



Mark Twain Award

2023 Nominees

A Place to Hang the Moon by *Kate Albus* J ALB

In World War II-era England, orphaned siblings William, Edmund and Anna are evacuated from London to live in the countryside, where they bounce from home to home in search of someone willing to adopt them permanently.

Once Upon a Camel by *Kathi Appelt* J APP

Zada the camel has won royal races, crossed treacherous oceans and led army missions. Now Zada wanders the desert as the last camel in Texas. But two tiny kestrel chicks and a dust storm the size of a mountain are taking Zada on one more grand adventure.

Worst-Case Collin by *Rebecca Caprara* J CAP

Ever since he lost his mom, Collin's been preparing for everything that could possibly go wrong — avalanches, riptides, even a case of bad breath. Meanwhile, his dad's hoarding is spiraling out of control. With the help of his friends, can Collin learn to be vulnerable, even when he can't plan for every possible scenario?

The Night Ride by *J. Anderson Coats* J COA

Sonnia loves horses more than anything, and she's saving her coins to buy her beloved Ricochet. When Sonnia lands a job at the royal racetrack, she discovers the secret Night Ride, a dangerous and illegal race in the darkest hours before dawn. Is Sonnia willing to risk it all to protect Ricochet?

Nightingale by *Deva Fagan* J FAG

Determined to escape her squalid life, 12-year-old Lark steals a magical sword from the Royal Museum. With the sword in her possession, she reluctantly becomes the next Nightingale, destined to vanquish an ancient evil.

The Lion of Mars by *Jennifer L. Holm* J HOL

Bell has spent his whole life on Mars, but the adults on the colony are keeping a dangerous secret. When a mysterious virus breaks out, all the grown-ups fall ill. It's up to Bell — a regular kid in a very different world — to uncover the truth and maybe even unite an entire planet.

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Six Feet Below Zero by *Ena Jones* J JON

Rosie and Baker's now-dead Great Grammy made them promise to pretend she's alive until they find her missing will. Otherwise, their evil grandmother Grim Hesper will sell the house and ship Rosie and Baker off to boarding school. They've already lost their parents and Great Grammy — they can't lose each other, too.

Linked by *Gordon Korman* J KOR

Link, Michael and Dana's small town is shaken up when someone vandalizes their school with a swastika. The closer this trio gets to the truth, the more there is to face — not just the crimes of the present, but the crimes of the past. Can a paper chain project bring them all together?

The Hidden Knife by *Melissa Marr* J MAR

There's so much Vicky doesn't know about her life — like why her mother keeps her hidden away under the watchful eye of a gargoyle or why she can't train at the elite Corvus school. But when tragedy strikes, Vicky knows it's finally time to use her gifts, and the best place to avenge her family is at Corvus.

Pony by *R.J. Palacio* J PAL

Silas is awoken in the dead of night when three menacing horsemen drag his father away. Now he's alone, save for Mittenwool, his constant companion who happens to be a ghost. When a pony shows up at his door, Silas saddles up and embarks on a perilous journey to find his father.

One Kid's Trash by *Jamie Sumner* J SUM

Hugo is not happy about his dad dragging them halfway across Colorado. But when his new classmates discover his remarkable talent for garbology, the science of studying trash, Hugo becomes the cool kid for the first time in his life.

Tangled Up in Luck by *Merrill Wyatt* J WYA

Seventh-grade enemies Sloane and Amelia are paired up for a research project about long-lost jewels. When they find clues hidden for nearly a century, they realize that the answers to this unsolved case might be much closer to home than they thought.





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