



2020 Nominees

For more information on the award, visit riteenbookaward.org. Please note, not every title is suitable for every reader.

***After the Fire*, by Will Hill:** Moonbeam survives a confrontation between government forces and the cult she grew up in, but needs help to heal mentally and physically.

***The Astonishing Color of After*, by Emily X.R. Pan:** When Leigh's mother died by suicide, she turned into a bird. Leigh travels to Taiwan and chases ghosts, uncovers family secrets, and meets her maternal grandparents.

***Boots on the Ground*, by Elizabeth Partridge:** An exploration of the Vietnam War from different perspectives including American soldiers, a nurse, and a Vietnamese refugee.

***Caraval*, by Stephanie Garber:** Scarlett and Tella are invited to Caraval. They escape their father only to see Tella kidnapped and learn this Caraval revolves around Tella, and whoever finds her first is the winner.

***Children of Blood and Bone*, by Tomi Adeyemi:** Zélie, her older brother Tzain, and rogue princess Amari fight to restore magic to the land and activate a new generation of magi, but they are ruthlessly pursued by the crown prince, who believes magic will mean the end of the monarchy.

***Damsel*, by Elana K. Arnold:** There is more to the legends of dragons and the damsels. The greatest threats may not be behind Ama, but around her, now, and closing in.

***Darius the Great is Not Okay*, by Adib Khorram:** Clinically-depressed Darius Kellner, a high school sophomore, travels to Iran to meet his grandparents, but it is their next-door neighbor, Sohrab, who changes his life.

***Dry*, by Neal Shusterman:** A lengthy California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, turning Alyssa's quiet suburban street into a warzone, and she is forced to make hard choices if she and her brother are to survive.

***Far From the Tree*, by Robin Benway:** Three teenagers, biological siblings separated by adoption, explore the meaning of family in all its forms.

***Heretics Anonymous*, by Katie Henry:** New to Catholic School, atheist Michael joins Heretics Anonymous, a secret club for outcasts. They go from secret society to rebels, exposing hypocrisies but one mission goes too far...

***Hey, Kiddo*, by Jarrett Krosoczka:** Jarrett's mom is an addict, in and out of rehab, and Jarrett's life; his father is a mystery. Jarrett lives with his grandparents who thought they were done raising children until Jarrett came along.

***Librarian of Auschwitz*, by Antonio Iturbe:** Follows Dita Kraus from age fourteen, when she is put in charge of a few forbidden books at Auschwitz concentration camp, through the end of World War II and beyond.

***Lifel1k3*, by Jay Kristoff:** When Eve learns she can destroy machines with her mind, she becomes a target for a group of puritanical fanatics and cyborg assassins.

***Nyxia*, Scott Reintgen:** Emmett boarded Babel's lightship hoping to earn enough money to care for his family. But the rules change and he must decide: win at any cost, or find a way to win that doesn't compromise his humanity.

***One of Us is Lying*, by Karen M. McManus:** When the creator of a high school gossip app mysteriously dies in front of four high-profile students, all four become suspects. It's up to them to solve the case.

***The Poet X*, by Elizabeth Acevedo:** Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking.

***The Prince and the Dressmaker*, by Jen Wang:** Prince Sebastian is looking for a bride, or rather, his parents are looking for one for him. Meanwhile Sebastian is hiding his secret: at night he puts on daring dresses and takes Paris by storm as the fabulous Lady Crystallia!

***Queer, There and Everywhere*, by Sarah Prager:** A LGBTQ chronicle presenting 23 influential gender-ambiguous notables from the Roman Empire to the present, exploring how they defied convention to promote civil rights, pursue relationships, and shape culture.

***Sadie*, by Courtney Summers:** Sadie's sister Mattie is found dead, and the police botch the investigation, leaving Sadie to seek out justice. West McCray, a radio personality, hears Sadie's story, becomes obsessed with finding her.

***Starry Eyes*, by Jenn Bennett:** When Zorie and Lennon are stranded in the California wilderness, together they must put aside their differences and come to terms with lingering romantic feelings, in order to survive.

***Undead Girl Gang*, by Lily Anderson:** Mila's BFF Riley and mean girls June and Dayton die under suspicious circumstances. Mila refuses to believe it was a suicide pact, so she brings the girls back to life and has 7 days to find out what happened.

***What if it's Us*, by Becky Albertalli:** When Arthur, a summer intern from Georgia, and Ben, a native New Yorker, meet it seems like fate, but after three attempts at dating fail they wonder if the universe is pushing them together or apart.