

## 2020-2021 6-8 LYRC Narrowed Consideration List

### By Genre

**\*\*Note:** The following titles were strongly considered but were not included on the final list of 12 nominated titles.

### Action & Adventure



1. **24 Hours in Nowhere** by Dusti Bowling, 272 pp., 3 starred reviews  
13 y/o protag, **male protag**, bullies, Arizona, dirt bikes, socio-economic, road trip, realistic, **Native Americans**, **Latinos**, friendship, treasure hunt, **humor**

**Summary:** Thirteen-year-old Gus, having been saved from the bullying of Bo Taylor by Rossi Scott who agreed to trade her dirt bike in exchange for Gus being left alone, agrees to go into Dead Frenchman Mine with Rossi and two other kids to find a piece of gold. (AR)

IL: MG - BL: 4.2 - AR Pts: 7.0

AR Quiz No. 196913

2. **Game Masters of Garden Place** by Denis Markell, 304 pp., 0 starred reviews  
11 y/o protag, 6th graders, **male protagonist**, fantasy games, role playing, video games, friendship, supernatural, Brooklyn, Dungeons and Dragons

**Summary:** When five sixth-graders accidentally summon warriors from their favorite role-playing game to Brooklyn, they are taken on a wild adventure that tests their wits and their friendships. (LOC)

**AR:** N/A

3. **Grenade** by Alan Gratz, 288 pp., 1 starred review  
14 y/o protag, **male protag**, military, wars, Ryukyans, marines, Japanese, survival, Okinawa-shi, 20th century, World War II, **historical fiction**,

**Summary:** On April 1, 1945 with the battle of Okinawa beginning, fourteen-year-old native Okinawan Hideki, drafted into the Blood and Iron Student Corps, is handed two grenades and told to go kill American soldiers; small for his age Hideki does not really want to kill anyone, he just wants to find his family, and his struggle across the island will finally bring him face-to-face with Ray, a marine in his very first battle--and the choice he makes then will change his life forever. (LOC)

IL: MG - BL: 5.2 - AR Pts: 7.0

AR Quiz No. 197618

4. **World Below, A** by Wesley King, 272 pp., 0 starred reviews  
8th grade protag, multiple POV, New Mexico, school field trips, earthquakes, survival, Carlsbad Cavern, anxiety disorder, divorce, **fantasy**

**Summary:** Mr. Baker's eighth grade class thought they were in for a normal field trip to Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico, but their journey takes a terrifying turn when an earthquake hits and the students are plunged into a frigid underground lake, forcing them to fight for survival and find their way back above ground. (LOC)

IL: MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 8.0  
AR Quiz No. 193700

## Contemporary



1. **After Zero** by Christina Collins, 256 pp., 0 starred reviews  
8<sup>th</sup> grade protag, **female protag**, secrets, ravens, selective mutism, death, bullies, realism, mental health  
**Summary:** When Elise leaves homeschooling for public school, she copes by speaking as little as possible, but soon her silence becomes an impediment to friendship and to dealing with family secrets. (LOC)  
IL: MG - BL: 4.3 - AR Pts: 7.0  
AR Quiz No. 500318
2. **Amal Unbound** by Aisha Saeed, 240 pp., 4 starred reviews  
12 y/o, **Female protag**, indentured servants, courage, family, Pakistan, corruption, resilience, freedom  
**Summary:** In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family. (LOC)  
IL: MG - BL: 4.2 - AR Pts: 6.0  
AR Quiz No. 194712
3. **Blended** by Sharon Draper, 320 pp., 2 starred reviews  
11 y/o, **female protag**, **biracial**, **African American**, divorce, family life, Ohio, piano  
**Summary:** Piano-prodigy Isabella, eleven, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police (LOC)  
*This is one of the more mature titles on this year's consideration list.*  
IL: MG - BL: 4.0 - AR Pts: 7.0  
AR Quiz No. 198319

4. **Everything I Know About You** by Barbara Dee, 320 pp., 0 starred reviews  
7<sup>th</sup> grade, 12 years old, **female protag**, anorexia, friendship, school field trip  
**Summary:** Misfit Tally is forced to room with queen bee Ava on the seventh grade's extended field trip to Washington, D.C., and discovers several surprising things about her roommate, including the possibility of an eating disorder. (Publisher)  
IL: MG - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 7.0  
AR Quiz No. 195756
5. **Hope in the Holler** by Lisa Lewis Tyre, 224 pp., 2 starred reviews  
11 year old, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, **female protag**, country life, death, orphans, grief, adoption, aunts, family life, Kentucky, trailer parks, Appalachia  
**Summary:** Upon her mother's death, Wavie Conley, eleven, must go live with a scheming aunt in the Kentucky town her mother left behind. (LOC)  
IL: MG - BL: 4.3 - AR Pts: 7.0  
AR Quiz No. 195328
6. **In Your Shoes** by Donna Gephart, 336 pp., 1 starred review  
12 y/o, male/female alternating POV, being different, friendship, funeral home, bowling, Pennsylvania  
**Summary:** Miles is an anxious boy who loves his family's bowling center. Amy is the new girl at school who tries to write her way to her own happily-ever-after. When Miles and Amy meet it is the beginning of everything. (AR)  
IL: MG - BL: 4.6 - AR Pts: 7.0  
AR Quiz No. 197969
7. **Miscalculations of Lightning Girl, The** by Stacy McAnulty, 304 pp., 3 starred reviews **\*\*Selected for the 3-5 the nominated list\*\***  
12 y/o, **female protagonist**, math, prodigy, homeschool, loss of pet, social skills, savant, grandmothers, mean girls, OCD  
**Summary:** A lightning strike made Lucy, twelve, a math genius but, after years of homeschooling, her grandmother enrolls her in middle school and she learns that life is more than numbers. (LOC)  
**Award:** An Amazon Best Children's Book of the Year selection  
IL: MG - BL: 3.7 - AR Pts: 7.0  
AR Quiz No. 195064
8. **Property of the Rebel Librarian** by Allison Varnes, 288 pp., 0 starred reviews  
12 y/o **female protag**, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, books and reading, libraries, middle schools, family life, protest movements, librarians  
**Summary:** Twelve-year-old June Harper, shocked when her parents go on a campaign to clear the Dogwood Middle School library of objectionable books, starts a secret banned books library in an empty locker. (LOC)  
IL: MG - BL: 3.9 - AR Pts: 7.0  
AR Quiz No. 199140
9. **Rules of the Ruff** by Heidi Lang, 256 pp., 0 starred reviews  
12 y/o **female protag**, dog walking, dogs, summer employment, cousins  
**Summary:** Jessie, twelve, copes with what promised to be a long, boring summer with relatives by becoming apprentice to Wes, a grouchy neighborhood dog walker, who is facing new competition. (LOC)  
**AR:** N/A

10. **Science of Breakable Things**, The by Tae Keller, 304 pp., 2 starred reviews

7<sup>th</sup> grade, **female protagonist**, friendship, family problems, science, parental depression, racially mixed people

**Summary:** Middle schooler Natalie's year-long assignment to answer a question using the scientific process leads to truths about her mother's depression and her own cultural identity. (LOC)

**Awards:** A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year, An NPR Great Read of the Year

A Chicago Public Library Best Book of 2018, A Booklist Reader Best Book of the Month, A Brightly Best Children's and YA Books of March 2018

IL: MG - BL: 5.6 - AR Pts: 8.0

AR Quiz No. 195512

## Sci Fi & Fantasy



1. **Charlie Hernández & the League of Shadows** by Ryan Calejo, 336 pp., 2 starred reviews

**Male protag**, Shapeshifting, secret societies, folklore, **Mexican Americans**, missing persons, **adventure**

**Summary:** Steeped in Hispanic folklore since childhood, middle schooler Charlie Hernández learns the stories are true when, shortly after his parents disappearance, he grows horns and feathers and finds himself at the heart of a battle to save the world. (LOC)

**AR:** N/A

2. **Magic, Madness, and Mischief** by Kelly McCullough, 288 pp., 0 starred reviews

12 y/o **Male protag**, magic, ability, stepfathers

**Summary:** A 12-year-old boy uses his new magical powers and the help of a snarky fire hare to defeat his evil stepfather in a magical version of St. Paul. (publisher)

**AR:** N/A

3. **Memory of Forgotten Things, The** by Kat Zhang, 288 pp., 0 starred reviews

12 y/o **female protag**, mothers, grief, memory

**Summary:** Twelve-year-old Sophia has never told anyone about her unusual memories--snapshots of a past that never happened. She becomes convinced that the upcoming solar eclipse will grant her the opportunity to make her alternate life come true, to enter a world where her mother never died. With the help of two misfit boys, she must figure out a way to bring her mother back to her--before the opportunity is lost forever (Publisher)

IL: MG - BL: 4.8 - AR Pts: 7.0

AR Quiz No. 196545

4. **Ogre Enchanted** by Gail Carson Levine, 352 pp., 0 starred reviews

15 y/o **Female protag**, Light romance, grotesque humor, elves, healers, retelling, spells

**Summary:** After the healer Evie rejects a proposal, she is turned into a hideous ogre by the fairy Lucinda. Evie has only a few months to find a love to reverse the curse. (Publisher)

IL: MG - BL: 4.6 - AR Pts: 9.0

AR Quiz No. 199582

5. **Wizardmatch** by Lauren Magaziner, 304 pp., 0 starred reviews

12 y/o **female protagonist**, **humor**, **adventure**, magic, contests, families, sibling rivalry, **biracial**, **Filipino American**

**Summary:** Twelve-year-old Lennie Mercado's grandfather, the current Prime Wizard of Pomporrump, is retiring and decides to host a tournament for Lennie and her cousins to compete to win his title, land, position, castle, and unlimited magical powers, but when Poppop introduces new rules to eliminate sibling rivalry, Lennie decides the games are unfair and makes plans to sabotage the event. (LOC)

IL: MG - BL: 4.6 - AR Pts: 9.0

AR Quiz No. 193829

## Graphic Novels



1. **All Summer Long (The Eagle Rock Trilogy)** by Hope Larson, 176 pp., 1 starred reviews

13 y/o **female protagonist**, performing arts, friendship, coming of age, summer, electric guitar, 2010s, babysitting, family

**Summary:** Thirteen-year-old Bina has a long summer ahead of her. She and her best friend, Austin, usually do everything together, but he's off to soccer camp for a month, and he's been acting kind of weird. (AR)

**Awards:** A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2018!, A 2019 YALSA Great Graphic Novel Reading List Selection, A 2019 Little Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List Selection

IL: MG - BL: 2.4 - AR Pts: 1.0

AR Quiz No. 196103

2. **Be Prepared** by Vera Brosgol, 256 pp., 4 starred reviews

9 y/o **female protagonist**, Russian Americans, siblings, camps, friendship, **memoir**, bullies, fitting in, Connecticut

**Summary:** A misfit girl and her brother attend summer camp, where they struggle with primitive plumbing, snobby tentmates, and boys-versus-girls competitions. (LOC)

**Awards:** A New York Times Book Review Notable Children's Book of 2018, A Boston Globe Best Children's Book of 2018, Selected as the Best Graphic Novel of 2018 by Parents Magazine

IL: MG - BL: 2.6 - AR Pts: 1.0

AR Quiz No. 195472

3. **Illegal** by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin, illustrated by Giovanni Rigano, 144 pp., 4 starred reviews **\*\*also on teen list\*\***

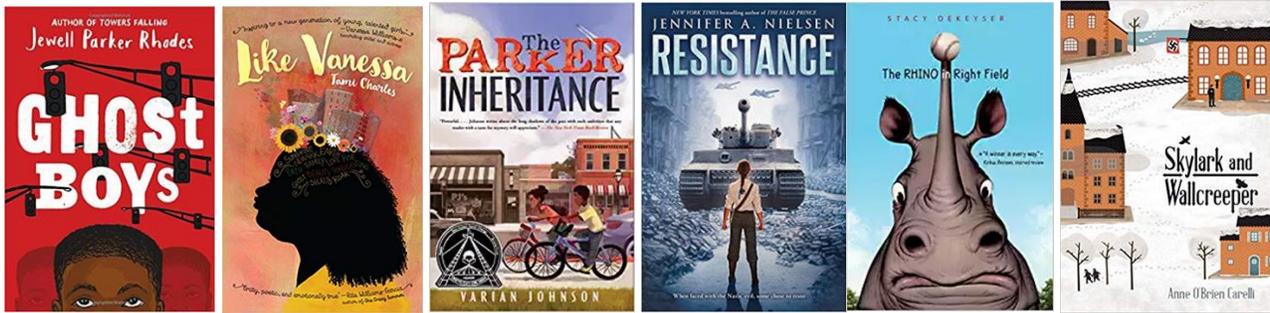
12 y/o **male protag**, undocumented immigrants, Africa, immigration, refugee, smugglers, family, escape

**Summary:** Ebo is alone. His brother, Kwame, has disappeared. Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the hazardous journey to Europe, and a better life, the same journey their sister set out on months ago.

**Awards:** An Amazon Best Book of 2018!

IL: MG - BL: 2.5 - AR Pts: 1.0  
AR Quiz No. 195538

## Historical Fiction



1. **Ghost Boys** by Jewell Parker Rhodes, 224 pp., 2 starred reviews

12 y/o, **male protag**, **African American**, Emmett Till, racism, police shootings, death, family life, Chicago, historical, 1950s, gun violence, civil rights, Day of the Dead, multiple time periods

**Summary:** After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till (Publisher)

**Awards:** The #1 Kids' Indies Next Pick, A 2018 Nerdies List Book, An ALA 2019 Children's Notables List Pick

IL: MG - BL: 3.0 - AR Pts: 3.0  
AR Quiz No. 194391

2. **Like Vanessa** by Tami Charles, 288 pp., 3 starred reviews

13 y/o **female protag**, semi-autobiographical, 1980s, Vanessa Williams, **African American** girls, beauty contests, dysfunctional families, urban schools, self-confidence, New Jersey, coming of age, singing, single parents, coaches, Miss America

**Summary:** It is 1983 and Vanessa Martin, a thirteen-year-old African American girl in Newark's public housing, dreams of following in the footsteps of the first black Miss America, Vanessa Williams; but the odds are against her until a new teacher at school organizes a beauty pageant and encourages Vanessa to enter. (LOC)

*This is one of the more mature titles on the consideration list.*

IL: MG - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 10.0  
AR Quiz No. 193702

4. **Parker Inheritance, The** by Varian Johnson, 352 pp., 4 starred reviews

12 y/o **female protag**, **mystery**, **African American**, 1950s, **LGBT+**, segregation, South Carolina, puzzles, divorce, tennis, hidden treasure, grandmothers, friendship, multigenerational, multi-time period, *The Westing Game*

**Summary:** Twelve-year-old Candice Miller is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, in the old house that belonged to her grandmother, who died after being dismissed as city manager for having the city tennis courts dug up looking for buried treasure--but when she finds the letter that sent her grandmother on the treasure hunt, she finds herself caught up in the mystery and, with the help of her new friend and fellow book-worm, Brandon, she sets out to find the inheritance, exonerate her grandmother, and expose an injustice once committed against an African American family in Lambert. (LOC)

**Awards:** A Coretta Scott King Author Honor winner, A Boston Globe / Horn Book Honor winner, Kirkus Reviews Best Books of the Year, Bookpage Best Books of the Year, Horn Book Fanfare Best Books of

the Year, NPR Best Books of the Year, New York Public Library Top Ten Books of the Year, Chicago Public Library Best Books of the Year, School Library Journal Best Books of the Year, Publishers Weekly Best Books of the Year, Boston Globe Best Books of the Year, Parents Magazine Best Books of the Year  
IL: MG - BL: 4.2 - AR Pts: 12.0  
AR Quiz No. 194181

5. **Resistance** by Jennifer A. Nielsen, 400 pp., 0 starred reviews

16 y/o **female protag**, **Jewish** girls, Poland, Holocaust, Warsaw ghetto, smuggling

**Summary:** In 1942 sixteen-year-old Chaya Lindner is a Jewish girl living in Nazi-occupied Poland, a courier who smuggles food and documents to the isolated Jewish ghettos in southern Poland, depending on her forged papers and "Aryan" features--but when a mission goes wrong and many of her colleagues are arrested she finds herself on a journey to Warsaw, where an uprising is in the works. (LOC)

**Awards:** ILA-CBC Children's Choices List selection

IL: MG - BL: 5.8 - AR Pts: 14.0

AR Quiz No. 197069

6. **Rhino in Right Field, The** by Stacy DeKeyser, 272 pp., 1 starred reviews

12 y/o **male protag**, baseball, friendship, family life, immigrants, Greek Americans, Wisconsin, 20th century, 1940s

**Summary:** In 1948, Nikko Spirakis, twelve, loves baseball but must get past his hard-working immigrant parents--and the rhino in the outfield--to become a batboy for the local minor league team. (LOC)

IL: MG - BL: 4.4 - AR Pts: 7.0

AR Quiz No. 197788

7. **Skylark and Wallcreeper** by Anne O'Brien Carelli, 417 pp., 0 starred reviews

12 y/o **female protag**, Holocaust, Hurricane Sandy, multigenerational, told in alternating sections (2012 and 1944)

**Summary:** While helping her granny Collette evacuate to a makeshift shelter in Brooklyn during Superstorm Sandy, Lily uncovers secrets of her grandmother's past as a member of the French Resistance during WWII. (AR)

IL: MG - BL: 5.3 - AR Pts: 11.0

AR Quiz No. 199896

## Horror & Thriller



2. **Collector, The** by KR Alexander, 224 pp., 0 starred reviews

6<sup>th</sup> grade **female protag**, Illinois, ghosts, dolls, siblings, friendship

**Summary:** Josie must discover the connection between a strange house in the woods and her grandmother's stories, or risk losing her sister to dark magic. (AR)

IL: MG - BL: 3.9 - AR Pts: 4.0  
AR Quiz No. 197429

3. **Girl in the Locked Room, The:** A Ghost Story by Mary Downing Hahn, 200 pp., 0 starred reviews  
6<sup>th</sup> grade **female protag**, ghosts, friendship, extrasensory perception, fate, haunted houses, family life, Virginia, **mystery**, murder, **thriller**, moving, two narrators

**Summary:** Told in two voices, Jules, whose father is restoring an abandoned house, and a girl who lived there a century before begin to communicate and slowly, the girl's tragic story is revealed. (LOC)

IL: MG - BL: 4.3 - AR Pts: 5.0  
AR Quiz No. 197167

4. **Nightbooks** by J.A. White, 304 pp., 2 starred reviews

**Male protag**, **fantasy**, retold fairy tales, books and libraries, witches, creepy, coming of age, magic

**Summary:** Alex's original hair-raising tales are the only thing keeping the witch, Natacha, happy, but soon he'll run out of pages to read from and be trapped forever. (AR)

IL: MG - BL: 4.8 - AR Pts: 9.0  
AR Quiz No. 197781

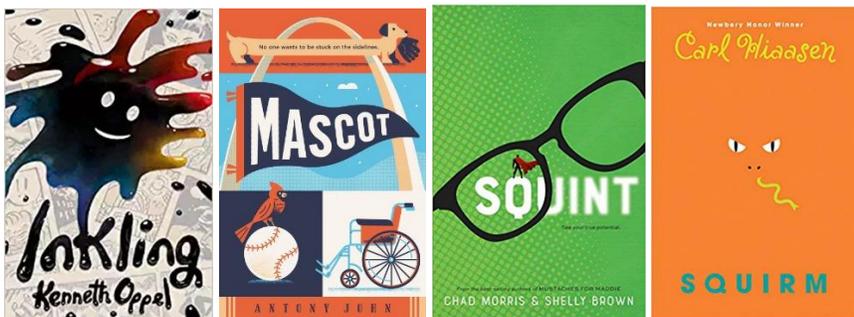
5. **Not If I Save You First** by Ally Carter, 304 pp., 0 starred reviews **\*\*also on teen consideration list\*\***

16 y/o **female protag**, and 16 y/o **male protag**, alternating viewpoints, includes flashbacks and letters from when the protags were 10 y/o, no language, no sex, **Thriller**, **adventure**, fathers and daughters, best friends, kidnapping, survival, rescues, forgiveness, Alaska, realism, **contemporary**

**Summary:** Six years ago Maddie lived in Washington D.C. with her father, a Secret Service agent assigned to the President's family, and her best friend was Logan, the President's son; but after her father was wounded in an attempted kidnapping the two of them moved to a remote cabin in Alaska and Logan never replied to her letters--but now he has suddenly turned up on her doorstep, and, while she has no attention of forgiving him for his silence, she soon realizes that first she has to save him from the winter wilderness and the men who are pursuing him. (LOC)

IL: MG+ - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 10.0  
AR Quiz No. 193772

## Humor



1. **Inkling** by Kenneth Oppel, illustrated by Sydney Smith, 272 pp., 0 starred reviews **\*\*also on 3-5 consideration list\*\***

Middle schooler, **male protagonist**, family life, art, adventure, grief, media diet, depression, magic realism, comics, Vancouver, drawing, plagiarism

**Summary:** A brilliantly funny story about how a little ink splat changes a family forever. Perfect for those who love Hoot, Holes, or Frindle and sure to be a hit with kids everywhere! (Publisher)

**Awards:** A New York Times Notable Book, A New York Public Library Best Book of the Year, An Amazon Best Children's Book of the Year selection

IL: MG - BL: 4.6 - AR Pts: 7.0

AR Quiz No. 198303

2. **Mascot** by Antony John, 336 pp., 0 starred review

12 y/o **male protagonist**, disability, action, special needs, accidents, paralysis, autism, sports, bullying, parent death, baseball, friendship

**Summary:** Noah Savino has been stuck in a wheelchair for months and is scared he'll never feel like his old self again. With the help of family and friends, he'll discover what he needs to do to move forward. (AR)

IL: MG - BL: 4.4 - AR Pts: 8.0

AR Quiz No. 197018

3. **Squint** by Chad Morris and Shelly Brown, 256 pp., 0 starred reviews

6<sup>th</sup> grade (SLJ), 13 y/o (Kirkus) **male protag**, Keratoconus, eye disease, cartoons and comics, middle school, contests, surgery, bullying, grandparents, challenges

**Summary:** Flint Minett has keratoconus, an eye disease, but desperately wants to win a comic book art contest so that he and his new friend McKell Panganiban will be better accepted at middle school. (LOC)

IL: MG - BL: 4.1 - AR Pts: 7.0

AR Quiz No. 199279

4. **Squirm** by Carl Hiaasen, 288 pp., 0 starred reviews

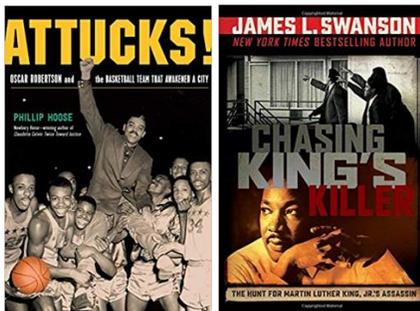
Tween **male protag**, environment, missing parent, Florida, Montana, moving, family, step siblings, mystery, adventure, ecology, poaching, everglades, Native American

**Summary:** Billy will fly across the country, hike a mountain, float a river, dodge a grizzly bear, shoot down a spy drone, save a neighbor's cat, save an endangered panther, and then try to save his own father. The plot includes profanity and violence. (AR)

IL: MG - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 9.0

AR Quiz No. 197011

## Nonfiction



1. **Attucks!: Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team That Awakened a City** by Phillip Hoose, 224 pp., 4 starred reviews

basketball, segregation, Indianapolis, **African Americans**, race relations, mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, sports

**Summary:** The true story of the all-black high school basketball team that broke the color barrier in segregated 1950s Indiana, masterfully told by National Book Award winner Phil Hoose. (Publisher)

**Awards:** A NYPL Best Book for Teens of 2018, A 2018 Booklist Youth Editors' Choice, A Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature Best Book of 2018, A Kirkus Reviews Best YA Nonfiction

Book of 2018, An ALSC Notable Children's Book of 2019, A YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award Nominee

IL: UG - BL: 7.6 - AR Pts: 7.0

AR Quiz No. 193762

2. **Chasing King's Killer: The Hunt for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Assassin** by James L. Swanson, 384 pp., 4 starred reviews **\*\*also on teen consideration list\*\***

MLK Jr assassination, crime, activism, **African American**, US history, Jim Crow, 1960s

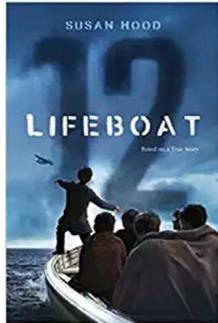
**Summary:** James Earl Ray and Martin Luther King, Jr. had two very different life journeys -- but their paths fatally collide when Ray assassinates the world-renown civil rights leader. This book provides an inside look into both of their lives, the history of the time, and a blow-by-blow examination of the assassination and its aftermath (Publisher)

**Awards:** A Chicago Public Library Best Book of the Year, A Kirkus Reviews Best Young Adult Book of the Year

IL: UG - BL: 7.6 - AR Pts: 7.0

AR Quiz No. 193762

## Verse/Nontraditional Narrative



2. **Lifeboat 12** by Susan Hood, 336 pp., 1 starred review

13 y/o **male protag**, survival, **historical**, based on a true story, World War II, Historical Fiction, survival, **adventure**

**Summary:** In 1940, a group of British children, their escorts, and some sailors struggle to survive in a lifeboat when the ship taking them to safety in Canada is torpedoed. (AR)

**Awards:** A Junior Library Guild Selection, A 2019 Golden Kite Middle Grade Fiction Award Winner

IL: MG - BL: 4.0 - AR Pts: 4.0

AR Quiz No. 197987

3. **They Call Me Güero: A Border Kid's Poems** by David Bowles, 160 pp., 1 starred reviews

12 y/o **male protag**, **Mexican American**, poetry, border, family, immigration

**Summary:** Twelve-year-old Güero, a red-headed, freckled Mexican American border kid, discovers the joy of writing poetry, thanks to his seventh grade English teacher. (LOC)

**Awards:** 2019 Pura Belpré Honor Book, 2019 Walter Dean Myers Honor Book for Outstanding Children's Literature, 2019 Claudia Lewis Award for Excellence in Poetry, 2019 Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award, ALSC Notable Children's Book, 2019, 2018 Jean Flynn Award for Best Middle Grade Book, A School Library Journal Best Book of 2018, Middle Grade Shelf Awareness 2018 Best Children's & Teen Books of the Year, Middle Grade NCTE 2019 Notable Verse Novels

**AR:** N/A