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Louisiana Readers' Choice (LYRC/LTRC) Awards Program 2025-2026 Nominated Titles

Grades K-2:

- *Cookie Queen: How One Girl Started Tate's Bake Shop®* written by Kathleen King and Lowey B. Sichol, illustrated by Ramona Kaulitzki (Random House Books for Young Readers, Penguin Random House)
- *Drag and Rex: Forever Friends* written by Susan Lubner, illustrated by Blythe Russo (Pixel+Ink, Holiday House)
- *Gnome and Rat* written and illustrated by Lauren Stohler (Knopf Books for Young Readers, Penguin Random House)
- *Grandmothers Galore!* written by Judith Henderson and Ellen Yeomans, illustrated by Rashin Kheiriyeh (Abrams Books for Young Readers, ABRAMS)
- *I Am a Dragon!: A Squabble & a Quibble* written and illustrated by Sabina Hahn (HarperCollins)
- *Mr. S: A First Day of School Book* written and illustrated by Monica Arnaldo (Katherine Tegen Books, HarperCollins)
- *My Dog and I* written by Luca Tortolini, illustrated by Felicita Sala (Milky Way Picture Books)
- *Nat the Cat Takes a Nap* written and illustrated by Jarrett Lerner (Simon Spotlight, Simon & Schuster)
- *The Nature Journal: A Backyard Adventure* written and illustrated by Savannah Allen (Viking Books for Young Readers, Penguin Random House)
- *Not a Monster* written by Claudia Guadalupe Martínez, illustrated by Laura González (Charlesbridge Publishing)
- *One Chicken Nugget* written and illustrated by Tadgh Bentley (Balzer + Bray, HarperCollins)
- *Real to Me* written by Minh Lê, illustrated by Raissa Figueroa (Knopf Books for Young Readers, Penguin Random House)
- *The Red Jacket* written and illustrated by Bob Holt (HarperCollins)

- *Try a Bite, Trilobite!* written and illustrated by Jonathan Fenske (Simon Spotlight, Simon & Schuster)
- *Wombat, the Reluctant Hero* written by Christian Trimmer, illustrated by Rachel Gyan (Roaring Brook Press, Macmillan)

Grades 3-5:

- *Balto and Togo: Hero Dogs of Alaska* written by Helen Moss, illustrated by Solomon Hughes (Godwin Books, Macmillan)
- *The Curious Vanishing of Beatrice Willoughby* written by G.Z. Schmidt (Holiday House)
- *Cut!: How Lotte Reiniger and a Pair of Scissors Revolutionized Animation* written by C.E. Winters, illustrated by Matt Schu (Greenwillow Books, HarperCollins)
- *Darwin's Super-Pooping Worm Spectacular* written by Polly Owen, illustrated by Gwen Millward (Wide Eyed Editions, Quarto Group)
- *Heroic Heart: An Illustrated Biography of Joe Delaney* written by Frank Murphy and Charnaie Gordon, illustrated by Anastasia Magloire Williams (Charlesbridge Publishing)
- *The Lost Library* written by Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass (Feiwel & Friends, Macmillan)
- *Moving the Millers' Minnie Moore Mine Mansion: A True Story* written by Dave Eggers, illustrated by Júlia Sardà (Candlewick Press)
- *My Powerful Hair* written by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Steph Littlebird (Abrams Books for Young Readers, ABRAMS)
- *Penny Draws a Best Friend* written and illustrated by Sara Shepard (G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, Penguin Random House)
- *Saving Chupie* written by Amparo Ortiz, illustrated by Ronnie Vazquez (HarperAlley, HarperCollins)
- *Spanish Is the Language of My Family* written by Michael Genhart, illustrated by John Parra (Neal Porter Books, Holiday House)
- *Squished* written by Megan Wagner Lloyd, illustrated by Michelle Mee Nutter (Graphix, Scholastic)
- *The Whispering Pines* written by James Preller, illustrated by Kevin Keele (Scholastic Inc., Scholastic)
- *Wishing Season* written by Anica Mrose Rissi (Quill Tree Books, HarperCollins)
- *Yoshi, Sea Turtle Genius: A True Story about an Amazing Swimmer* written by Lynne Cox, illustrated by Richard Jones (Anne Schwartz Books, Penguin Random House)

Grades 6-8:

- *Call Me Adnan* written by Reem Faruqi (HarperCollins)

- *The Demon Sword Asperides* written by Sarah Jean Horwitz (Algonquin Young Readers, Hachette Book Group)
- *Eb & Flow* written by Kelly J. Baptist (Crown Books for Young Readers, Penguin Random House)
- *Farther Than the Moon* written by Lindsay Lackey (Roaring Brook Press, Macmillan)
- *The Firefly Summer* written by Morgan Matson (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, Simon & Schuster)
- *It Found Us* written by Lindsay Currie (Sourcebooks Young Readers, Sourcebooks)
- *It's Boba Time for Pearl Li!* written by Nicole Chen (Quill Tree Books, HarperCollins)
- *The Labors of Hercules Beal* written by Gary D. Schmidt (Clarion Books, HarperCollins)
- *The Lost Year: A Survival Story of the Ukrainian Famine* written by Katherine Marsh (Roaring Brook Press, Macmillan)
- *Mexikid* written and illustrated by Pedro Martín (Dial Books, Penguin Random House)
- *The Ruby Code* written by Jessica Khoury (Scholastic Press, Scholastic)
- *Will on the Inside* written by Andrew Eliopoulos (Quill Tree Books, HarperCollins)

Grades 9-12 (Teen):

- *America Redux: Visual Stories from Our Dynamic History* written and illustrated by Ariel Aberg-Riger (Balzer + Bray, HarperCollins)
- *Bonesmith* written by Nicki Pau Preto (Margaret K. McElderry Books, Simon & Schuster)
- *Find Him Where You Left Him Dead* written by Kristen Simmons (Tor Teen, Macmillan)
- *Give Me a Sign* written by Anna Sortino (G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, Penguin Random House)
- *The Luis Ortega Survival Club* written by Sonora Reyes (Balzer + Bray, HarperCollins)
- *The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich* written and illustrated by Deya Muniz (Little, Brown Ink; Hachette Book Group)
- *Promise Boys* written by Nick Brooks (Henry Holt and Co., Macmillan)
- *Reggie and Delilah's Year of Falling* written by Elise Bryant (Balzer + Bray, HarperCollins)
- *Rez Ball* written by Byron Graves (Heartdrum, HarperCollins)
- *Wrath Becomes Her* written by Aden Polydoros (Inkyard Press, HarperCollins)

For more information about the program, including previous winners, how to participate, and additional resources such as free bookmarks, posters, and study guides, please visit the [Louisiana Readers' Choice Program website](#).