



Truman Readers Award

2022 Nominees

The Canyon's Edge by *Dusti Bowling* J BOW

A year after her mother dies in a restaurant shooting, Nora is left struggling to stay alive when a climbing trip with her father goes terribly wrong. Suddenly, Nora finds herself lost and alone in the desert, facing dehydration, venomous scorpions, deadly snakes and, worst of all, the Beast who terrorizes her dreams.

Fighting Words by *Kimberly Brubaker Bradley* J BRA

Ten-year-old Della can rely on her older sister, Suki, for anything. But when Suki attempts suicide, Della must seek help and speak out about the sexual abuse they've both suffered at the hands of their mother's boyfriend.

The Light in Hidden Places by *Sharon Cameron* YA CAM

Sixteen-year-old Stefania has worked in a Jewish family's grocery store for four years, even falling in love with their son Izio. When the Nazis invade Poland, Stefania embarks on a dangerous course: protecting thirteen Jews in her attic, caring for her younger sister and keeping everything secret from the two Nazi officers living in her house.

The Stars We Steal by *Alexa Donne* YA DON

Princess Leonie 'Leo' Kolburg, heir to a faded European spaceship, only has one thing on her mind: which lucky bachelor can save her family from financial ruin? When her childhood friend and first love Elliot returns as a successful ship captain, everything changes. And he seems determined to make Leo's life miserable in a game of love, lies and past regrets.

96 Miles by *J.L. Esplin* J ESP

The Lockwood brothers are supposed to be able to survive anything. But when they're robbed of all the stockpiled supplies in their isolated Nevada home while their dad is out of town, John and Stew must walk 96 miles in the stark desert sun to get help.

Closer to Nowhere by *Ellen Hopkins* J HOP

Told in two voices, sixth-grade cousins Hannah and Cal learn a lot about family when circumstances throw them together under one roof and Hannah's love of order clashes with Cal's chaotic behavior.

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We Dream of Space by *Erin Entrada Kelly* J KEL

It's 1986, and Cash, Fitch and Bird Thomas are in seventh grade together. As the country waits expectantly for the launch of the space shuttle Challenger, the siblings exist in their own orbits, circling a tense and unpredictable household. When the fated day finally arrives, it changes all of their lives and brings them together in unexpected ways.

The Kinder Poison by *Natalie Mae* YA MAE

Zahru has long dreamed of leaving the kingdom of Orkena behind for a life of adventure. But as a lowly Whisperer, her power to commune with animals means that she must serve in the royal stables. Zahru's life is thrown into chaos when she gets caught in a feud between the kingdom's heirs and is marked as a human sacrifice.

Glitch by *Laura Martin* J MAR

Regan and Elliot have been enemies since they started training to become Glitchers — people who travel through time to preserve important historical events. But everything changes when they find a letter from Regan's future self, warning them of an impending disaster. Will they be able to set aside their past in order to save the future?

Splinters of Scarlet by *Emily Bain Murphy* YA MUR

In nineteenth-century Copenhagen, an orphaned seamstress goes to work for a retired ballerina and uses her magic to investigate her father's mysterious death while working for the same family years ago.

Tornado Brain by *Cat Patrick* J PAT

Things never seem to go as easily for neurodivergent Frankie as they do for her twin sister, Tess. When Frankie's only friend, Colette, vanishes, she is convinced that Colette left clues behind that only she can decipher. Will Frankie and Tess be able to unravel the mystery before it's too late?

Before the Ever After by *Jacqueline Woodson* J WOO

ZJ's friends Ollie, Darry and Daniel help him cope when his father, a beloved professional football player, suffers severe headaches and memory loss that could spell the end of his career.



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