

## 2024 North Carolina Children's Book Award: *Junior Book Nominees*

**Cartaya, Pablo. *The Last Beekeeper*. Waterville, Maine : Thorndike Press, 2023.**

In a future shaken by climate disasters, twelve-year-old Yolanda Cicerón struggles to get away from the grueling life of farming and discovers her only chance of survival may lie in the rediscovery of a long-extinct species--the honeybee.

**Chin, Jason. *Your Place in the Universe*. New York : Holiday House, 2020.**

A non-fiction introduction to the massive scale of the known universe.

**Christmas, Johnnie. *Swim Team*. New York : Harper Alley, 2022.**

Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, Enith Brightha, home of the Mighty Manatees - until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive headfirst into one of her greatest fears. Lucky for her, Ella an elderly occupant of her apartment building and former swim team captain, is willing to help.

**Davis, Amanda. *30,000 Stitches: The Inspiring Story of the National 9/11 Flag*. Illus. Sally Wern Comport. New York : WorthyKids, 2021.**

The inspiring story of the American flag that flew over Ground Zero, traveled across all fifty states as it was repaired, and returned to New York, a restored symbol of unity.

**Fipps, Lisa. *Starfish*. New York : Nancy Paulsen Books, 2021.**

Bullied and shamed her whole life for being fat, twelve-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new allies.

**Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. *Invisible*. Illus. Gabriella Epstein. New York : Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic, 2022.**

Five very different students are forced together by their school to complete community service. When they meet someone who truly needs their help, they must decide whether they are each willing to expose their own secrets to help... or if remaining invisible is the only way to survive middle school.

**Grabenstein, Chris. *Dog Squad*. New York : Random House Children's Books, 2021.**

Fred, a scrappy and lovable dog, gets cast as a stand-in for the lead role in Dog Squad, a show about crime-fighting dogs, and he soon finds out the action doesn't always stop on screen.

**Kim, Jessica. *Stand Up, Yumi Chung!*. New York : Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2020.**

When eleven-year-old Yumi Chung stumbles into a kids' comedy camp she is mistaken for another student so she decides to play the part.

**Raúf, Onjali Q.. *The Boy at the Back of the Class*. New York : Delacorte Press, 2020.**

When quiet, nine-year-old Ahmet arrives in their classroom, a boy and his friends fail to draw him out but try a new plan after learning he is a Syrian refugee.

**Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *Solimar: The Sword of the Monarchs*. Los Angeles : Disney Hyperion, 2022.**

On the eve of her Quinceañera, Princess Solimar discovers that it will take more than magic to save her kingdom and prevent the destruction of the Monarch butterfly.

**Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *The Elephant in the Room*. New York : Dial Books for Young Readers, 2021.**

Missing her mother who has returned to Turkey to resolve an immigration problem, sixth-grader Sila welcomes a very large distraction in her life when she helps a surprising new friend rescue a circus elephant.

**Warga, Jasmine. *A Rover's Story*. New York : Balzer + Bray, 2022.**

Built to explore Mars, Resilience begins to develop human-like feelings as he learns from the NASA scientists who assembled him, and as he blasts off and explores Mars, Resilience must overcome different obstacles as he explores the red planet.