



Mark Twain Award

2019 Nominees

Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

J APP

Red is an oak tree who is many rings old and is the neighborhood “wishtree.” People write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red’s branches. Along with the animals seeking refuge in Red’s hollows, this wishtree watches over the neighborhood. A new family moves in, but not everyone is welcoming. Red’s value as a wishtree is more important than ever.

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus

by Dusti Bowling

J BOW

Aven Green was born without arms due to a rare genetic condition. When her adoptive parents change jobs, Aven leaves behind her comfortable social life and has to start over. New friends and a mystery help Aven adjust to middle school and life at the dying western theme park where her parents work.

Walking With Miss Millie by Tamara Bundy

J BUN

After moving with her mother to Grandma’s small Georgia town, Alice feels isolated. She takes charge of walking her elderly neighbor’s dog and develops an enlightening friendship with the dog’s owner.

The Loser’s Club by Andrew Clements

J CLE

Bookworm Alec is always in trouble for reading instead of listening and participating in class. When he starts a book club solely to have a place to read, he discovers that real life, although messy, can be as exciting as the stories in his favorite books.

The Peculiar Incident on Shady Street

by Lindsay Currie

J CUR

When lights start flickering and temperatures suddenly drop, 12-year-old Tessa senses that her new house may be haunted. She recruits some new friends to help her unravel the mystery of who or what is trying to communicate with her and why.

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Halfway Normal by *Barbara Dee*

J DEE

After two years of treatment, cancer survivor Norah struggles to fit in at middle school. She finds her voice with the help of new friend Griffin, who shares her love of mythology.

Saving Marty by *Paul Griffin*

J GRI

When Lorenzo adopts a runt piglet destined for auction, an unexpected, life-changing friendship forms.

One for Sorrow by *Mary Downing Hahn*

J HAH

When unlikeable Elsie dies in the influenza pandemic of 1918, she comes back to haunt Annie to make sure she'll be Annie's best, and only, friend.

Real Friends by *Shannon Hale*

J 741.5973 HAL

When her best friend Adrienne starts hanging out with the most popular girl in class, Shannon questions whether she and Adrienne will stay friends.

Restart by *Gordon Korman*

J KOR

Chase does not remember falling off the roof. In fact, he does not remember anything. He begins learning who he was through the reactions of fellow middle-schoolers. He's not sure he likes the old Chase, but can he take this opportunity to start over?

Mustaches for Maddie

by *Shelly Brown & Chad Morris*

J MOR

Inspired by a true story. Maddie is a normal 12-year-old, but a CT scan reveals she has a brain tumor. It will take all her imagination and courage and the support of her friends and family to meet this new challenge.

Joplin, Wishing by *Diane Stanley*

J STA

Joplin finds a broken platter among her grandfather's things. Once repaired, she wishes she could make a friend at school and to befriend the girl pictured in the platter. Her wishes come true, and she learns that the girl in the platter, Sofie, is cursed to grant all wishes to the platter's owner. Joplin and her new friend promise to free Sofie, but come up against a sinister foe.

