ORCA Resource Guide](#)

Here you'll find booktalks, read-alikes, and additional resources for each of the nominated books.

The 2021-2022 ORCA Resource Guide is in the works and should be up on the ORCA site by mid-June.

And the 2021 winners are...



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

2021 ORCA Grades 3-5 Winner

Front Desk (Front Desk #1)

Kelly Yang

- ◆ Asian Pacific American Award for Literature
- ◆ Parents' Choice Gold Medal
- ◆ Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Middle Grade and Children's

Read-alikes: *Other Words for Home* (Warga), *Merci Suarez Changes Gears* (Medina), *The Best At It* (Pancholy)

Author's website: <https://www.kellyyang.com/>



2021 ORCA Grades 6-8 Winner

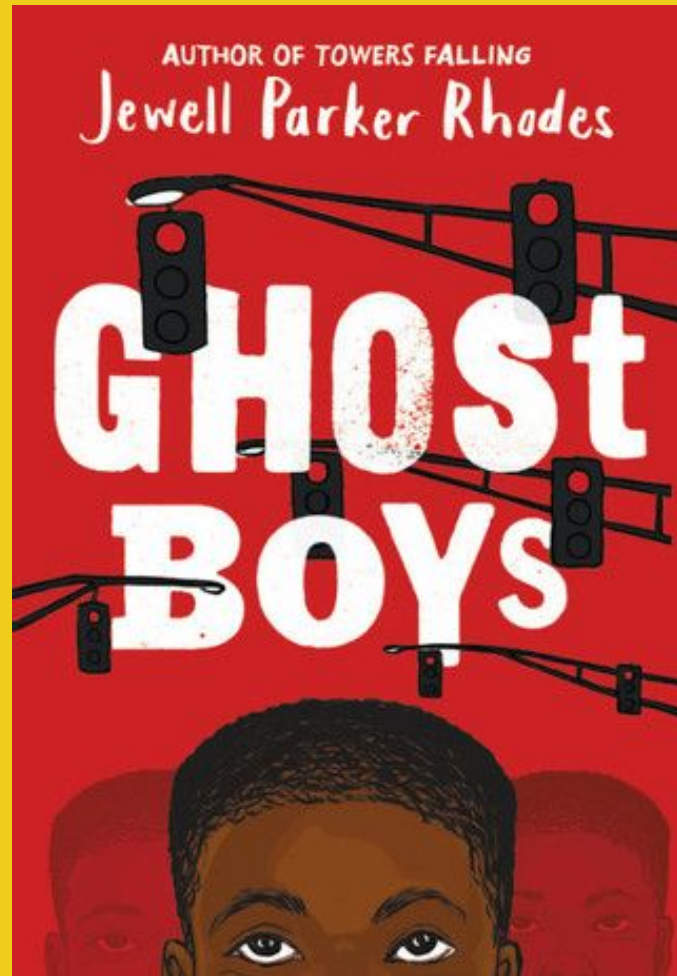
Ghost Boys

Jewell Parker Rhodes

- ◆ Jane Addams Children's Book Award
- ◆ E.B. White Read-Aloud Middle Reader Award
- ◆ YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Readers
- ◆ Goodreads Choice Award Finalist for Middle Grade and Children's

Read-alikes: *Clean Getaway* (Stone), *A Wreath for Emmett Till* (Nelson), *Midnight Without a Moon* (Williams Jackson)

Author's website: <http://jewellparkerrhodes.com/children/>



2021 ORCA Grades 9-12 Winner

The Poet X

Elizabeth Acevedo

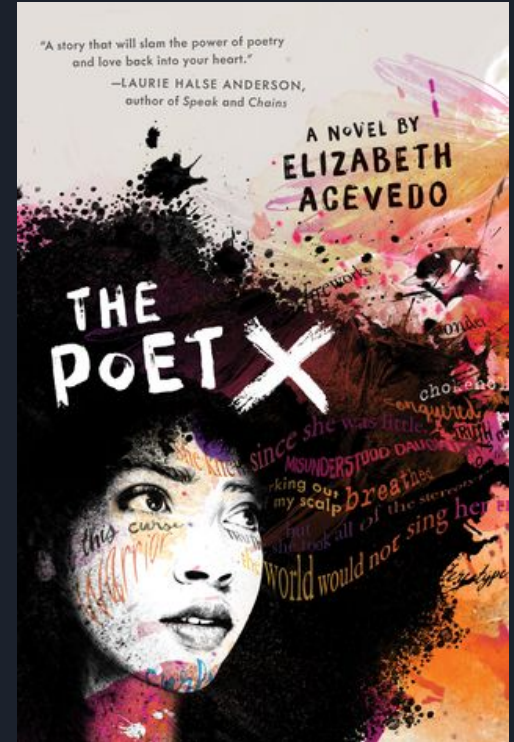
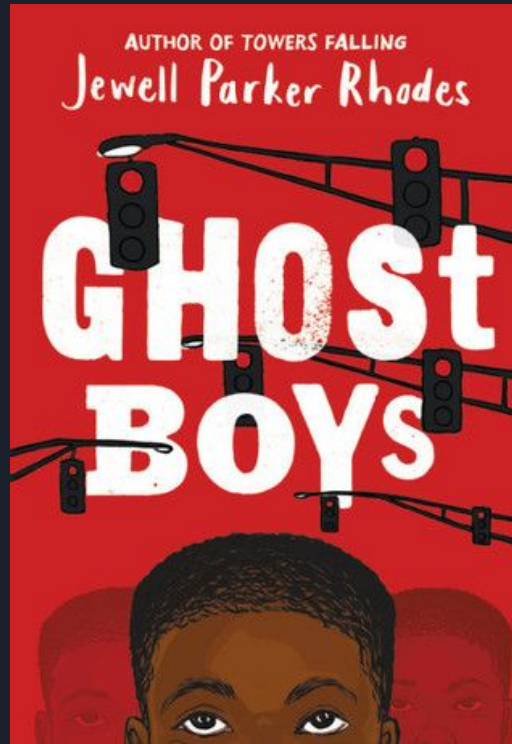
- ◆ Printz Award
- ◆ National Book Award for Young People's Literature
- ◆ Carnegie Medal

Read-alikes: *On the Come Up* (Thomas), *Punching The Air* (Zoboi)

Author's website: <http://www.acevedowrites.com/about>



2021 Winners

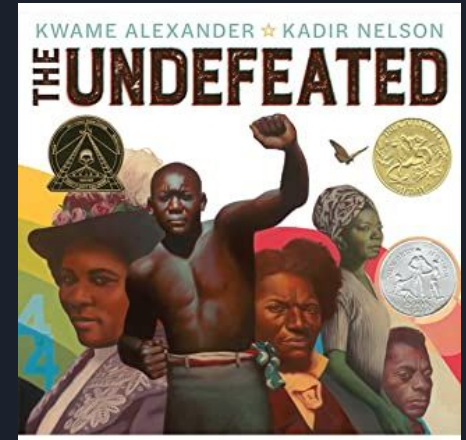
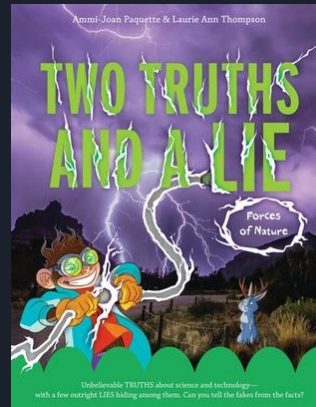
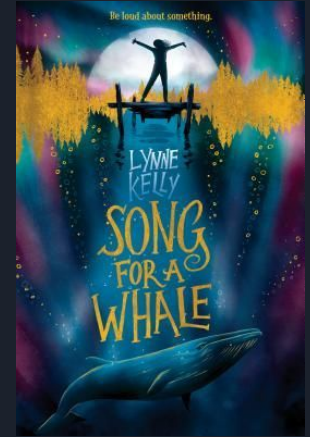
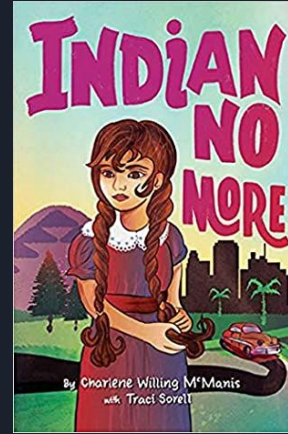
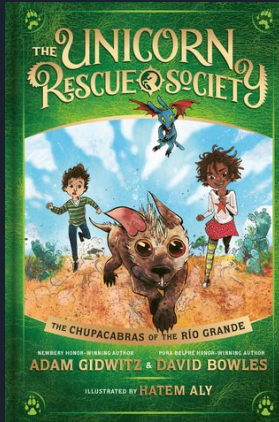


And the 2021-2022 ORCA Nominees are...

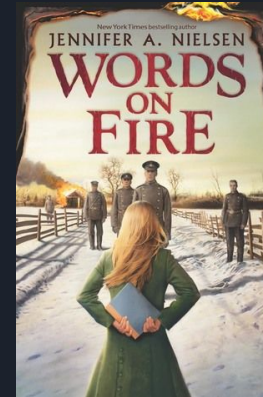
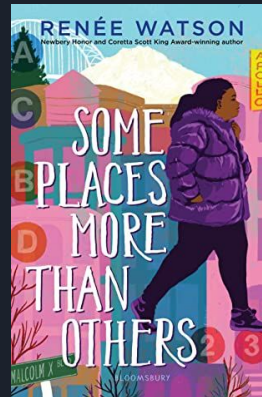
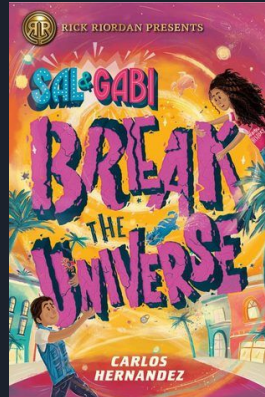
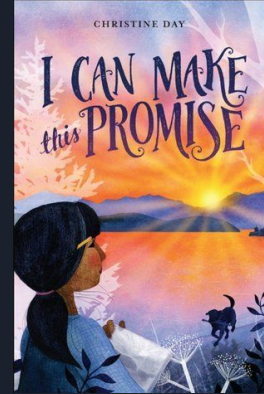
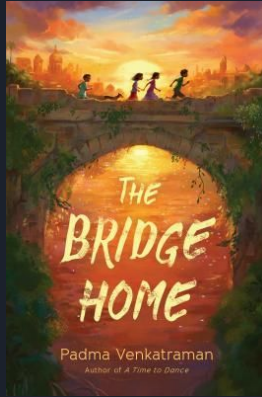


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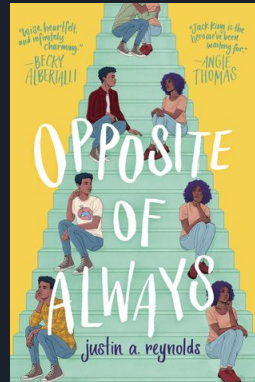
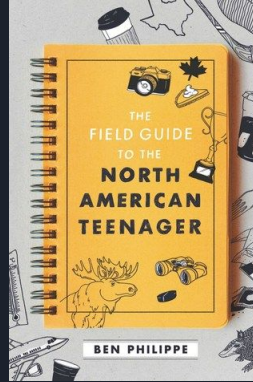
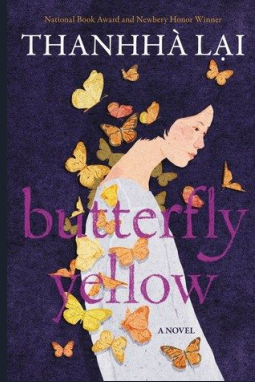
Grades 3-5 Division



Grades 6-8 Division



Grades 9-12 Division



Grades 3-5

The Chupacabras of the Rio Grande (The Unicorn Rescue Society #4) by Adam Gidwitz and David Bowles with illustrations by Hatem Aly
Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee
Indian No More by Charlene Willing McManis with Traci Sorell
Song for a Whale by Lynne Kelly
Stargazing by Jen Wang
The Strangers (The Greystone Secrets #1) by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Two Truths and a Lie: Forces of Nature by Ammi-Joan Paquette and Laurie Ann Thompson
The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander with illustrations by Kadir Nelson

Grades 6-8

The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman
Free Lunch by Rex Ogle
Gabi & Sal Break the Universe (Gabi and Sal #1) by Carlos Hernandez
**I Can Make This Promise* by Christine Day
Maybe He Just Likes You by Barbara Dee
Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga
**Some Places More Than Others* by Renee Watson
Words on Fire by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Grades 9-12

Butterfly Yellow by Thanhha Lai
**The Field Guide to the North American Teenager* by Ben Philippe
Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me by Mariko Tamaki with illustrations by Rosemary Valero-O'Connell
**Lovely War* by Julie Berry
On the Come Up by Angie Thomas
Opposite of Always by Justin A. Reynolds
**Patron Saints of Nothing* by Randy Ribay
With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo

* = title is also on 2021-2022 OBOB list

Questions? Comments?
Genius ideas?

Contact:

orca@olaweb.org

Resources:

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