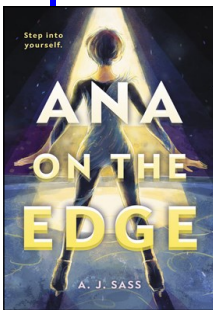


2024 Nutmeg Book Award Middle School Nominees Grades 7-8



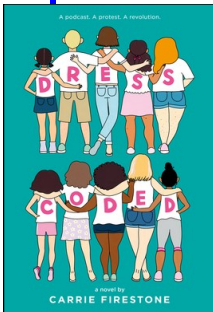
Amari and the Night Brothers by B. B. Alston

Following the disappearance of her older brother, Amari is introduced to a new world full of magic, where she must compete to take his place at the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs. Yet, not only is she at a disadvantage against her more magic-savvy peers, a shocking turn of events reveals she may be more powerful than she realizes. Will Amari be able to emerge triumphant and find her brother - before it's too late?



Ana on the Edge by A. J. Sass

Twelve-year-old Ana has been a competitive figure skater for years. This year is a hard year for Ana because her coach moved rinks which makes her commute long and her practice days hard. It affects her friendship and her new competition level brings hardships she wasn't expecting. This leads to new friendships and more questions than Ana ever knew existed.



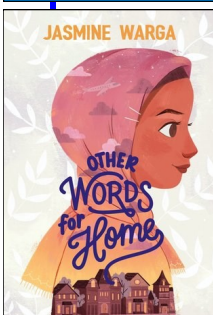
Dress Coded by Carrie Firestone

After witnessing a classmate humiliated over her outfit, 8th grader Molly Frost starts a podcast to protest her school's unfair dress code. As more and more students share their stories of being "dress coded," her protest snowballs into a full fledged revolution.



Fighting Words by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Della and her older sister Suki are inseparable. Ever since their mother went to jail and her boyfriend took them, Suki has taken care of and protected Della. When the girls are sent to live in foster care things start to improve. But an incident involving Suki makes Della realize how much her big sister has shouldered. To get the help they need, Della must learn to speak up.

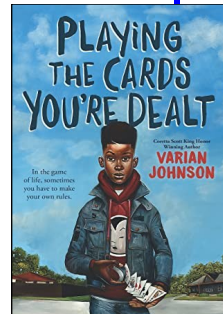


Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga

Jude leaves behind her brother and father to travel to the United States with her mother for refuge. Trying to bridge the differences between her Syrian life and her new home in Cincinnati, Jude searches for an identity that fits all of her.

Playing the Cards You're Dealt by Varian Johnson

Ten-year-old Anthony ("Ant") Joplin is navigating fifth grade, girls, best friends, and the family tradition of competing in the annual Spades Tournament. If that isn't enough, secrets threaten to tear it all apart in this hopeful look at legacies.



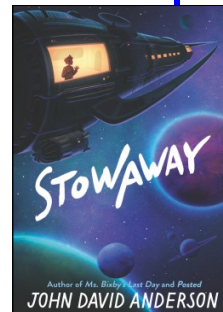
Spin by Lamar Giles

When rising star DJ Parsec is found murdered just before a big show, her ex-best friend Kya and biggest fan Fuse are determined to find out who killed her and why. But uncovering the truth may be more dangerous than they realize.



Stowaway by John David Anderson

The ship was all Leo has known for the past 3 years. His father brought the whole family on the Ayakari ship, and they are showing no signs of stopping. That is, until the pirates come. Bonded by trauma, an unlikely alliance forms between child and pirate, looking to stop the evil encroaching on their land in this action-packed sci-fi novel.



Swim Team by Johnnie Christmas

When Bree and her father move from New York to Florida, she can't wait to join her new Middle School STEM club. But when the only elective she can fit in her schedule is Swim 101, she's not only faced with learning to swim, but with helping her school swim team make it to the State Championships.



The Weight of Our Sky by Hanna Alkaf

After getting separated from her mother, Melati must navigate her war-torn home of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in an effort to reunite with her. However, Mel is contested by Chinese rioters as well as her own OCD, which manifests as a djinn within her mind. Joined by a Chinese boy named Vincent, Mel must overcome all that stands in her way to ensure her mother's safety.

