

**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 Gumbeling 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) \_\_\_\_\_



Indian Prairie  
Public Library

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



STAFF ONLY

Returned Forms:

Date, Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Order Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Date Called \_\_\_\_\_

Pick-Up Date \_\_\_\_\_

Lexile 640L Grade 4-7

GN600L 3-6

1250L 4-7

820L 4-6

820L 4-7



TAKE THE



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.



**DOGTOWN\*** Katherine Applegate, Gennifer Choldenko, & Wallace West  
When Chance, a real dog, and Metal Head, a robot dog, break out of the Dogtown shelter, they embark on an adventure to find their fur–ever homes, encountering both danger and unexpected kindness along the way.

**THE AREA 51 FILES!\*** Julie Buxbaum & Lavanya Naidu  
As Sky sets out to explore her new home with her pizza–obsessed pet hedgehog Spike, she meets her otherworldly next–door neighbor Elvis and his fluffy pup, Pickles. But, something mysterious is afoot in Area 51.

**SWIM TEAM\*** Johnnie Christmas  
When she has to take Swim 101, middle schooler Bree must face one of her greatest 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.

**FIGHTING FOR YES! THE STORY OF DISABILITY RIGHTS ACTIVIST JUDITH HEUMANN\*** Maryann Cocco–Leffler & Vivien Mildenberger  
In this nonfiction picture book, follow Judy Heumann and other disability rights activists holding a sit–in and fighting for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to be signed into law.

**A PLATE OF HOPE: THE INSPIRING STORY OF CHEF JOSÉ ANDRÉS AND WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN\*** Erin Frankel & Paola Escobar  
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.

**RUMAYSA: A FAIRYTALE\*** Radiya Hafiza  
For as long as she can remember, Rumaysa has been locked away in her tower, forced to use her magic to spin straw into gold for the evil Witch. Until one day, after dropping a hijab out of her tower-window, Rumaysa realizes how she might be able to escape.

**GOOD DIFFERENT\*** Meg Eden Kuyatt  
Neurodivergent Selah, who always tries to keep her feelings in check—especially her anger—explodes at school one day, hitting a fellow student, and must figure out more about who she is in order to understand that different doesn’t mean damaged.

Lexile  
630L

Grade  
4–6

690L 4–6

N/A 3–6

830L 3–5

AD590L 3–5

N/A 3–4

830L 4–6

**BUTT OR FACE? A HILARIOUS ANIMAL GUESSING GAME FOR KIDS\***  
Kari Lavelle  
Close-up photos of animals like Cuban Dwarf Frogs and Mary River Turtles will have children guessing if they’re seeing the animals faces or their bottoms.

**THE DEEP! WILD LIFE AT THE OCEAN’S DARKEST DEPTHS\*** Lindsey Leigh  
Plunge beneath the waves to find an alien world of bizarre creatures who explain for themselves how they’ve adapted to life in the deep dark sea.

**SQUISHED\*** Megan Wagner Lloyd & Michelle Mee Nutter  
Tired of feeling squished by her six siblings, 11-year-old aspiring artist Avery Lee hatches a plan to finally get her own room until everything around her gets complicated, especially when she finds out her family might move across the country.

**MILLIONAIRES FOR THE MONTH\*** Stacy McAnulty  
A straitlaced kid and a rule–breaker who have nothing in common become unwitting partners when they find a billionaire’s lost wallet. A challenge by the wallet’s owner helps them learn that money cannot fix every problem.

**CURLFRIENDS: NEW IN TOWN\*** Sharee Miller  
Starting a new middle school, Charlie learns that being her true self is the best way to make lasting friendships when she meets the Curlfriends, a group of Black girls who couldn’t be more different from each other.

**BETTER WITH BUTTER\*** Victoria Piontek  
Afraid of absolutely everything, 12-year-old Marvel momentarily forgets her anxiety when she rescues a fainting goat named Butter and must fight for her new friend when she is told she might have to give Butter up forever.

**BATCAT\*** Maggie Ramm  
When Batcat is haunted by an annoying, ice cream–stealing ghost, they must travel 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.

**THE GUARDIAN TEST\*** Christina Soontornvat & Kevin Hong  
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.

Lexile  
AD 760L

Grade  
K–3

950L 3–5

GN 520L 2–5

570L 3–6

N/A 3–6

700L 2–6

N/A 2–5

650L 2–6

\*\*Denotes that we have an eBook available through hoopla or eMediaLibrary.