

# 2020 MYRCA Sundog Nominees

All titles have the interest level indicated.



## Coop the Great by Larry Verstraete

Yellow Dog 2018 • ISBN: 9781773370095 • Grades 4 +

Cooper, an older dachshund, has been passed around from family to family and he is resigned to spending the rest of his life in the dog shelter. Then, one day, Mike comes along and brings Cooper home with him. Mike is a different experience for Cooper, he's gentle and patient, he reads Coop stories of great, heroic dogs, and slowly Coop warms up to his new family. When Mike's grandkids come to stay with them, Coop can tell that something strange is going on with the people in his new home. Will Coop finally find his forever family?

## Crush by Svetlana Chmakova

Yen Press 2018 • ISBN: 9780316363235 • Grades 5 +

Middle school can be rough. For Jorge, it helps if you are big enough that no one bothers you, have good friends, and know what you want. But what happens when suddenly your feelings for a certain girl make everything else confusing and uncertain? Jorge will have to figure things out if he wants to survive the rest of middle school.

## Dragons in a Bag by Zetta Elliott

Random House 2018 • ISBN: 9781524770457 • Grades 4 +

Nine-year-old Jaxon is forced to stay with a woman he thinks is his grandmother, but she's actually a witch whose job it is to transport baby dragons to a safe place in another world. When Jaxon and his friends break the rules about how to care for the dragons, they must face the consequences of their actions.

## Elephant Secret by Eric Walters, Penguin Random House

Canada 2018 • ISBN: 9781328796172 • Grades 4 +

Sam and her dad struggle to keep their elephant sanctuary working. They think their problems are solved when an eccentric billionaire offers them a lot money to breed one of their elephants. When the elephant dies giving birth, Sam develops a strong connection to the strange woolly new baby. When the herd is threatened, Sam must try to protect her family - both human and animal.

## Inkling by Kenneth Oppel, Sydney Smith (illustrator)

HarperCollins 2018 • ISBN: 9781443450287 • Grades 4 +

Sixth-grader Ethan Rylance's dad is a famous comic book artist, so when a group project at school requires expert drawing skills, his group nominates Ethan for the job. The only problem is, Ethan can't draw. Then Inkling, a magical blob of ink, rolls off the page of one of Ethan's Dad's sketchbooks and wants to help. But keeping Inkling a secret becomes more and more difficult, and soon, Ethan and his Dad find themselves in a lot of trouble.

## The Journey Forward: Novellas on Reconciliation

by Monique Gray Smith and Richard Van Camp, McKellar & Martin Publishing Group 2018 • ISBN: 9780991678266 • Grades 5 +

This two-sided novel explores reconciliation through the eyes of three children. In *Lucy & Lola*, eleven-year-old twins learn about their Kookum (grandmother) and mother's experiences in the Canadian residential school system. In *When We Play Our Drums, They Sing!* twelve-year-old Dene

Cho learns about the impact of residential schools on the loss of their traditions and language. After speaking with Elder Snowbird, Dene Cho realizes that he can help change the future of his people through learning about the past.

## Miles to Go by Beryl Young

Wandering Fox 2018 • ISBN: 9781772032642 • Grades 4 +

Thirteen-year-old girls Anna and Maggie are best friends even though they are very different. Anna has a large Polish family who struggle to make ends meet on their farm. Maggie is the daughter of the town's RCMP officer and has trouble getting along with her mother whom she considers to be too strict. Both girls will face challenges that will test their friendship, their families, and their strength of character.

## Missing Mike by Shari Green

Pajama Press 2018 • ISBN: 9781772780451 • Grades 4 +

When wildfires start ripping through the town of Pine Grove, eleven-year-old Caera Donovan's family is forced to evacuate their home. But just before they leave, Caera's dog, Mike, runs off and the family is forced to leave him behind, and head for safety. Devastated, Caera knows she must do whatever it takes to get Mike back, even if that means heading back towards the fires.

## Mucus Mayhem (The Almost Epic Squad)

by Kevin Sylvester and Britt Wilson (illustrator)

Scholastic Canada 2018 • ISBN: 9781443157797 • Grades 4 +

Jessica Flem needs a lot of tissues to handle her horrible allergies. When she turns 13, she finds she can transform those mucus-filled tissues into little helpers... helpers that might just help her save Dimly, Manitoba and the world from the evil Boss!

## Wicked Nix by Lena Coakley, Jamie Zollars (illustrator)

HarperCollins 2018 • ISBN: 9781443454698 • Grades 4 +

When their queen disappears suddenly, Nix, a mischievous fairie is put in charge of keeping his forest's village safe from humans. When a human wanders in, Nix uses tricks to attempt to drive him away, yet nothing seems to work. It seems Nix isn't the only one with a surprise up his sleeve.

The books are nominated based on their quality and reader appeal. Not all titles may be appropriate for all students in the age range of the MYRCA readership.

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# MYRCA 2020



  
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Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Awards Inc. aims to promote reading and Canadian literature by giving young Manitobans in Grades 4 - 6 the opportunity to vote for their favourite Canadian book from an annual preselected list.

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### VOTING 2020

All young Manitobans who have read or been read at least 3 titles may vote.

**3 books = 1 vote  
6 books = 2 votes**



Voting for the 2020 MYRCA winner will be open from March 23, 2020 to midnight Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

# 2020 MYRCA Northern Lights Nominees

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## A World Below by Wesley King

Simon & Schuster 2018 • ISBN: 9781481478229 • Grades 7 +

Mr. Baker's eighth grade class is ending the school year with a trip to the Carlsbad Caverns. When an earthquake collapses the tunnels during the trip, the class is sent careening into the abyss. Mr. Baker is missing, and the students are separated in a terrifying, unknown world below. Can they survive and make it back to the surface?

## Don't Tell the Enemy by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch

Scholastic Canada 2018 • ISBN: 9781443128391 • Grades 6 +

How far will she go to save her friends? The Nazis have come to Ukraine where twelve-year-old Krystia lives with her family. Conditions are hard, but when a mass grave of Soviet prisoners is found things get even worse, as the Nazis start starving and killing people. Krystia must choose between protecting herself or risking her life to help others.

## Ebb & Flow by Heather Smith

Kids Can Press 2018 • ISBN: 9781771388382 • Grades 7 +

Eleven-year-old Jett used to be a good kid, but not anymore. Things are tough; his father is in jail, his friends won't hang out with him anymore, and he's angry and lonely. With Junior he finds a new friend and a new motto: "No regrets". When their pranks end up hurting someone Jett cares about, he wants to make things right, but how?

## Fake Blood by Whitney Gardner (author & illustrator)

Simon & Schuster for Young Readers 2018

• ISBN: 9781481495578 • Grades 6 +

Sixth grader AJ wants desperately to impress his long-time crush, Nia Winters, but what can he do when she only has an eye for vampires? When they get paired up to work on a Transylvania project for school, AJ thinks he finally has the opportunity he's been waiting for. Things take a turn when Nia's love of vampires becomes more than AJ bargained for.

## The Journey of Little Charlie by Christopher Paul Curtis

Scholastic Press 2018 • ISBN: 9781443142632 • Grades 6 +

Little Charlie Bobo is only 12 when he loses his dad in a freak accident. Threatened with eviction by the violent Cap'n Buck, Charlie sees no choice but to go north with the Cap'n to pay his debt. What will Charlie do when he realizes that he's helping to capture escaped slaves? It's an impossible choice – his freedom or theirs.

## No Fixed Address by Susin Nielsen

Tundra Books 2018 • ISBN: 9780735262751 • Grades 6 +

Twelve-year-old Felix has a great school, good friends and a pet gerbil named Horatio. What nobody knows is that Felix and his mother, Astrid, have been living in a camper van, struggling to make ends meet. Trying to sneak in showers and finding enough food for the day are realities that Felix is having a hard time hiding from his friends, especially when Astrid is in her 'slumps'.



**Pulse Point** by Colleen Nelson & Nancy Chappell-Pollack  
Great Plains Publications 2018 • ISBN: 9781927855973 • Grades 7 +

After climate change has made the Earth uninhabitable, humans can no longer live anywhere but the City. Running on energy provided by the inhabitants, the people of the City provide energy in exchange for safety. When Kaia's microchip malfunctions, dark secrets are revealed and Kaia learns there's more to the City than she realizes.

## Sanctuary by Caryn Lix

Simon Pulse 2018 • ISBN: 9781534405332 • Grades 7 +

Kenzie has spent her entire seventeen years believing in Omnistellar Concepts, the most powerful corporation in the solar system. Kenzie's mother is the Commanding Officer of Sanctuary, a space station prison for extremely dangerous teens with super powers. After a catastrophe in the prison, Kenzie starts to question the motivations of Omnistellar, the real purpose of Sanctuary and family loyalty.

**The Strange and Deadly Portraits of Bryony Gray** by E. Latimer, Tundra Books 2018 • ISBN: 9781101919286 • Grades 6 +

After being abandoned by her mother, thirteen-year-old Bryony Gray is forced to live with her cruel Aunt and Uncle, who keep her locked in the attic and force her to paint portraits to earn her keep. Bryony plots a way to escape, but her plans are thwarted when her portraits begin to come to life and wreak havoc.

## Surviving the City by Tasha Spillett and

Natasha Donovan (illustrator), Portage and Main Press 2018

• ISBN: 9781553797845 • Grades 7 +

Teens Dez and Miikwan have shared a lot of experiences in their lives, both good and bad. But when Dez's grandmother becomes ill, Dez is unable to cope, even with the help of her best friend. When Dez runs away from home, Miikwan and the rest of the community do their best to help, but will it be enough to bring Dez home?

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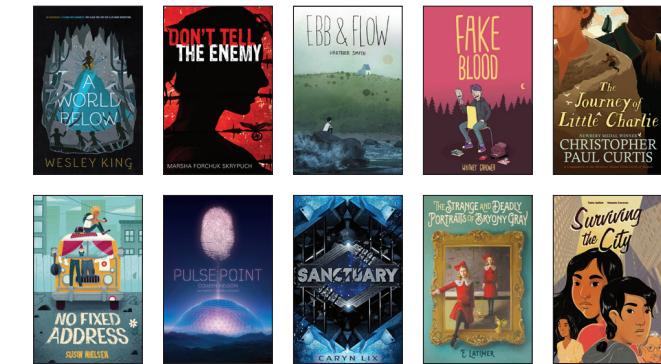
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