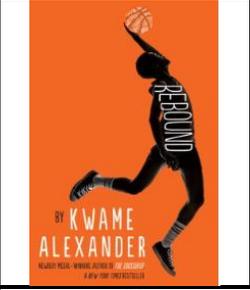
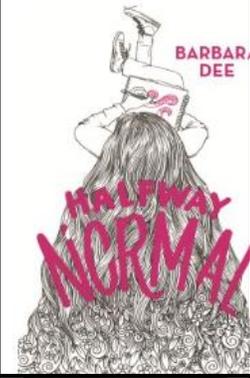
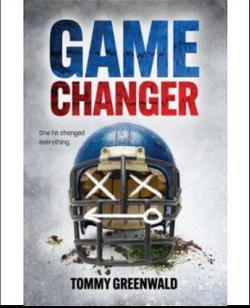
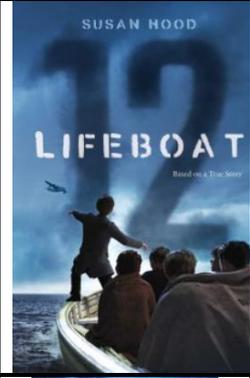
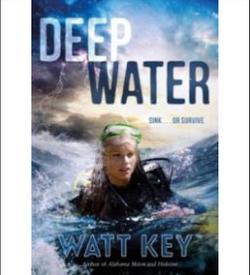


2019-20 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award FICTION Nominees for Grades 6-9

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

	<p><i>Rebound</i> by Kwame Alexander Genre: Historical Fiction RL=4.3, IL=5-8, 414 pages</p> <p>In this prequel to Alexander’s Newbery Medal–winning <i>The Crossover</i>, it’s the summer of 1988, and twelve-year-old Charlie Bell would rather roller-skate with his two best friends or escape into the pages of his beloved Fantastic Four comics than confront the hole in his life created by the sudden death of his father. While spending the summer with his grandparents outside of Washington, DC, Charlie makes mistakes, rediscovers his extended family, and finds solace on the basketball court.</p>
	<p><i>Halfway Normal</i> by Barbara Dee Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=3.5, IL=4-7, 247 pages</p> <p>Norah Levy is 12 and entering seventh grade, but she hasn’t been in school for the past two years: she’s been busy fighting leukemia, and now she’s figuring out how to re-enter the “normal” world. Norah has difficulty making the transition from cancer patient to normal middle schooler. Everyone in her grade knows her as “The Girl Who,” and Norah is tired of people treating her differently. She makes a new friend, Griffin, who shares her taste in books and mythical creatures. But she’s doing everything in her power to avoid telling him about her cancer or talking about cancer with anyone at school. She doesn’t even explain things to her best friend.</p>
	<p><i>Game Changer</i> by Tommy Greenwald Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=4.1, IL=5-8, 287 pages</p> <p>Freshman football player Teddy Youngblood, 13, is seriously injured during a practice session before the upcoming football season. Teddy’s family, friends, and neighbors are distraught about it—it may be Teddy’s favorite sport, but it just put him into a coma. Soon, rumors begin circulating around town that Teddy’s accident was not an accident; rather, there is something suspicious afoot.</p>
	<p><i>Lifeboat 12</i> by Susan Hood Genre: Historical Fiction RL=4.8, IL=5-8, 314 pages</p> <p>It’s 1940, the beginning of the Blitz, and 13-year-old Kenneth Sparks is selected to go to Canada as part of a program to send British children to the safety of the U.K.’s overseas dominions. When his ship is torpedoed, Kenneth, five other boys from the program, and about 40 adults make it aboard Lifeboat 12, one of the only lifeboats remaining after the evening’s gale-force winds. Together, they must survive the North Atlantic in a boat with limited supplies. Evocative verse perfectly captures the horror of their situation, the agonizing disappointment of near-rescues, and the tedium of daily life aboard a cramped lifeboat.</p>
	<p><i>Deep Water</i> by Key Watt Genre: Survival Fiction RL=6.5, IL=5-8, 264 pages</p> <p>When 12-year-old Julie is descending more than 100 feet below the ocean’s surface, all she can think about is how to complete the dive safely—not how miserable her father, owner of a small diving business, has been since her mother left him to move to Atlanta. But when Julie must lead a dive with two reckless clients whose expensive equipment is as untested as they are, she encounters a nightmare more harrowing than any of her problems on land.</p>

	<p><i>The Miscalculation of Lightning Girl</i> by Stacy McAnulty Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=3.7, IL=3-6, 293 pages</p> <p>When Lucy, 12, was struck by lightning, she gained extraordinary math skills and developed obsessive-compulsive disorder, and her grandmother, Nana, who raised Lucy after her parents' death, has homeschooled her ever since. Lucy can solve any equation, recall every number she's ever heard or seen, and recite pi to the 314th decimal place.</p> <p>Lucy has finished school online and is ready for college, but Nana decides that Lucy needs to experience a world outside of a computer screen. Her grandmother has a few conditions for Lucy to meet before she'll allow her to move on to higher education; She has to attend middle school for 1 year, make 1 friend, and join 1 activity.</p>
	<p><i>Ghost Boys</i> by Jewell Parker Rhodes Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=5.9, IL=5-8, 214 pages</p> <p>Set in an impoverished Chicago neighborhood, this somber story blends history with current events. Jerome Rogers, a black 12-year-old, is playing outside with a toy gun when he is shot and killed by a white policeman who views him as a threat. Now Jerome wanders the earth with other "ghost boys" whose deaths are all connected to bigotry. Ironically, the only human who can see Jerome is Sarah, the young daughter of the officer who took his life. Jerome meets the ghost of Emmett Till and learns the horrific details of his murder. Emmett, like the other ghost boys, cannot rest until the world is swept clean of discriminatory violence; maybe Jerome can help if he can make Sarah understand that her father's act was a result of deeply ingrained racism.</p>
	<p><i>Amal Unbound</i> by Aisha Saeed Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=6.9, IL=5-8, 226 pages</p> <p>Amal lives with her family in a small village in Pakistan. She dreams of becoming a teacher, but as the eldest daughter her education takes a backseat to familial responsibilities after her mother gives birth to another girl. (Following an argument with her father, Amal wonders, "If I were a son, would he so casually tell me to forget my dreams?") When Amal is grazed by a car at the market and the stranger who emerges from it is rude to her, she stands up to him, with dire consequences.</p>
	<p><i>Click'd</i> by Tamara Ireland Stone Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=4.4, IL=3-6, 288 pages</p> <p>Allie Navarro has just returned from Code Girls summer camp where her app, Click'd, proved wildly successful. The platform pairs people who share common interests: it's perfect for those who are shy or otherwise uncertain about meeting new friends. Now all Allie has to do is present her app at the Games for Good competition where it could be picked up by a software development company. Eager to share her invention with her friends, Allie prematurely releases it at school where it takes off like a rocket. It begins to spread so quickly, even Allie is amazed. But soon she discovers a glitch in the program that could lead to the sharing of too much information.</p>
	<p><i>Chasing King's Killer: The Hunt for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Assassin</i> by James L. Swanson Genre: Historical Fiction IL=YA, 373 pages</p> <p>Following a foreword by Congressman John Lewis, the text gives a short biography of King, highlighting his rise as a civil rights leader. It takes on thriller pacing as it portrays, in alternating segments, King's ceaseless work and Ray's escape from prison and eventual plot to assassinate King. Packed with period photographs, the book gives illuminating details, such as how J. Edgar Hoover was ordered to take charge of Ray's capture. It concludes with numerous conspiracy theories and ponders what message King would deliver today.</p>

2019-20 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award GRAPHIC NOVEL Nominees for Grades 6-9

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

***Estranged* by Ethan Aldridge** Genre: Fantasy RL=2.8, IL=3-6, 208 pages
Stolen at birth and replaced with a fae changeling, Edmund grows up as a human spectacle, called only the Childe, in the fae World Below. When he escapes a coup that leaves the only family he has ever known dead, he flees to the human world--the World Above--in hopes of finding his changeling, the one true heir to the fae throne.

***Gods and Thunder: A Graphic Novel of Old Norse Myths* by Carl Bowen** Genre: Mythology RL=3.4, IL=5-8, 207 pages
Gods and thunder. Brothers and betrayal. Death and rebirth. Original Viking tales of Asgard, Thor, Loki, Odin, and Baldur come to life in a full-color, action-packed graphic novel format that's perfect for young readers who crave adventure. Prepare yourself for sibling rivalry, ancient prophecies, and epic battles--and enter the weird, wild world of Norse mythology like you've never seen it before.

***Soupy Leaves Home* by Cecil Castellucci** Genre: Historical Fiction IL=YA, 194 pages
Abused by her domineering father, Pearl reinvents herself as a boy and takes to the road. In the Depression-era United States, girls have few options, and headstrong and privileged white Pearl has a desire to learn. After her mother's passing, Pearl is left with her grief-stricken father. In an impulsive moment, she cuts off her hair, exchanges her fine dress for dungarees, and introduces herself as a boy named Soupy.

***Crush* by Svetlana Chmakova** Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=2.9, IL=5-8, 234 pages
Jorge, Garrett, and Olivia have always been best friends, but this year, things are changing. Students are obsessed with who's dating whom--which Jorge finds annoying, especially when he begins noticing one particular girl and can't seem to remember how to use words around her.

***Illegal* by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin** Genre: Realistic Fiction RL=4.0, IL=5-8, 122 pages
Ebo is alone. His brother, Kwame, has disappeared, and Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the hazardous journey to Europe, and a better life--the same journey their sister set out on months ago. But Ebo refuses to be left behind in Ghana. He sets out after Kwame and joins him on the quest to reach Europe. Ebo's epic journey takes him across the Sahara Desert to the dangerous streets of Tripoli, and finally out to the merciless sea. But with every step he holds on to his hope for a new life, and a reunion with his family.

***Space Boy: Book 1* by Stephen McCranie** Genre: Science Fiction RL=4.2, IL=5-8, 243 pages
Amy, 16, has spent her whole life on a mining colony in deep space. When her father loses his job, she and her family must move back to Earth. To make the 30-year trip back, they are cryogenically frozen. Upon awakening on Earth, Amy must adjust to life in a new place and time. Technology has drastically changed, her old friends have grown up and have children of their own, and everyone at her high school seems peculiar to her, especially a mysterious boy named Oliver.

***The Wendy Project* by Melissa Osborne** Genre: Fantasy IL=YA, 92 pages
This fast-moving reboot of Peter Pan starts when 16-year-old Wendy's car plunges into a lake. She and her brother John survive, but a flying boy dressed in green carries away their younger brother, Michael--or so Wendy claims. Her devastated parents despair, and a therapist prods Wendy to draw her grief.

***Last Pick* by Jason Walz** Genre: Science Fiction IL=YA, 214 pages
Three years ago, aliens invaded Earth and abducted everyone they deemed useful. The only ones spared were those too young, too old, or too 'disabled' to be of value. Living on Earth under the aliens' harsh authoritarian rule, humanity's rejects do their best to survive. Their captors never considered them a threat--until now. Twins Sam and Wyatt are ready to chuck their labels and start a revolution. It's time for the kids last picked to step into the game.

***The Prince and the Dressmaker* by Jen Wang** Genre: Historical Fiction IL=YA, 276 pages
Prince Sebastian hires young seamstress Frances as his personal clothier; some days he feels comfortable identifying as male, but others he prefers his dress-wearing alter ego, socialite Lady Crystallia. Sebastian's secret weapon (and best friend) is the brilliant dressmaker Frances--one of only two people who know the truth: sometimes this boy wears dresses. But Frances dreams of greatness, and being someone's secret weapon means being a secret. Forever.

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