



# Truman Readers Award

2026 Nominees

**Westfallen** by *Ann and Ben Brashares* J BRA

Told in alternating voices and timelines, twelve-year-old Henry and his two friends unknowingly alter the outcome of World War II when they communicate over the radio with three kids from 1944. Now they must work together to change it back.

**The Legend of the Last Library**  
by *Frank L. Cole* J COL

In a dystopian world where paper is scarce, Juni finds a book that reveals the location of a hidden library and faces threats from a powerful corporation determined to control it.

**Shadowed** by *Carl Deuker* YA DEU

Nate plays soccer because it's what his family expects. When his new neighbor Lucas Cawley moves in, he and Nate find common ground in their fierce games of one-on-one basketball. It's not long before Nate realizes that basketball is his sport. Nate believes that outplaying the school's (disrespectful) star players is the most important thing . . . until he learns that life is about more than getting ready for the next game.

**Not Nothing** by *Gayle Forman* J FOR

When troubled twelve-year-old Alex is assigned to spend his summer volunteering at a senior living facility, he forms a bond with a Holocaust survivor and learns lessons that change the trajectory of his life.

**The Liars Society** by *Alyson Gerber* J GER

Weatherby is excited to attend the Boston School, but she has a secret that could get her kicked out. Jack is desperate to make his mark at the school but he has a secret that could ruin it all. Neither of them trust each other, but when a person from a secret society blackmails them, they must work together to get to the bottom of things.

**Medusa** by *Katherine Marsh* J MAR

A descendant of Medusa, Ava is sent to the Accademia del Forte in Venice after an altercation with a classmate. She must learn to control her emotions, especially when she unearths a terrible secret that could change the world forever.

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**Bye Forever, I Guess** by *Jodi Meadows* J MEA

Eighth-grader Ingrid runs a popular blog anonymously and has an online persona more popular than she is. When a wrong-number text message offers her a chance at connection, Ingrid opens herself up to the opportunity to make a real friend.

**Not If You Break Up With Me First**  
by *G.F. Miller* J MIL

Best friends Eve and Andrew go to their first school dance together, and suddenly everybody assumes they are officially dating. Neither one of them wants to ruin their friendship, so both try to be the worst boyfriend or girlfriend, leaving it to the other person to break up with them.

**Uprising** by *Jennifer A. Nielsen* J NIE

Twelve-year-old Lidia's life is forever changed by the Nazi occupation of Poland, leading her to join the resistance movement to fight against the Nazis and aid Jewish people in the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II.

**The Last Dragon on Mars** by *Scott Reintgen* J REI

Thirteen-year-old Lunar was born on Mars, with every day a struggle. When he stumbles into a restricted military zone, he learns dragons are real and a new dragon has chosen him as a rider — a role he needs to embrace quickly because this dragon could save the Martian colony.

**The Bletchley Riddle**  
by *Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin* J SEP

Summer, 1940. Jakob Novis and his younger sister Lizzie share a love of riddles and puzzles. The quarrelsome siblings find themselves amidst one of the greatest secrets of World War II — Britain's eccentric codebreaking factory at Bletchley Park. As Jakob joins Bletchley's top minds to crack the Nazi's Enigma cipher, Lizzie embarks on a mission to solve the mysterious disappearance of their mother.

**The Secret Dead Club** by *Karen Strong* J STR

Just because Wednesday sees ghosts doesn't mean she has to talk to them. After a terrifying experience with a wicked ghost, Wednesday and her mother sell their RV and move back to the family home. Wednesday's determined not to use her gift anymore — until she meets a group of girls who also know about the spirit realm. When another malevolent ghost threatens Wednesday, it will take friends — both living and dead — to banish the evil being to the spirit realm.



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Daniel Boone Regional Library

[www.dbrl.org](http://www.dbrl.org)