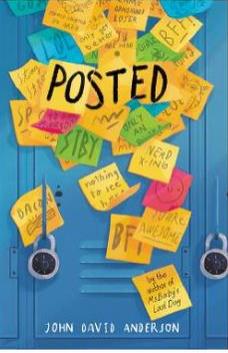
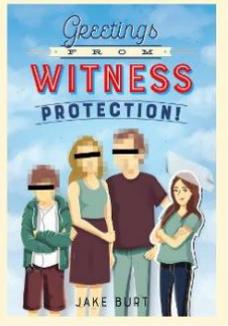
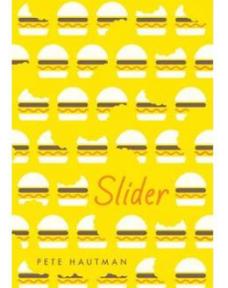
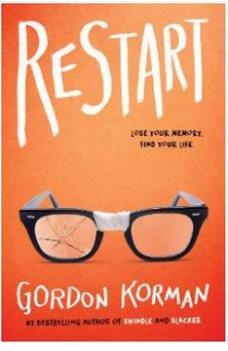
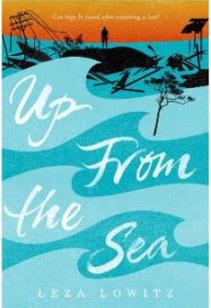
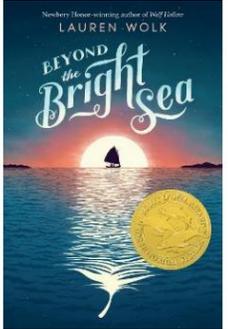
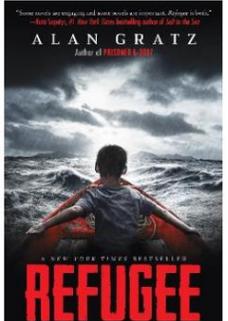


2018-19 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award Nominees for Grades 6-9

(RL= Reading Level by grade, IL= Interest Level by grade, YA= Young Adult Literature)

	<p>Posted by John David Anderson Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=5.1, IL=5-8, 369 pages</p> <p>In middle school, words aren't just words. They can be weapons. They can be gifts. The right words can win you friends or make you enemies. They can come back to haunt you. Sometimes they can change things forever.</p> <p>When cell phones are banned at Branton Middle School, Frost and his friends Deedee, Wolf, and Bench come up with a new way to communicate: leaving sticky notes for each other all around the school. It catches on, and soon all the kids in school are leaving notes--though for every kind and friendly one, there is a cutting and cruel one as well.</p>
	<p>Greetings from Witness Protection! by Jake Burt Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=5.0, IL=5-8, 359 pages</p> <p>Thirteen year-old Nicki Demere is an orphan and a pickpocket. She also happens to be the U.S. Marshals' best bet to keep a family alive.</p> <p>The marshals are looking for the perfect girl to join a mother, father, and son on the run from the nation's most notorious criminals. After all, the bad guys are searching for a family with one kid, not two, and adding a streetwise girl who knows a little something about hiding things may be just what the marshals need.</p>
	<p>The Only Road by Alexandra Diaz Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=5.1, IL=5-8, 308 pages</p> <p>Everyone in Jaime's small town in Guatemala knows someone who has been killed by the Alphas, a powerful gang that's known for violence and drug trafficking. Anyone who refuses to work for them is hurt or killed--like Jaime's cousin, Miguel. With Miguel gone, Jaime fears that he is next. There's only one choice: accompanied by his cousin Angela, Jaime must flee his home to live with his older brother in New Mexico.</p>
	<p>Projekt 1065 by Alan Gratz Genre: Historical Fiction RL=5.0, IL=5-8, 309 pages</p> <p>It is 1943, and thirteen-year-old Michael O'Shaunessey, son of the Irish ambassador to Nazi Germany in Berlin, is also a spy for the British Secret Service, so he has joined the Hitler Youth. Pretending that he agrees with their violence and book-burning is hard enough--but when he is asked to find out more about "Projekt 1065" both his and his parents' lives get a lot more dangerous.</p>
	<p>Slider by Pete Hautman Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=5.8, IL=5-8, 278 pages</p> <p>David can eat an entire sixteen-inch pepperoni pizza in four minutes and thirty-six seconds. Not bad. But he knows he can do better. In fact, he'll have to do better: he's going to compete in the Super Pigorino Bowl, the world's greatest pizza-eating contest, and he has to win it, because he borrowed his mom's credit card and accidentally spent \$2,000 on it. As if training to be a competitive eater weren't enough, he's also got to keep an eye on his autistic younger brother, Mal.</p>

	<p><i>Restart</i> by Gordon Korman Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=5.1, IL=3-6, 243 pages</p> <p>Chase Ambrose forgets everything after falling off a roof and losing consciousness. He forgets his name. He forgets what he was doing up there on that roof. And he forgets that he's the biggest bully at Hiawassee Middle School, along with his two best buddies Aaron and Bear.</p> <p>Chase is shocked to learn how he bullied and tormented kids at school. And worst of all, even his little half-sister is terrified of him. Determined to reinvent himself, Chase joins the video club and befriends some of the kids who used to consider him a number-one enemy.</p>
	<p><i>Up From the Sea</i> by Leza Lowitz Genre: Historical Fiction IL=YA, 257 pages</p> <p>Seventeen-year-old biracial Kai is the only member of his family to survive the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. For the tenth anniversary of 9/11, he travels to New York with other orphans to meet teens who lost parents in that tragedy--and finds his estranged American father. The poems in this gripping verse novel powerfully capture Kai's heartbreaking experience.</p>
	<p><i>The Evil Wizard Smallbone</i> by Jordan Delia Sherman Genre: Fantasy RL=5.4, IL=3-6, 408 pages</p> <p>After 12-year-old Nick Reynaud flees his abusive uncle, he's taken on as an apprentice by the wizard Zachariah Smallbone, who lives in the secluded, electronics-free Maine town of Smallbone Cove. Instead of being taught magic, Nick winds up managing the wizard's bookstore, cooking his meals, and trying to avoid getting turned into a spider, again. With the help of the store's books, Nick begins to harness his own powers, just as the seal-people his master has sworn to protect are threatened by the shape-shifting wolf wizard Fidelou.</p>
	<p><i>Beyond the Bright Sea</i> by Lauren Wolk Genre: Historical Fiction RL=4.0, IL=5-8, 283 pages</p> <p>Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands off the coast of Massachusetts. Her only companions are Osh, the man who rescued her from a tiny boat as an infant and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their neighbor across the sandbar. Crow has always been curious about the world around her, but it isn't until the night a mysterious fire appears across the water that the unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart. Soon, an unstoppable chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger.</p>
	<p><i>Refugee</i> by Alan Gratz Genre: Historical Fiction RL=6.1, IL=5-8, 338 pages</p> <p>Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.</p>

Compiled by Amy Samay, Franklin Middle, using information and graphics from Follett Titlewave.