



Young Reader's Choice Awards

YRCA 2022 Book Profiles

Table of Contents

YRCA 2022 Junior Book Profiles	2
A Royal Guide to Monster Slaying by Kelley Armstrong	2
New Kid by Jerry Craft	2
Shouting at the Rain by Lynda Mullaly Hunt.....	3
Song for a Whale by Lynne Kelly	3
Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee	4
Indian No More by Charlene Willing McManis with Traci Sorell.....	4
A Wolf Called Wander by Rosanne Parry	5
Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga.....	5
YRCA 2022 Intermediate Book Profiles	6
I Can Make This Promise by Christine Day	6
We Contain Multitudes by Sarah Henstra	6
I Love You So Mochi by Sarah Kuhn	7
Spin the Dawn by Elizabeth Lim	7
Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky by Kwame Mbalia.....	8
Sorcery of Thorns by Margaret Rogerson.....	8
The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman	9
White Rose by Kip Wilson	9
YRCA 2022 Senior Book Profiles	10
With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo	10
Onyx and Ivory by Mindee Arnett	10
Pet by Akwaeke Emezi	11
We Set the Dark on Fire by Tehlor Kay Mejia	11
Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay.....	12
The Fountains of Silence by Ruta Sepetys.....	12
Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me by Mariko Tamaki and Rosemary Valero-O'Connell	13
Frankly in Love by David Yoon	13



YRCA 2022 Junior Book Profiles

A Royal Guide to Monster Slaying by Kelley Armstrong

What's it about? Princess Rowan must track down a gryphon to become her kingdom's next Royal Monster Hunter.

Read-alikes:

- **How to Train your Dragon** by Cressida Cowell
- **Scarlett Hart: Monster Hunter** by Marcus Sedgwick
- **Serafina and the Black Cloak** by Robert Beatty

If you like books about mythical creatures and adventure, this is the book for you!

Something interesting: Kelley Armstrong is a prolific Canadian author who loves animals and the paranormal.

Reading level: 610L

Suggested age: Grades 4 to 6 (School Library Journal)

New Kid by Jerry Craft

What's it about? Jordan Banks tries to fit in as the new kid in his new middle school where diversity is low.

Read-alikes:

- **American Born Chinese** by Gene Luen Yang
- **Awkward** by Svetlana Chmakova
- **The First Rule of Punk** by Celia C. Perez

If you like books about friendship, school, or graphic novels, you will love this book!

Something interesting: The New Kid is based loosely on the author's life and the experiences of his two sons.

Reading level: 320L

Suggested Age: Grades 4 to 7 (School Library Journal)



Shouting at the Rain by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

What's it about? Delsie navigates a summer full of change and learns important lessons about family and community.

Read-alikes:

- **New Kid** by Jerry Kraft
- **Blended** by Sharon M. Draper
- **Song for a Whale** by Lynne Kelly

If you like books about family and friendship with intricate characters, give this book a read!

Something interesting: Lynda Mullaly Hunt is a self-proclaimed teacher, painter, and juggler. She lives with a mutt named Max and a beagle who disapproves of Max. Most names in the book are anagrams: where a word or phrase is formed by rearranging the letters of another word or phrase. The anagrams are clues about characters' personalities, lives, or secrets. Check out the author's blog for hints and see if you can decipher them!

Reading Level: 560L

Suggested Age: Grades 3 to 6 (School Library Journal)

Song for a Whale by Lynne Kelly

What's it about?

Twelve-year-old Iris embarks on a mission with her grandmother that takes them from Texas to Alaska all because of Blue-55 - a whale that is unable to communicate with other whales.

Read-alikes:

- **Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus** by Dusti Bowling
- **Planet Earth is Blue** by Nicole Panteleakos
- **Roll With It** by Jamie Sumner

If you like suspenseful or character driven stories, and the representation of characters living with disabilities, this is the book for you!

Something interesting: Lynne Kelly is a sign language interpreter who loves Bulldogs. Throughout the book are illustrations resembling tree lines. They also mimic frequency waves!

Reading Level: 800L

Suggested Age: Grades 4 to 6 (School Library Journal)



Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee

What's it about? Min, a thirteen-year-old girl with fox-magic, runs away from her home planet to solve the mystery of her missing brother.

Read-alikes:

- **The Dragon Warrior** by Kaite Zhao
- **The Serpent's Secret** by Sayantani DasGupta
- **The Dragon Age Princess** by Ellen Oh

If you like action-packed adventures, Korean mythology, space operas, and magical creatures, give this book a read!

Something interesting: Yoon Ha Lee grew up in both Texas and South Korea. Before becoming a writer, he earned a master's degree in mathematics. He is currently writing the sequel to this book, *Tiger Honor*. These books are part of Rick Riordan Presents, where Riordan finds diverse authors writing stories similar to his *Percy Jackson* series.

Reading level: 710L

Suggested Age: Grades 4 to 6 (School Library Journal)

Indian No More by Charlene Willing McManis with Traci Sorell

What's it about? When Regina's Umpqua tribe is legally terminated and her family must relocate from Oregon to Los Angeles, she goes on a quest to understand her identity.

Read-alikes:

- **I Can Make this Promise** by Christine Day
- **Fatty Legs** by Christy Jordan-Fenton
- **Three Keys** by Kelly Yang

If you like historical fiction books featuring strong characters, you will love this book!

Something interesting: This novel is based on the author's own personal experiences after her tribe was terminated during the 1953 Indian Termination Act.

Reading Level: 720L

Suggested Age: Grades 4 to 7 (School Library Journal)



A Wolf Called Wander by Rosanne Parry

What's it about? A young wolf cub separated from his pack journeys 1000 miles across the Pacific Northwest, dealing with forest fires, hunters, highways, and hunger before finding a new home. Based on the true story of a wolf called OR-7.

Read-alikes:

- **The Incredible Journey** by Sheila Burnford
- **Pax** by Sara Pennypacker
- **A Dog's Life** by Ann Martin

If you like action-packed stories from the view of animals, you will like this book.

Something interesting: As a child, Rosanne Parry never wanted to become a circus flyer. She didn't want to become an author since she thought authors were quiet and studious, and worked at desks.

Reading level: 670L

Suggested Age: Grades 4 to 6 (School Library Journal)

Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga

What's it about? Jude, a 12-year-old Syrian girl, navigates her new life in the US. This novel is written in free verse.

Read-alikes:

- **It Ain't so Awful, Falafel** by Firoozeh Dumas
- **Amina's Voice** by Hena Khan
- **Inside Out & Back Again** by Thanhha Lai

If you like books about friends, fitting in, and being yourself, this is the book for you!

Something interesting: Jasmine Warga is the author of the novels for teens *My Heart and Other Black Holes*, and *Here We Are Now*. Her father is from Jordan. Jasmine started thinking about writing *Other Words for Home* after having dinner with a family of Syrian-Americans and their newly-arrived relatives.

Reading Level: 930L

Suggested Age: Grades 4 to 8 (School Library Journal)



YRCA 2022 Intermediate Book Profiles

I Can Make This Promise by Christine Day

What's it about? Edie discovers the truth about her mom's Indigenous birth family, while navigating changing friendships and working on a big school film project.

Read-alikes:

- **Some Places More Than Others** by Renée Watson
- **The Other Half of Happy** by Rebecca Balcárcel
- **Indian No More** by Charlene Willing and Traci Sorell

If you like books about identity and friendship, and you want to learn more about the experiences of Indigenous people in America, you will love this book!

Something interesting: Christine Day grew up in Seattle and is an enrolled citizen of the Upper Skagit (SKA-jit) tribe. Her mother is of Upper Skagit and Nooksack descent, and her father is of Northern European (mostly Norwegian) descent. *I Can Make This Promise* is her first novel and was inspired by her family's history.

Reading Level: 610L

Suggested Age: Grades 3 to 7 (School Library Journal)

We Contain Multitudes by Sarah Henstra

What's it about? As pen pals for a high school English assignment, poetry-loving Jonathan and popular athlete Adam explore their growing relationship through a series of letters.

Read-alikes:

- **Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda** by Becky Albertalli
- **The Gravity of Us** by Phil Stamper
- **Darius the Great is Not Okay** by Adib Khorram

If you like Canadian fiction, LGBTQIA+ characters, or emotionally intense stories, give this book a read!

Something interesting: Sarah Henstra is an Associate Professor at Ryerson University in Toronto. She won the Governor General's Literary Award for her fiction debut *The Red Word*.

Reading Level: 830L

Suggested Age: Grade 9+ (School Library Journal)



I Love You So Mochi by Sarah Kuhn

What's it about? A high school senior embarks on a quest of self-discovery while visiting her estranged grandparents in Japan. Along the way, she bonds with a cute med student and unravels family secrets.

Read-alikes:

- **To All the Boys I've Loved Before** by Jenny Han
- **The Way You Make Me Feel** by Maurene Goo
- **I Wanna be Where You Are** by Kristina Forest

If you like coming-of-age rom-coms centering on food and family, this is the book for you!

Something interesting: Sarah Kuhn is half Japanese, a quarter German and a quarter English. She is best known for *Heroine Complex*, a series starring Asian-American superheroines.

Reading level: 810L

Suggested Age: Grade 8+ (School Library Journal)

Spin the Dawn by Elizabeth Lim

What's it about? A young girl disguises as a boy and competes to become tailor to the emperor, embarking on a quest and discovering a gift for magic in the process.

Read-alikes:

- **Flame in the Mist** by Renee Ahdieh
- **Star Touched Queen** by Roshani Chokshi
- **Throne of Glass** by Sarah J. Maas

If you like strong heroines, danger, adventure, romance, magic, or page-turners, you will love this book!

Something interesting: Before becoming an author, Elizabeth Lin was a professional film and video-game composer, and she still tends to come up with her best book ideas when writing near a piano.

Reading level: 690L

Suggested Age: Grade 7+ (School Library Journal)



Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky by Kwame Mbalia

What's it About? Haunted by the bus accident that ended his best friend's life, Tristan Strong dreads a visit to his grandparents' Alabama farm... that is, until he's drawn into a world of burning seas, iron monsters and exhausted heroes.

Read-alikes:

- **Aru Shah and the End of Time** by Roshani Chokshi
- **The Fire Keeper** by J.C. Cervantes
- **Race to the Sun** by Rebecca Roanhorse

If you like folklore-inspired fiction, fantastical heroes and wondrous fantasy worlds, give this book a read!

Something interesting: Kwame Mbalia was awarded a Coretta Scott King Author Honor for this book. He survives on Dad jokes and Cheezits.

Reading Level: 680L

Suggested Age: Grades 5-8 (School Library Journal)

Sorcery of Thorns by Margaret Rogerson

What's it about? When apprentice librarian Elisabeth is implicated in sabotage that released the library's most dangerous grimoire, she becomes entangled in a centuries-old conspiracy that could mean the end of everything.

Read-alikes:

- **Lockwood & Co. Series** by Jonathan Stroud
- **Ink and Bone** by Rachel Caine
- **Strange the Dreamer** by Laini Taylor

If you like fast-paced stories, and compelling fantasies worlds with LGBTQIA+ characters, you will love this book!

Something interesting: When Margaret Rogerson's not reading or writing, she enjoys drawing, watching documentaries, making pudding, gaming, and exploring the outdoors in search of toads and mushrooms.

Reading level: HL820L

Suggested Age: Grade 7+ (School Library Journal)



The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman

What's it about? Four determined homeless children fight to make a life for themselves in Chennai, India.

Read-alikes:

- **Other Words for Home** by Jasmine Warga
- **Caterpillar Summer** by Gillian McDunn
- **Amal Unbound** by Aisha Saeed

If you like realistic fiction and books about friendship, this is the book for you!

Something interesting: Padma Venkatraman worked as chief scientist on oceanographic ships and spent time under the sea, directed a school, and lived in five countries.

Reading level: 680L

Suggested Age: Grades 4 to 6 (School Library Journal)

White Rose by Kip Wilson

What's it about? Young activist Sophie Scholl puts her life on the line as she tried to rally her fellow Germans against a fascist regime. Told as a novel in verse and based on a true story.

Read-alikes:

- **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak
- **Code Name Verity** by Elizabeth Wein
- **The Faithful Spy** by John Hendrix

If you like historical fiction about wartime and anti-authoritarian movements, you will love this book!

Something interesting: The character's names are based on real people - none of the names in the book were changed. A memorial to the real-life Sophie Scholl and her brother, Hans, is in the university in Munich.

Reading level: 1080L

Suggested Age: Grade 7+ (School Library Journal)



YRCA 2022 Senior Book Profiles

With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo

What's it about? Navigating the challenges of finishing high school while caring for a daughter, talented cook Emoni Santiago struggles with a lack of time and money that complicate her dream of working in a professional kitchen.

Read-alikes:

- **You Should See Me in a Crown** by Leah Johnson
- **Concrete Rose** by Angie Thomas
- **Dumplin'** by Julie Murphy

If you like realistic fiction, rich storytelling, and authentic characters, give this book a read!

Something interesting: Elizabeth Acevedo is the author of *The Poet X*, a YRCA 2021 nominee. She is a National Poetry Slam Champion.

Reading Level: 810L

Suggested Age: Grade 9+ (School Library Journal)

Onyx and Ivory by Mindee Arnett

What's it about? In this high-fantasy adventure, Kate and Corwin must put their past behind them to prevent malicious powers from overrunning the kingdom of Rime.

Read-alikes:

- **Red Queen** by Victoria Aveyard
- **Six of Crows** by Leigh Bardugo
- **Children of Blood and Bone** by Tomi Adeyemi

If you like fantasy, romance, and novels about political conspiracy and outlawed magic, you will love this book!

Something interesting: Mindee Arnett loves horseback riding as well as mounted archery - skills Kate excels at in *Onyx and Ivory*.

Reading level: 830L

Suggested Age: Grade 9+ (School Library Journal)



Pet by Akwaeke Emezi

What's it About? In a near-future society that claims to have gotten rid of all monstrous people, a creature emerges from a painting seventeen-year-old Jam's mother created: a hunter from another world seeking a real-life monster.

Read-alikes:

- **The Marrow Thieves** by Cherie Dimaline
- **The Darkest Minds** by Alexandra Bracken
- **Divergent** by Veronica Roth

If you like compelling narratives, magical realism, or thought-provoking stories, this is the book for you!

Something interesting: Akwaeke Emezi is a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 honoree, was born in Umuahia, and raised in Aba, Nigeria.

Reading Level: 820L

Suggested Age: Grade 7+ (School Library Journal)

We Set the Dark on Fire by Tehlor Kay Mejia

What's it about? A society wife-in-training has an uncomfortable awakening about her strict, polarized society after being recruited into a band of rebel spies and falling for her biggest rival.

Read-alikes:

- **The Handmaid's Tale** by Margaret Atwood
- **Red Queen** by Victoria Aveyard
- **A Great and Terrible Beauty** by Libba Bray

If you like dystopian worlds, give this book a read!

Something interesting: Tehlor Kay Mejia lives in Oregon where she grows heirloom corn and continues her quest to perfect the vegan tamale.

Reading Level: 840L

Suggested Age: Grade 8+ (School Library Journal)



Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay

What's it about? Jay Reguero travels to his native Philippines to uncover the truth about the murder of his cousin Jun.

Read-alikes:

- **You Are No Longer in Trouble** by Nicole O'Donnell
- **Punching the Air** by Ibi Zoboi
- **Dear Martin** by Nic Stone

If you like fiction about cultural and political tensions, mysteries, and coming-of-age stories, you will love this book!

Something interesting: Randy Ribay was born in the Philippines and raised in the Midwest, just like Jay Reguero in *Patron Saints of Nothing*.

Reading Level: 840L

Suggested Age: Grade 10+ (School Library Journal)

The Fountains of Silence by Ruta Sepetys

What's it about? Drawn back to his mother's homeland by the utopian promises of the Franco regime in 1957 Madrid, the son of an oil tycoon bonds with a girl who raises his awareness about the lingering shadows of the Spanish Civil War.

Read-alikes:

- **Rose Under Fire** by Elizabeth Wein
- **What I saw and How I Lied** by Judy Blundell
- **Lovely War** by Julie Berry

If you like historical fiction, emotional turmoil and stories that might make you cry, this is the book for you!

Something interesting: Two of Ruta's previous novels have also been nominated for YRCA - *Salt to the Sea* in 2019 and *Between Shades of Gray* in 2014.

Reading Level: 620L

Suggested Age: Grade 7+ (School Library Journal)



Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me by Mariko Tamaki and Rosemary Valero-O'Connell

What's it about? Laura Dean, the most popular girl in school, was Freddy's dream girl. She quickly learns that Laura is not the best girlfriend and seeks relationship advice from a mysterious medium to help her deal with the toxic relationship.

Read-alikes:

- **Perfect Paper** by S. Gonzales
- **Hot Dog Girl** by Jennifer Dugan
- **Kiss Number 8** by Colleen A.F. Venable

If you like graphic novels, LGBTQIA+ characters, or angst-filled stories, give this book a read!

Something interesting: Mariko Tamaki is a Canadian author, who co-created *This One Summer* with Jillian Tamaki. She writes about superheroes for both Marvel and DC comics.

Reading Level: HL230L

Suggested Age: Grade 9+ (School Library Journal)

Frankly in Love by David Yoon

What's it about?

A Korean-American boy tries to keep his white girlfriend a secret from his traditional parents, but it's more complicated than he had imagined.

Read-alikes:

- **To All the Boys I've Love Before** by Jenny Han
- **More than Just a Pretty Face** by Syed M. Masood
- **Fake It Till You Break It** by Jenn P. Nguyen

If you like funny, coming-of-age, romantic and moving novels, you will love this book!

Something interesting: David Yoon and his character Frank Li shared the challenges of navigating mammoth cultural differences with their parents, searching for belonging, and of course a ban on dating non-Korean girls.

Reading level: 660L

Suggested Age: Grade 9+ (School Library Journal)