



Truman Readers Award

2020 Nominees

The Benefits of Being an Octopus

by Ann Braden

J BRA

Seventh-grader Zoey Albro focuses on caring for three younger siblings and avoiding rich classmates at school until her fascination with octopuses gets her on the debate team and she begins to speak out.

Not If I Save You First

by Ally Carter

YA CAR

Maddie lived in Washington D.C. with her father, a Secret Service agent assigned to the President's family, and her best friend was Logan, the President's son — until her father was wounded and the two of them moved to Alaska. Now Logan has suddenly turned up on her doorstep, and she has to save him from the winter wilderness and the men who are pursuing him.

Fire & Heist

by Sarah Beth Durst

YA DUR

As Sky Hawkins, a were-dragon, faces her first heist, she discovers secrets about her missing mother, the true reason her boyfriend broke up with her and the valuable jewel that could restore her family's wealth and rank.

Lifeboat 12

by Susan Hood

J HOO

In 1940, a group of British children, their escorts, and some sailors struggle to survive in a lifeboat when the ship taking them to safety in Canada is torpedoed.

Mascot

by Antony John

J JOH

Noah Savino has been stuck in a wheelchair for months, and he's scared he'll never feel like his old self again. With the help of family and friends, he'll have to throw off the mask he's been hiding behind and face the fears that have kept him on the sidelines.

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Deep Water

by Watt Key

J KEY

When a dive off the coast of Alabama goes horribly wrong, 12-year-old Julie and one of her father's scuba clients struggle to survive after reaching an abandoned oil rig.

The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl

by Stacy McAnulty

J MACA

A lightning strike made Lucy, age 12, a math genius. After years of homeschooling, her grandmother enrolls her in middle school and she learns that life is more than numbers.

Ghost Boys

by Jewell Parker Rhodes

J RHO

After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till.

Skyward

by Brandon Sanderson

YA SAN

When a long-term attack against her world by the alien Krell escalates, Spensa's dream of becoming a pilot may come true, despite her deceased father being labeled a deserter.

City of Ghosts

by Victoria Schwab

J SCH

Ever since her near-fatal drowning, Cassidy has been able to pull back the "Veil" that separates the living from the dead and see ghosts. When the family travels to Scotland, Cass and her ghost companion, Jacob, are about to find out that a city of old ghosts can be a very dangerous place indeed.

Impostors

by Scott Westerfeld

YA WES

Frey and Rafi are twin sisters. When their father sends Frey in her sister's place as collateral in a tricky deal, Col, the son of a rival leader, gets close enough to begin to suspect something and Frey must decide whether to deal with him violently or finally assume her own identity.

Nightbooks

by J. A. White

J WHI

Alex's original hair-raising tales are the only thing keeping the witch Natacha happy, but soon he'll run out of pages to read from and be trapped forever. Now that Alex is in his own unhappy tale, he's desperate for a different ending.

