



Mark Twain Award

2020 Nominees

24 Hours in Nowhere by *Dusti Bowling* J BOW

Welcome to Nowhere, Arizona, the least livable town in the United States. For Gus, life there is made even worse by Bo Taylor, Nowhere's biggest, baddest bully. Rossi Scott comes to Gus' rescue—but in return she has to give Bo her prized dirt bike. Determined to buy it back, Gus agrees to go searching for gold, joined by his old friends Jessie Navarro and Matthew Dufort, and Rossi herself.

The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle by *Leslie Connor* J CON

As he grieves his best friend Benny's death, Mason and his friend Calvin, who are targeted by the neighborhood bullies, create an underground haven for themselves, but when Calvin goes missing Mason finds himself in trouble.

Blended by *Sharon M. Draper* J DRA

Piano-prodigy Isabella, age 11, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police.

The Ambrose Deception by *Emily Ecton* J ECT

Three Chicago students, Melissa, Wilf, and Bondi, are unlikely participants in a competition for a \$10,000 scholarship, unaware that there is much more at stake.

The Night Diary by *Veera Hiranandani* J HIR

Shy 12-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world by writing to her deceased mother in her diary.

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Daniel Boone Regional Library
www.dbrl.org

The Doughnut Fix by *Jessie Janowitz* J JAN

When his family moves to tiny Petersville, 11-year-old Tris stops focusing on his perfect sister, Jeanine, by using his cooking expertise to revive a town tradition of chocolate cream doughnuts.

The Science of Breakable Things by *Tae Keller* J KEL

Middle schooler Natalie's year-long assignment to answer a question using the scientific method leads to truths about her mother's depression and her own cultural identity.

The Unforgettable Guinevere St. Clair by *Amy Makechnie* J MAK

As 10-year-old Gwyn searches for a missing neighbor in her new town in Iowa, she learns much about her mother, who grew up there but has suffered from memory loss.

Squint by *Chad Morris and Shelly Brown* J MOR

Flint Minett has the eye disease keratoconus but desperately wants to win a comic book art contest so that he and his new friend will be better accepted at middle school.

Captain Superlative! by *J.S. Puller* J PUL

Janey, a quiet outsider, is inspired by the eccentric and enigmatic Captain Superlative, a masked superhero who runs through the halls of their middle school performing radical acts of kindness.

Amal Unbound by *Aisha Saeed* J SAE

Amal's dream of becoming a teacher is dashed when she accidentally insults a member of her village's ruling family. As punishment, she is forced to leave her family and go work at their estate.

Front Desk by *Kelly Yang* J YAN

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. 2: Her parents hide immigrants. 3: She wants to be a writer. Will she be able to hold onto her job, help the immigrants and go for her dreams?