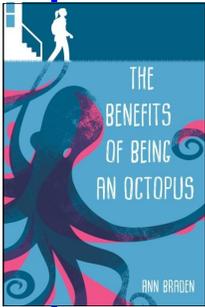


2022 Nutmeg Book Award Middle School Nominees Grades 7-8



The Benefits of Being an Octopus

by Ann Braden

Seventh-grader Zoey wishes she had eight arms to assist with all of her responsibilities. When she reluctantly joins the debate club, she learns that speaking up for herself and the people she loves creates a power she never knew she had.

Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation

by Stuart Gibbs

Albert Einstein created a code that could help – or destroy – the world. Decades later, an enemy organization is searching for this code, and the CIA needs the help of a genius to find it and solve its mystery. Enter Charlie Thorne. Too young to get a driver's license, Charlie is on the hunt for clues to unravel one of the modern world's greatest mysteries...before time runs out.

The First Rule of Punk

by Celia C. Pérez

Following the First Rule of Punk can be hard when being yourself is not "normal" at your new school. When the chance to try out for the school annual talent show comes up, she finds a few like-minded misfits to form a rock band. What could really go wrong? What happens when you don't fit in? You make the show your own.

Genesis Begins Again

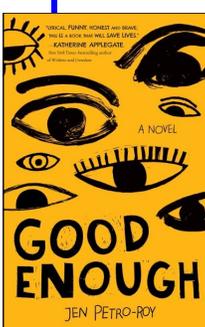
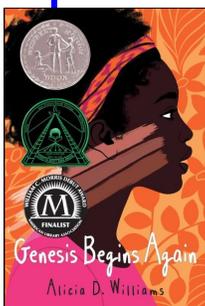
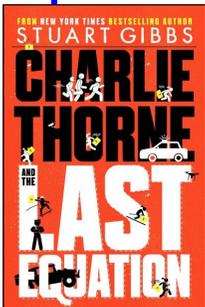
by Alicia D. Williams

Thirteen-year-old Genesis has a lot of things she'd like to fix in her life. Most of all, Genesis believes that if she can just change the color of her skin, everything would be better. When her own family believes her dark skin puts her at a disadvantage, how can Genesis possibly learn to love herself?

Good Enough

by Jen Petro-Roy

Riley is sick. She has been put in a treatment center for kids who suffer from eating disorders. Faced with a roommate who breaks the rules and an estranged family who doesn't fully understand her sickness, Riley has to work to be able to see herself as more than just a number on a scale.



Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus

by Dusti Bowling

Born without arms, thirteen-year-old Aven Green has been raised to believe that she can do anything. She becomes determined to show her new friend Connor that his Tourette's Syndrome shouldn't keep him from living his best life. Between helping out Connor and solving a mystery at her parents' new western theme park she certainly has her plate full.

Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish

by Pablo Cartaya

Eighth-grader Marcus Vega is having a hard time. After being suspended, he and his family take a trip to Puerto Rico to try and rebuild. Marcus meets some interesting people during this time and along the way he learns the true meaning of family.

Pet by Akwaeke Emezi

Jam was always told that monsters are no more. After she accidentally brings a creature to life from a painting, she learns that everything is not as it seems. She must keep her wits about her to be able to clearly see the difference between lies and reality. Will Jam be able to find the monster and stand up for herself?

Snapdragon by Kat Leyh

When outcast Snapdragon befriends rumoured town "witch" Jacks, she learns about her own powers and inner strength. In this coming-of-age magical realism graphic novel, we discover that those that are unfairly judged hold their own magical stories and oftentimes we find connections, love and family in the most unusual places.

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky

by Kwame Mbalia

Seventh-grader Tristan Strong is struggling with the death of his best friend, whose journal of stories has become Tristan's prize possession. One night, a creature steals it from him. In a struggle to reclaim it, Tristan punches a hole into the MidPass. This puts him face to face with battling African gods and legends. Can he outwit Anansi the spider to seal the hole and find his way home?

