

# 2025 Lincoln Award List



# Who are we?

Amy Phillips

Steering Committee Member

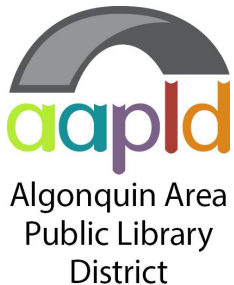
Librarian at Riverside  
Brookfield High School



Jen Jazwinski

Steering Committee Co-Chair

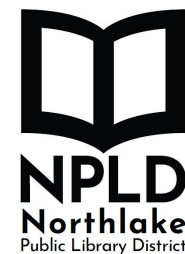
Youth Services Librarian  
Algonquin Area Public Library District



Marion Olea

Publicity Committee

Head of Adult Services  
Northlake Public Library District



#AISLEd

**“This program encourages teens to read for pleasure and to become lifelong readers.”**

-Lincoln Award Program Information from [AISLE website](#)

# How does it work?

## Nominate:

- Teachers & librarians submit titles year-round.
- Nominations Committee narrows them down (Fall)

## Read

- Reading Committee (students, librarians, and teachers) read, review, and narrow down the list to the final nominees.
- Students read from the current year's master list!

## Vote

- Registered schools tally student votes for their favorite nominated title!
- Winners announced in late-March.

# Calendar

<b>January 15</b>	<b>Registration ends for current year</b>
<b>March (2<sup>nd</sup> full week)</b>	<b>Master List announced for next year</b>
<b>Feb 15 - Mar 15</b>	<b>Online voting period (closes midnight March 15)</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Registration for next year begins LBSS Grant Applications available for free set of books</b>
<b>March (3rd-4th week)</b>	<b>Current Year Winner Announcement</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Nominations accepted for new book list – ongoing through September!</b>
<b>May 15</b>	<b>Deadline for LBSS Grant Applications</b>
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Promotional materials posted for next year's list</b>
<b>September 15</b>	<b>Book nominations close</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Winner recognized, presented with award at AISLE Conference</b>

# Building a great program

## Public/School Library:

- Displays, book clubs, Read-a-Lincoln/Win-a-Lincoln, Voting Parties
- Buy multiple copies of nominees!

## Classroom:

- Curriculum guides
- Literature circles, Summer reading, First Chapter Fridays

# Available Resources for Participants

- Voting forms (paper and digital)
- Completion certificates
- Curriculum guides for ALL 20 books!
  - Synopsis, author info, award info, book trailers, professional reviews, curriculum/lesson plan ideas, discussion questions, real world/STEM connections and activities, readalikes, book/movie/TV pairings
- Battle of the Books/Trivia questions

.... And so much MORE!

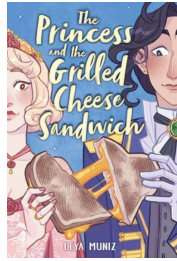
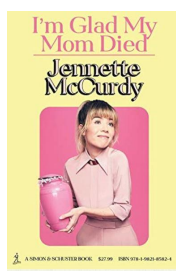
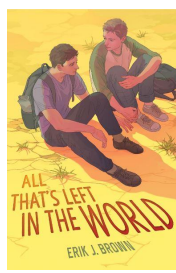
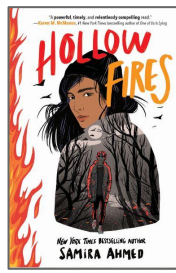
# LBSS Grants

Interested in promoting the Lincoln at your school or library, but need to stretch your book budget?

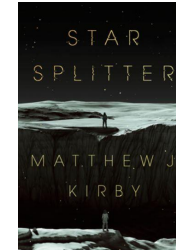
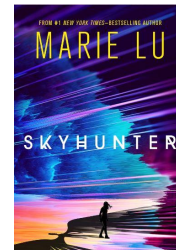
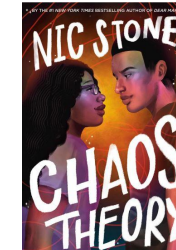
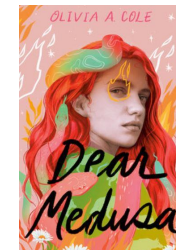
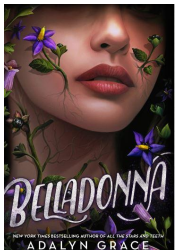
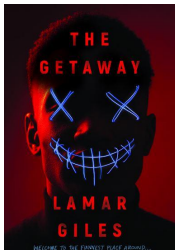
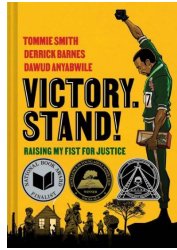
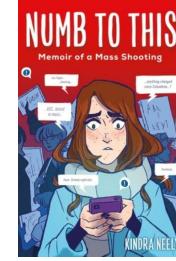
Apply for a Library Book Selection Service (LBSS) [Readers' Choice Grant!](#)

- You school or library must be registered for the Lincoln Award
- Submissions accepted March 16-April 30
- Winners notified by August 1
- Review the [rubric](#), [checklist](#), and [FAQs](#) for more information





# 2025 Lincoln Award

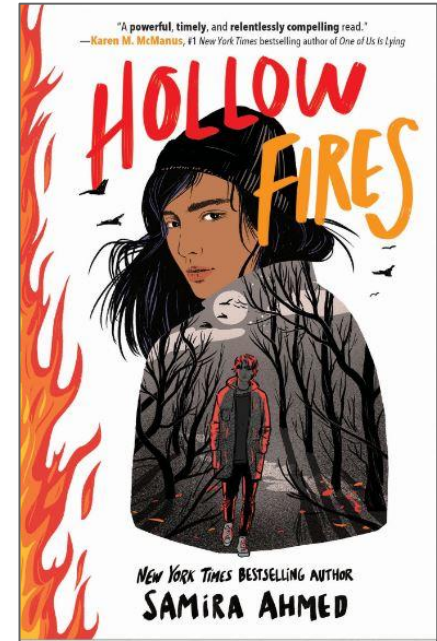


# Hollow Fires by Samira Ahmed

Mystery/Thriller, Supernatural/Paranormal

After discovering the body of fourteen-year-old Jawad Ali in Jackson Park, seventeen-year-old journalism student Safiya Mirza begins investigating his murder and ends up confronting white supremacy in her own high school.

Summary from OCLC

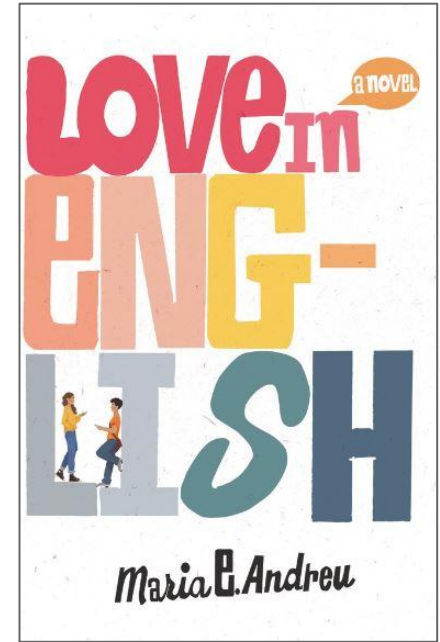


# *Love in English* by Maria E. Andreu

Romance, Realistic Fiction, Race/Class/Gender

Feeling blocked after moving from Argentina to New Jersey, a sixteen-year-old poet finds herself torn between a cute American boy in her math class and a Greek student who understands the struggles she is facing in an ESL class.

Summary from Polaris

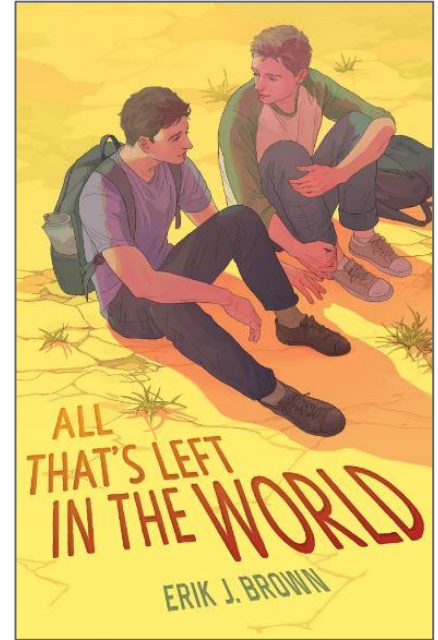


# *All That's Left in the World* by Erik J. Brown

Action/Adventure, Dystopia, Romance, LGBTQ+

Putting their trust in one another, two boys, Andrew and Jamie, search for civilization in a world ravaged by a deadly pathogen, but their secrets could cost them everything as they try to find the courage to fight for the future, together.

Summary from OCLC

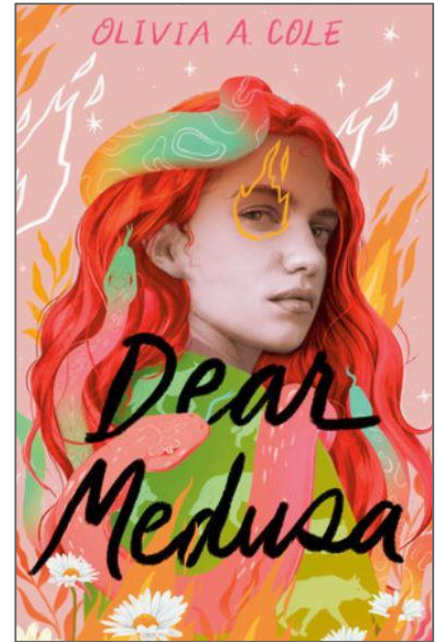


# Dear Medusa by Olivia A. Cole

Verse Novel, Realistic Fiction

Follows 16-year-old Alicia, who feels isolated and alone after being sexually abused by a teacher, then cast as the slut who asked for it, until she receives mysterious letters hinting at another victim, forcing her to face her trauma and fight back.

Summary from publisher

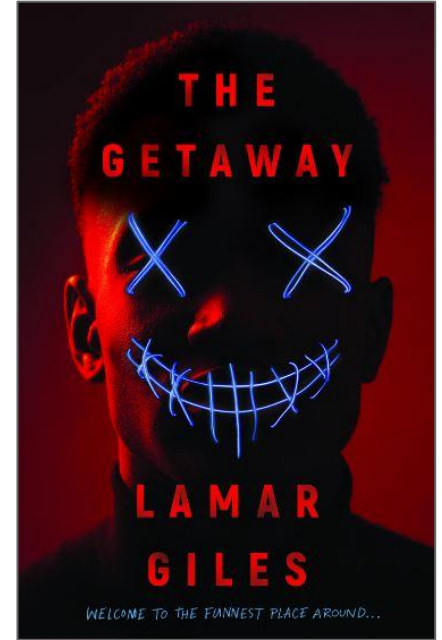


# The Getaway by Lamar Giles

Dystopia, Mystery/Thriller, Science Fiction,  
Race/Class/Gender

Jay discovers that the mountain resort where he lives and works with his friends and family is also a doomsday oasis for the rich and powerful who expect top-notch customer service even as the world outside the resort's walls disintegrates.

Summary from OCLC

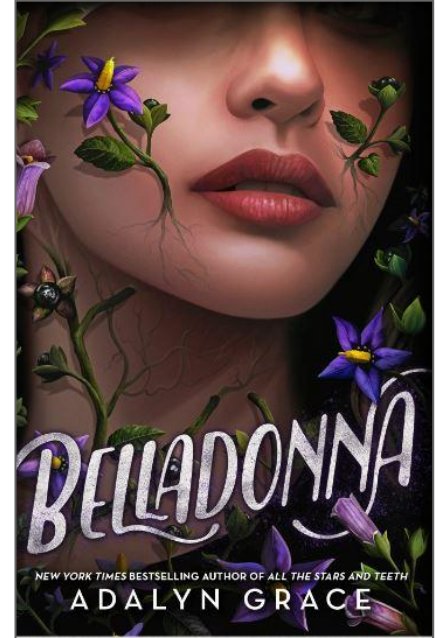


# Belladonna by Adalyn Grace

Fantasy, Mystery/Thriller, Supernatural/Paranormal,  
Series

Nineteen-year-old orphan Signa Farrow confronts Death--and her own deathly powers--when she investigates the mysterious murder of a relative at the Thorn Grove estate.

Summary from Follett



# *We Deserve Monuments* by Jas Hammonds

Realistic Fiction, Race, LGBTQ+

When seventeen-year-old Avery moves to rural Georgia to live with her ailing grandmother, she encounters decade-old family secrets and a mystery surrounding the town's racist past.

Summary from Follett



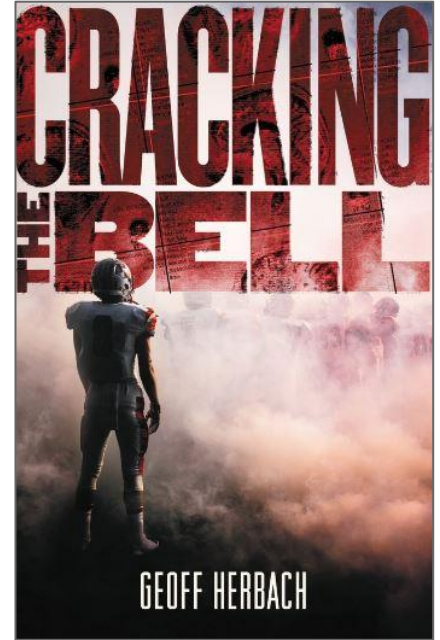


# *Cracking the Bell* by Geoff Herbach

## Sports, Realistic Fiction

Isaiah loves football. In fact, football saved Isaiah's life, giving him structure and discipline after his sister's death tore his family apart. But when Isaiah gets knocked out cold on the field, he learns there's a lot more to lose than football.

Summary from publisher

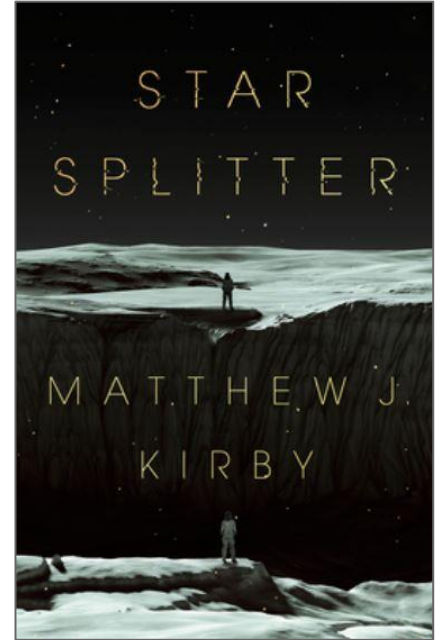


# *Star Splitter* by Matthew J. Kirby

Action/Adventure, Mystery/Thriller, Science Fiction

For Jessica Mathers, teleportation and planetary colonization in deep space aren't just hypotheticals – they're real. They're also the very real reason her scientist parents left her behind six years ago. Now she is about to be reunited with them, forced to leave behind everyone she knows and loves, to join their research assignment on Carver 1061c, a desolate, post-extinction planet almost 14 lightyears from Earth....

Summary from OCLC

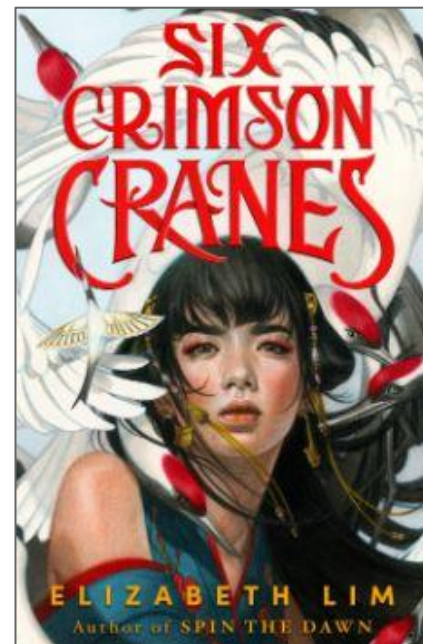


# *Six Crimson Cranes* by Elizabeth Lim

Fantasy, Race/Class/Gender, Series

The exiled Princess Shiori must unravel the curse that turned her six brothers into cranes, and she is assisted by her spurned betrothed, a capricious dragon, and a paper bird brought to life by her own magic.

Summary from OCLC



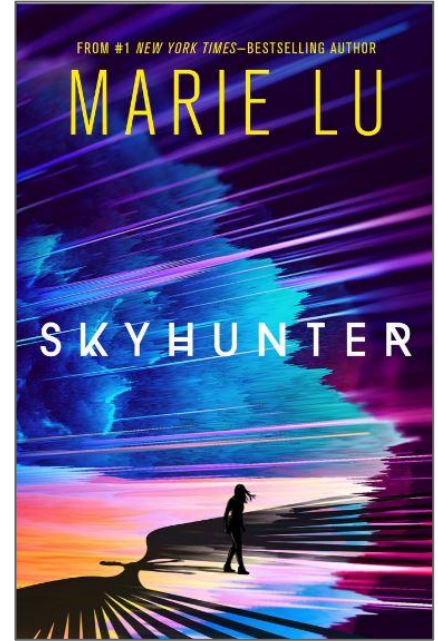
# Skyhunter by Marie Lu

Action/Adventure, Science Fiction, Duology

Robbed of her voice and home, Talin Kanami knows firsthand the brutality of the Karensa Federation and its bioengineered Ghosts.

As the Federation closes in on the last remaining free nation of Mara, defeat seems inevitable - even with the defense provided by the legendary Strikers, who have reluctantly accepted refugee Talin among their ranks. Then, a mysterious prisoner is captured. Could he be the weapon that saves them all?

Summary adapted from the publisher



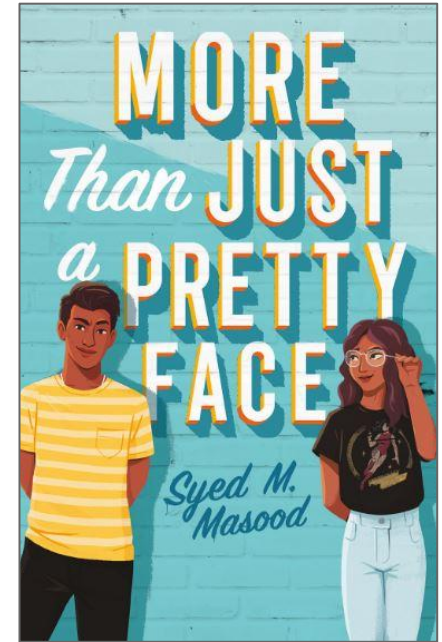
# More Than Just a Pretty Face by Syed M. Masood



Romance, Humor

When self-proclaimed 'not very bright' nineteen-year-old Danyal Jilani is chosen for a prestigious academic contest, he hopes to impress a potential arranged marriage match, only to begin falling for the girl helping him study instead.

Summary from OCLC

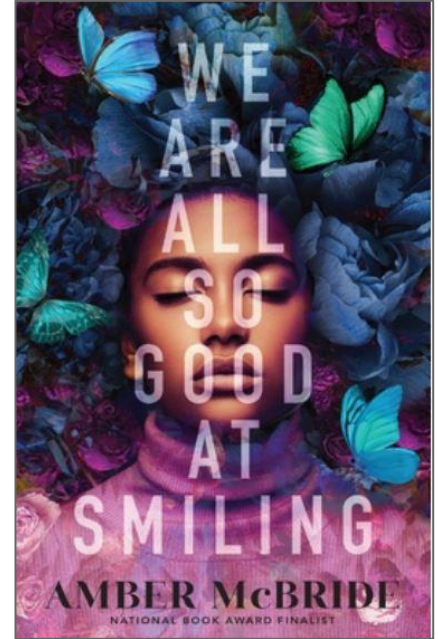


# We Are All So Good at Smiling by Amber McBride



Realistic Fiction, Depression/Suicide/Grief, Mental Health

When hospitalized for her clinical depression, Whimsy connects with a boy named Faerry, who also suffers from the traumatic loss of a sibling, and together they work to unearth buried memories and battle the fantastical physical embodiment of their depression.



Summary from Follett



#AISLEd

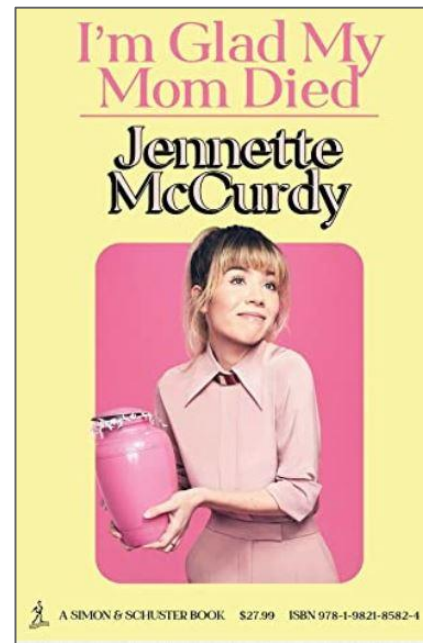
2024, Phillips & Jazwinski

# *I'm Glad My Mom Died* by Jennette McCurdy

## Memoir

A heartbreaking and hilarious memoir by iCarly and Sam & Cat star Jennette McCurdy about her struggles as a former child actor - including eating disorders, addiction, and a complicated relationship with her overbearing mother - and how she retook control of her life.

Summary from OCLC

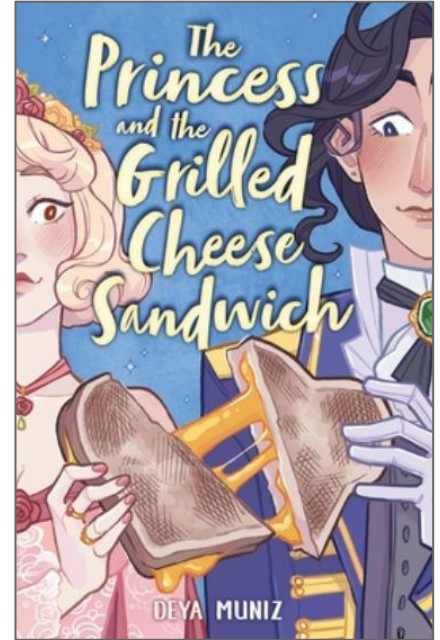


# *The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich* by Deya Muniz

Graphic Novel, Humor, Romance, LGBTQ+

Cam disguises herself as a man to inherit her father's money and estate, and though she tries to keep a low profile, she ends up falling for Crown Princess Brie.

Summary from publisher



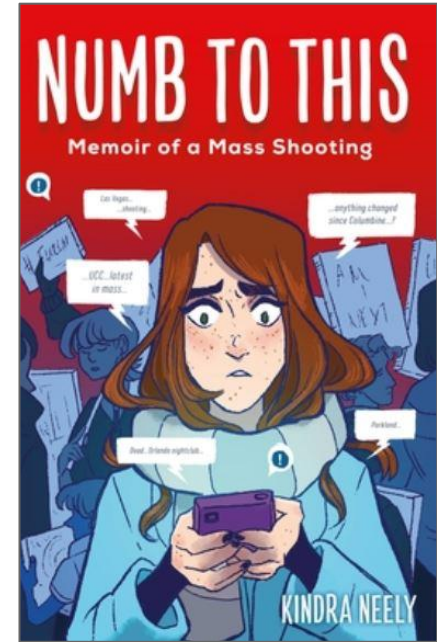


# *Numb to This: Memoir of a Mass Shooting* by Kindra Neely

Graphic Novel, Memoir, Depression/Suicide/Grief

Author Kindra Neely recounts her journey to healing after surviving a mass shooting during her first year of college.

Summary from publisher

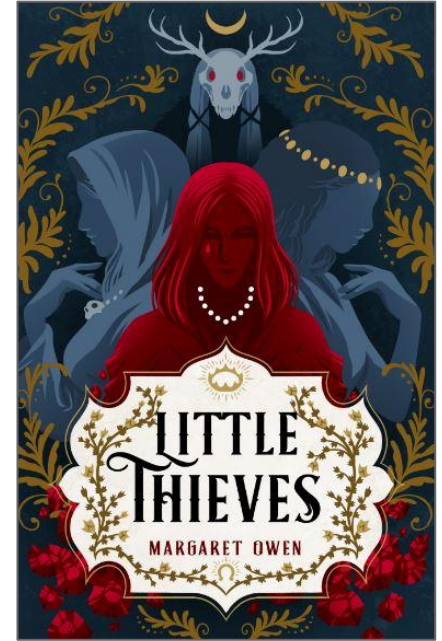


# Little Thieves by Margaret Owen

Action/Adventure, Fantasy

Vanja Schmidt knows that no gift is freely given, not even a mother's love--and she's on the hook for one hell of a debt. Vanja, the adopted goddaughter of Death and Fortune, was Princess Gisele's dutiful servant up until a year ago. That was when Vanja's otherworldly mothers demanded a terrible price for their care, and Vanja decided to steal her future back... by stealing Gisele's life for herself.

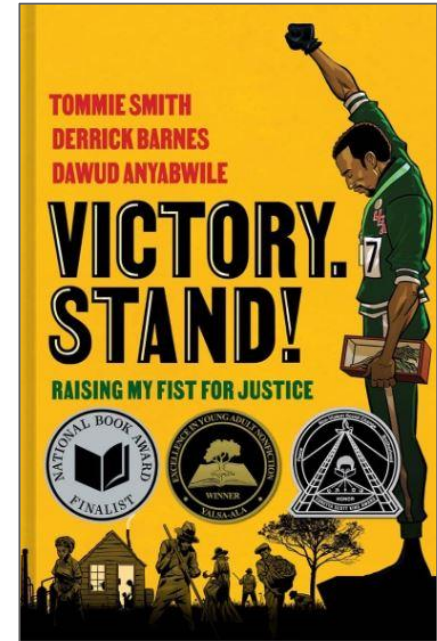
Summary from publisher



# *Victory, Stand!: Raising My Fist for Justice* by Tommie Smith, Dawud Anyabwile, and Derrick Barnes

Graphic Novel, Memoir, Race/Class, Sports

On October 16, 1968, during the medal ceremony at the Mexico City Olympics, Tommie Smith, the gold medal winner in the 200-meter sprint, and John Carlos, the bronze medal winner, stood on the podium in black socks and raised their black-gloved fists to protest racial injustice inflicted upon African Americans. Both men were forced to leave the Olympics, received death threats, and faced ostracism and continuing economic hardships. In his first-ever memoir for young readers, Tommie Smith looks back on his childhood growing up in rural Texas through to his stellar athletic career, culminating in his historic victory and Olympic podium protest.



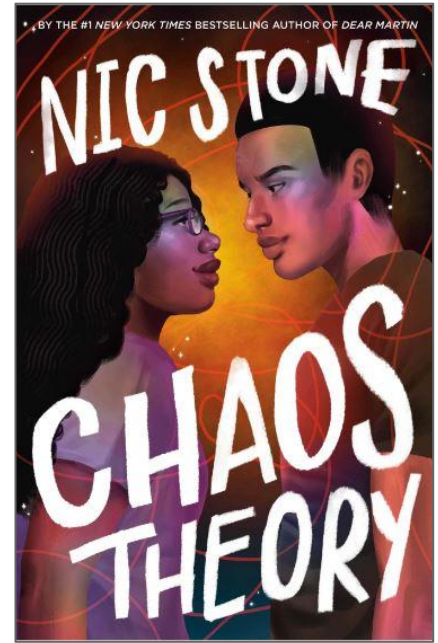
Summary from publisher

# Chaos Theory by Nic Stone

Romance, Realistic Fiction, Mental Health

Since Shelbi enrolled at Windward Academy as a senior and won't be there very long, she hasn't bothered making friends. Andy Criddle is not okay. At all. He's had far too much to drink. Again. When Shelbi sees Andy at his lowest, she can relate. There's no doubt their connection has them both seeing stars ... but the closer they get, the more the past threatens to pull their universes apart.

Summary adapted from publisher



# *This Golden State* by Marit Weisenberg

Mystery/Thriller, Realistic Fiction

Seventeen-year-old Poppy takes a home DNA test and unravels her parents' identities and their decades of careful work to keep their family anonymous, allowing the past to come dangerously close to catching up to them.

Summary from OCLC



# How can you get involved?

[Volunteer Form](#)

## Informally

- [Nominate](#) titles for consideration
- [Register](#) your school/library
- Promote the nominees
- Encourage your kids/students to read & vote!
- Encourage students to [volunteer](#).

## Nominations

- Join the committee that narrows down ALL the nominated titles to 75 (August-September)

## Reading

- Join the committee to read and evaluate titles (October-February)
- Meet in February to narrow the list to 20 finalists

## Steering Committee

- Join after serving on one or more of the sub-committees
- Help run and organize the award from behind the scenes!

# Thank you!

Any Questions?

Contact us: [lincoln@aisled.org](mailto:lincoln@aisled.org)

<https://aisled.org/lincoln>

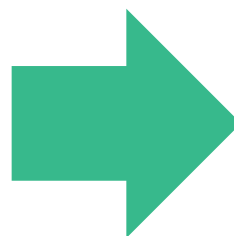
# Lincoln Award: IL Teen Readers' Choice Award



## How to Get Involved:

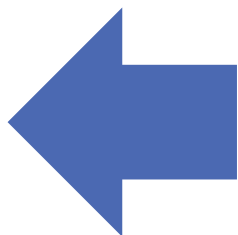
### REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL

<https://aisled.org/lincoln/>



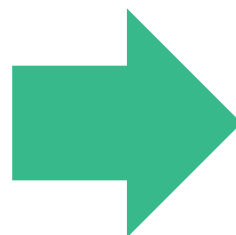
### VOLUNTEER

Adult Volunteer Form



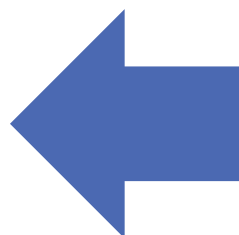
### ENCOURAGE TEENS TO VOLUNTEER

Teen Volunteer Form



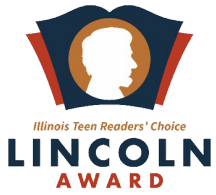
### NOMINATE BOOKS

Nomination Form



Questions? Email [lincoln@aisled.org](mailto:lincoln@aisled.org)





## 2025 Illinois Lincoln Award Master List



Author	Title	Publisher	Year
Ahmed, Samira	<i>Hollow Fires</i>	Little, Brown Books for Young Readers	2022
Andreu, Maria E.	<i>Love in English</i>	Balzer + Bray	2021
Brown, Erik J.	<i>All That's Left in the World</i>	Balzer + Bray	2022
Cole, Olivia A.	<i>Dear Medusa</i>	Labyrinth Road	2023
Giles, Lamar	<i>The Getaway</i>	Scholastic Press	2022
Grace, Adalyn	<i>Belladonna</i>	Little, Brown Books for Young Readers	2022
Hammonds, Jas	<i>We Deserve Monuments</i>	Roaring Brook Press	2022
Herbach, Geoff	<i>Cracking the Bell</i>	Katherine Tegen Books	2019
Kirby, Matthew J.	<i>Star Splitter</i>	Dutton Books for Young Readers	2023
Lim, Elizabeth	<i>Six Crimson Cranes</i>	Knopf Books for Young Readers	2021
Lu, Marie	<i>Skyhunter</i>	Roaring Brook Press	2020
Masood, Syed M.	<i>More Than Just a Pretty Face</i>	Little, Brown Books for Young Readers	2020
McBride, Amber	<i>We Are All So Good at Smiling</i>	Feiwel & Friends	2023
McCurdy, Jennette	<i>I'm Glad My Mom Died</i>	Simon & Schuster	2022
Muniz, Deya	<i>The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich</i>	Little, Brown Ink	2023
Neely, Kindra	<i>Numb to This: Memoir of a Mass Shooting</i>	Little, Brown Ink	2022
Owen, Margaret	<i>Little Thieves</i>	Henry Holt and Co.	2021
Smith, Tommie, Dawud Anyabwile, & Derrick Barnes	<i>Victory, Stand! Raising My Fist For Justice</i>	Norton Young Readers	2022
Stone, Nic	<i>Chaos Theory</i>	Crown Books for Young Readers	2023
Weisenberg, Marit	<i>This Golden State</i>	Flatiron Books	2022

Highlighted = Teen Reading Panel Selections

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