THE LOST LIBRARY* Rebecca Stead & Wendy Moss

When a mysterious Little Free Library guarded by a large orange cat appears overnight, 11-year-old Evan plucks two weathered books from its shelves, never suspecting that his life is about to change.

NELL OF GUMBLING: MY EXTREMELY NORMAL FAIRY-TALE LIKE* Emma Steinkellner

While having the world's worst apprenticeship, aspiring artist Nell, who lives in a magical town, is immersed in friend drama, adventure and mystery when weird strangers arrive, wanting to turn Gumbling into a fancy resort.

ESCAPE AT 10.000 FEET: D.B. COOPER AND THE MISSING MONEY* Tom Sullivan

This minute—by—minute account of the only unsolved airplane hijacking in the United States uses reproductions of FBI files and investigation photographs to chronicle the events surrounding an unidentified extortionist's 1971 hijacking and disappearance.

THE DOUBLE LIFE OF DANNY DAY* Mike Thayer

Danny Day, age 11, lives every day twice, which allows him to skip class, play video games for hours, and try to bring down bullies at his new middle school.

THE MISFITS: A ROYAL CONUNDRUM* Lisa Yee & Dan Santat

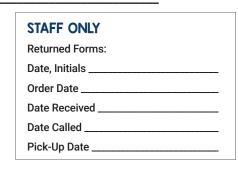
An elite group of underdogs trained to fight crime must save their unique school from shutting down.

STUDENT'S INFORMATION - PLEASE PRINT

FIRST & Last Name	
Phone Number	
School	Grade
Book Selection (1st choice)	
Book Selection (2nd choice)	



401 Plainfield Rd., Darien, IL 60561 630/887-8760 • ippl.info • ippl@ippl.info



GN600L 3-6

1250L 4-7

820L 4-6

820L 4-7



FOR GRADES 3-5

The Bluestem Young Readers' Book Award is an annual award given to the author of the book voted most outstanding by students in grades 3–5 in participating Illinois schools and libraries.

CHOOSE A CHALLENGE:

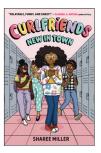
Read or listen to all 20 Bluestem books, vote for your favorite in February 2026, and receive a free paperback book from the current list or a past Bluestem list. Ask your parent or teacher to put their initials on this flier next to the title of each book you read or listen to. Return your initialed Bluestem Challenge form to the 2nd floor desk by March 16, 2026.

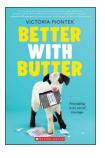
The Bluestem Young Readers' Book Award is sponsored by the IPPL Foundation & Friends.

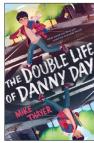












	Lexile	Grade		Lexile	Grade
DOGTOWN* Katherine Applegate, Gennifer Choldenko, & Wallace West	630L	4-6	BUTT OR FACE? A HILARIOUS ANIMAL GUESSING GAME FOR KIDS*	AD 76	0L K-3
When Chance, a real dog, and Metal Head, a robot dog, break out of the Dogtown			Kari Lavelle		
shelter, they embark on an adventure to find their fur-ever homes, encountering both			Close-up photos of animals like Cuban Dwarf Frogs and Mary River Turtles will have		
danger and unexpected kindness along the way.			children guessing if they're seeing the animals faces or their bottoms.		
THE AREA 5/ FILES!* Julie Buxbaum & Lavanya Naidu	690L	4-6	THE DEEP! WILD LIFE AT THE OCEAN'S DARKEST DEPTHS* Lindsey Leigh	950L	3-5
As Sky sets out to explore her new home with her pizza-obsessed pet hedgehog			Plunge beneath the waves to find an alien world of bizarre creatures who explain for		
Spike, she meets her otherworldly next-door neighbor Elvis and his fluffy pup, Pickles. But, something mysterious is afoot in Area 51.			themselves how they've adapted to life in the deep dark sea.		
But, something mysterious is about in Alea or.			SQUISHED* Megan Wagner Lloyd & Michelle Mee Nutter	GN 52	OL 2-5
SWIM TEAM* Johnnie Christmas	N/A	3-6	Tired of feeling squished by her six siblings, 11-year-old aspiring artist Avery Lee		
When she has to take Swim 101, middle schooler Bree must face one of her greatest			hatches a plan to finally get her own room until everything around her gets		
fears, but with a little help from an elderly neighbor and former swim team captain, she becomes her school's best hope to beat their rival.			complicated, especially when she finds out her family might move across the country.		
she becomes her schools best hope to beat their hvar.			MILLIONAIRES FOR THE MONTH* Stacy McAnulty	570L	3-6
FIGHTING FOR YES! THE STORY OF DISABILITY RIGHTS ACTIVIST JUDITH	830L	3-5	A straitlaced kid and a rule-breaker who have nothing in common become unwitting		
HEUMANN* Maryann Cocca-Leffler & Vivien Mildenberger			partners when they find a billionaire's lost wallet. A challenge by the wallet's owner		
In this nonfiction picture book, follow Judy Heumann and other disability rights			helps them learn that money cannot fix every problem.		
activists holding a sit-in and fighting for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973					
to be signed into law.			CURLFRIENDS: NEW IN TOWN* Sharee Miller	N/A	3-6
			Starting a new middle school, Charlie learns that being her true self is the best way to		
A PLATE OF HOPE: THE INSPIRING STORY OF CHEF JOSÉ ANDRÉS AND			make lasting friendships when she meets the Curlfriends, a group of Black girls who		
WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN* Erin Frankel & Paola Escobar	AD590	0L 3-5	couldn't be more different from each other.		
Learn about chef José Andrés, who, through his World Central Kitchen organization, is					
fulfilling a vision to feed people in need all over the world in this picture book biography.			BETTER WITH BUTTER* Victoria Piontek	700L	2-6
			Afraid of absolutely everything, 12-year-old Marvel momentarily forgets her anxiety		
RUMAYSA: A FAIRYTALE* Radiya Hafiza	N/A	3–4	when she rescues a fainting goat named Butter and must fight for her new friend		
For as long as she can remember, Rumaysa has been locked away in her tower, forced			when she is told she might have to give Butter up forever.		
to use her magic to spin straw into gold for the evil Witch. Until one day, after dropping			DATCATe March 1	N/A	2-5
a hijab out of her tower-window, Rumaysa realizes how she might be able to escape.			BATCAT* Maggie Ramm	IN/A	2-3
GOOD DIFFERENT Man Edon Vinsett	830L	4-6	When Batcat is haunted by an annoying, ice cream-stealing ghost, they must travel		
GOOD DIFFERENT* Meg Eden Kuyatt Neurodivergent Selah, who always tries to keep her feelings in check—especially her			across Spooky Island to gather ingredients for the Island Witch to create a spell to remove their ghastly guest and learn about self-acceptance along the way.		
anger—explodes at school one day, hitting a fellow student, and must figure out more			remove their ghastry guest and learn about sem-acceptance along the way.		
about who she is in order to understand that different doesn't mean damaged.			THE GUARDIAN TEST* Christina Soontornvat & Kevin Hong	650L	2-6
assat into she to in order to anderstand that unferent document duringed.			Accepted to the Guardian Academy on Lotus Island, a place where kids transform		
			into magical creatures sworn to protect the natural world, young Plum finds herself		
			struggling and might be forced to leave school if she cannot embrace her inner animal		

soon.

^{**}Denotes that we have an eBook available through hoopla or eMediaLibrary.