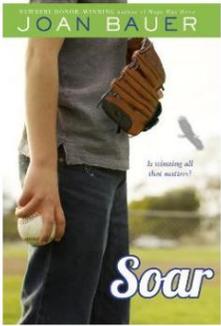
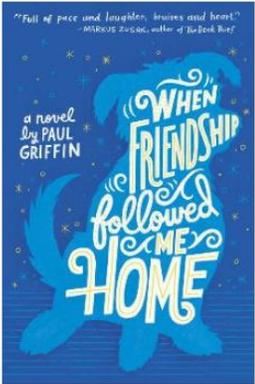
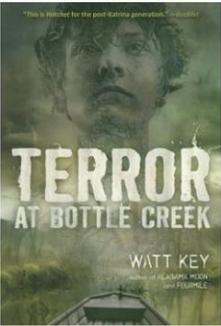
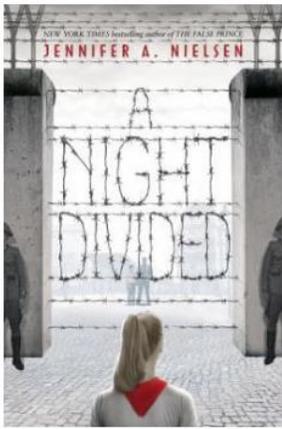


## 2017-18 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award Nominees for Grades 6-9

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

	<p><b><i>Sophie Quire and the Last Storyguard</i> by Jonathan Auxier</b>  <b>Genre: Fantasy RL=5.7, IL=5-8, 444 pages</b></p> <p>It's been two years since Peter Nimble and Sir Tode rescued the kingdom of HazelPort. In that time, they have traveled far and wide in search of adventure. Now they have been summoned by Professor Cake for a new mission: To find a twelve-year-old bookmender named Sophie Quire.</p> <p>Sophie knows little beyond the four walls of her father's bookshop, where she repairs old books and dreams of escaping the confines of her dull life. But when a strange boy and his talking cat/horse companion show up with a rare and mysterious book, she finds herself pulled into an adventure beyond anything she has ever read.</p>
	<p><b><i>Soar</i> by Joan Bauer</b>  <b>Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=4.0, IL=5-8, 296 pages</b></p> <p>Jeremiah is the world's biggest baseball fan. He <i>really</i> loves baseball and he knows just about everything there is to know about his favorite sport. So when he's told he can't play baseball following an operation on his heart, Jeremiah decides he'll do the next best thing and become a coach.</p> <p>Hillcrest, where Jeremiah and his adoptive father Walt have just moved, is a town known for its championship baseball team. But Jeremiah finds the town caught up in a scandal and about ready to give up on baseball. It's up to Jeremiah and his can-do spirit to get the town - and the team - back in the game.</p>
	<p><b><i>When Friendship Followed Me Home</i> by Paul Griffin</b>  <b>Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=4.1, IL=5-8, 247pages</b></p> <p>Ben Coffin has never been one for making friends. As a former foster kid, he knows people can up and leave without so much as a goodbye. Ben prefers to spend his time with the characters in his favorite sci-fi books...until he rescues an abandoned mutt from the alley next-door to the Coney Island Library.</p> <p>Scruffy little Flip leads Ben to befriend a fellow book-lover named Halley--yes, like the comet--a girl unlike anyone he has ever met. Ben begins thinking of her as "Rainbow Girl" because of her crazy-colored clothes and her laugh, pure magic, the kind that makes you smile away the stormiest day. Rainbow Girl convinces Ben to write a novel with her. But as their story unfolds Ben's life begins to unravel, and Ben must discover for himself the truth about friendship and the meaning of home.</p>
	<p><b><i>Terror at Bottle Creek</i> by Watt Key</b>  <b>Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=4.8, IL=5-8, 213 pages</b></p> <p>In this fast-paced survival story, Cort has grown up along the Gulf Coast, and hurricanes are a fact of life. He is especially used to the dangers of the wilderness, as his father is a river guide who leads out-of-towners through the swamp on alligator and wild hog hunts. It's not an easy life; Cort's mom left months ago. But when the latest hurricane arrives and Cort finds himself trapped in the swamp with two neighbor girls, he has a whole new slew of problems: he has not only a Category 3 storm to deal with but a host of gators, hogs, and snakes all battling it out for dry ground.</p>

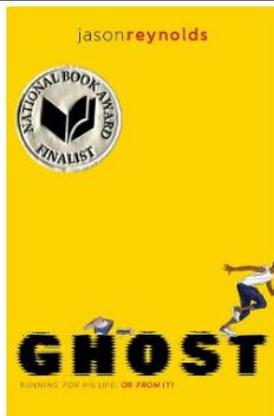


***A Night Divided* by Jennifer Nielsen**

**Genre: Historical Fiction RL=4.7, IL=3-6, 317 pages**

With the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerta finds her family divided overnight. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, to think forbidden thoughts of freedom, yet she can't help herself. She sees the East German soldiers with their guns trained on their own citizens; she, her family, her neighbors and friends are prisoners in their own city.

But one day, while on her way to school, Gerta spots her father on a viewing platform on the western side, pantomiming a peculiar dance. Then, when she receives a mysterious drawing, Gerta puts two and two together and concludes that her father wants Gerta and Fritz to tunnel beneath the wall, out of East Berlin. However, if they are caught, the consequences will be deadly. No one can be trusted. Will Gerta and her family find their way to freedom?

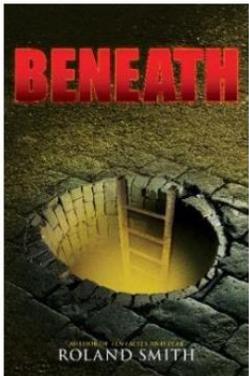


***Ghost* by Jason Reynolds**

**Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=4.6, IL=5-8, 181 pages**

Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves.

Ghost has a crazy natural talent, but no formal training. If he can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons—it all starting with running away from his father, who, when Ghost was a very little boy, chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then, Ghost has been the one causing problems—and running away from them—until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who blew his own shot at success by using drugs, and who is determined to keep other kids from blowing *their* shots at life.



***Beneath* by Roland Smith**

**Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=4.5, IL=5-8, 264 pages**

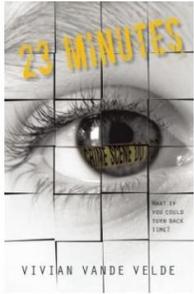
Pat O'Toole has always idolized his older brother, Coop. He's even helped Coop with some of his crazier plans -- such as risking his life to help his big brother dig a tunnel underneath their neighborhood in the suburbs of Washington, DC. Coop is . . . different. He doesn't talk on the phone, doesn't use email, and doesn't have friends. He's never really cared for anything but the thrill of being underground and Pat. So it's no surprise to anyone -- even Pat -- that after a huge fight with their parents, Coop runs away. Exactly one year later, Pat receives a package containing a digital voice recorder and a cryptic message from his brother. He follows the clues to New York City, and soon discovers that Coop has joined the Community, a self-sufficient society living beneath the streets. Now it's up to Pat to find his brother -- and bring him home.



***Falling Over Sideways* by Jordan Sonnenblick**

**Genre: Realistic Fiction YA, 257 pages**

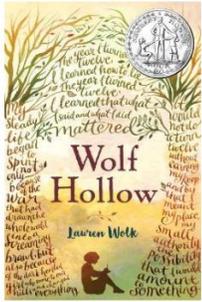
Middle school is hard enough for thirteen-year-old Claire Goldsmith. She is incessantly teased by two classmates, has an alto sax chair audition coming up, and has been kept a level behind her friends at her dance studio. Plus, puberty is doing a number on her body. She does not think her life can get any worse, but when she witnesses her novelist father having a stroke at the kitchen table, her world is turned upside-down. Bullies become allies, her routines change, and her jovial, silly dad has to relearn everything from feeding himself to communicating clearly, leaving Claire to wonder: "How could a man lose everything that made him him?"



**23 Minutes by Vivian Vande Velde**

**Genre: Fantasy YA, 176 pages**

By both society's measure and her own, fifteen-year-old Zoe Mahar is pretty much a loser. Then one day she ducks into Spencerport Savings and Loan simply to get out of the rain--and witnesses a bank robbery gone horrifyingly wrong. The good news is that Zoe has a unique ability: she can play back time and repeat events. But it's not an unlimited deal--she can only jump 23 minutes, and her first playback creates an even more disastrous outcome. Zoe has only 10 tries to get it right before this particular 23 minutes becomes irreversible. In the process of trying to become the heroine she doesn't believe she can be, Zoe learns about herself and realizes that there is more to who she is than she thought.



**Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk**

**Genre: Historical Fiction RL=4.6, IL=3-6, 291 pages**

Growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. Betty quickly reveals herself to be cruel and manipulative, and while her bullying seems isolated at first, things quickly escalate, and reclusive World War I veteran Toby becomes a target of her attacks. While others have always seen Toby's strangeness, Annabelle knows only kindness. She will soon need to find the courage to stand as a lone voice of justice as tensions mount.

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