



Mark Twain Award

2025 Nominees

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Four Eyes by Rex Ogle

J GN FOU

Sixth grade isn't as great as Rex thought it would be. He's the only kid who hasn't had a growth spurt, and the bullies won't let him forget it. With so much going on, everything is a blur — including Rex's vision. When he discovers that he needs glasses and his family can only afford the ugliest pair in the store, any hope Rex had of fitting in goes out of focus.

Nothing Else But Miracles by Kate Albus

J ALB

When 12-year-old Dory Byrne's pop left New York City's Lower East Side to fight Hitler, he promised her and her brothers that they'd be safe. Like he always said, "the neighborhood will give you what you need." But when a new landlord threatens their home in the community that's raised them and kept them safe, the secret elevator — and the abandoned hotel it leads to — provides the solution they need.

The Cursed Moon by Angela Cervantes

J CER

Rafael Fuentes isn't easily scared. To take his mind off his mom's return from jail, Rafa spends an evening crafting the scariest ghost story he's ever told. As an eerie blood moon hangs in the sky, Rafa tells a group of friends about the Caretaker. Rafa is really proud of his latest creation, until strange things start to happen.

Farther Than the Moon by Lindsay Lackey

J LAC

All 13-year-old Houston Stewart has ever wanted is to become an astronaut. His dreams feel like they're finally coming true when he's accepted to the highly competitive Junior Astronaut Recruitment Program — if only he could bring his little brother, Robbie, with him.

A Work in Progress by Jarrett Lerner

J LER

Will is the only round kid in a school full of string beans. So he hides in baggy jeans and oversized hoodies in the back row during class. As he resorts to increasingly drastic measures to transform his appearance, Will meets skateboarder Markus, who helps him see his body and all it contains as an ever-evolving work in progress.

Extra Normal by Kate Alice Marshall

J MAR

Charlie Greer is nothing special — at least not compared to her adopted siblings. Her younger sister is a ghost. Her brother Mateo is a werewolf. Charlie's mom says her superpower is maturity, and what Charlie lacks in powers she makes up for by keeping the household running. Now, with her parents off on their first vacation in years, it's up to her to take care of her siblings and make sure nothing disrupts the trip.

When Sea Becomes Sky by Gillian McDunn

J MCD

As Pelican Island's history-making drought wears on, the water level on Bex and Davey's beloved marsh reveals the hand of a statue that has been underneath the water for who knows how long. The siblings are determined to find out more.

Lasagna Means I Love You

by Kate O'Shaughnessy

J OSH

When 11-year-old foster kid Mo finds a handmade cookbook filled with someone else's family recipes, she collects the stories behind them and builds a website to share them, secretly hoping a long-lost relative will find her and give her a family recipe all her own.

How to Stay Invisible by Maggie C. Rudd

J RUD

When 12-year-old Raymond and his pup Rosie are abandoned by his family, he uses his wilderness skills to survive in the woods. As winter comes, he realizes his wits are not enough, and that perhaps it is time he starts trusting others with his secret.

The Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle

by Taryn Souders

J SOU

Grady and his father inherit the town oddball's old tapestry and discover it is a highly coveted treasure map.

Hidden Truths by Elly Swartz

J SWA

Dani and Eric have been best friends since Dani moved next door in second grade — until one summer everything changes.

Jawbreaker by Christina Wyman

J WYM

Max Plink's life is complicated. The school bullies are relentless, and her own sister is the cruelest of them. Worst of all, her mouth is a mess, with a severe overbite. She already has braces, but now Max has to wear painful orthodontic headgear nicknamed "the jawbreaker."



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