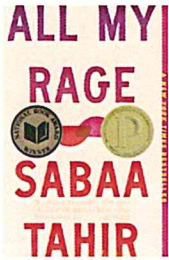




# 2025 Nutmeg Book Award High School Nominees Grades 9-12



## ALL MY RAGE

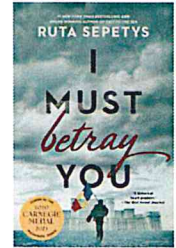
by Sabaa Tahir

What do you do when home doesn't feel like home? Salahudin and Noor, best friends, want nothing more than to get out of Juniper, California. Both have dreams, but battle their own issues that are holding them back. Part love story, part tragedy, *All My Rage* is a beautiful story and a must read.

## I MUST BETRAY YOU

by Ruta Sepetys

The gripping tale of a teenage boy in 1989 Romania who infiltrates the secret police to find his missing family, navigating a treacherous landscape of deception and loyalty during the country's revolution.



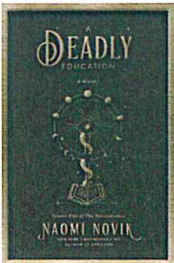
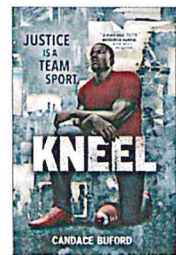
## AS LONG AS THE LEMON TREES GROW

Salama is living a nightmare. Surviving through the Syrian revolution, she is faced with an agonizing decision: should she stay to help the wounded, or should she leave to take her pregnant sister-in-law, Layla, to a safer place? A tribute to the stories of countless Syrians who must find hope where none can be found.

## KNEEL

by Candace Buford

A small-town football player in Louisiana fights the system of injustice in his community when his best friend is unfairly arrested and kicked off the team. When is it worth risking your future to take a stand for what is right?



## A DEADLY EDUCATION

El, a sorceress and outcast, attends Scholomance, a school of magic, where in order to graduate she must survive. Literally. Survive, graduate, or die. Can she control her own magical skills, find alliances, and survive without destroying everyone and everything?

## NOT SO PURE AND SIMPLE

By Lamar Giles

Del FINALLY gets the chance to hang around with girl-of-his-dreams Kiera...only to learn that there's way more to romance than he thought. Del soon finds that when it comes to love and relationships, nothing is pure and simple...or is it?



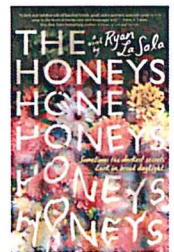
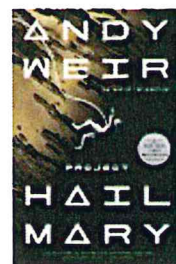
## GOLDEN ARM

Laz loves baseball and, for him, it may be his only way out of his Seattle trailer park. When his high school team folds and his home is about to be destroyed, Laz gets an offer he can't refuse. But with Laz's brother falling deeper into trouble, can he follow his dreams and play the game he loves? Or will everything come crashing down around him?

## PROJECT HAIL MARY

By Andy Weir

When the Sun begins to dim, spelling doom for humanity, the Earth's greatest scientific minds band together to attack the problem. But their brilliance pales in comparison to that of a high school science teacher, who finds himself in space with the hopes of humanity on his shoulders and his memories mysteriously missing.



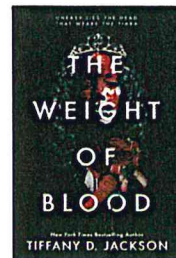
## THE HONEYS

Aspen Conservancy Summer Program isn't all sunshine and flowers; there is a dark undercurrent that flows through the camp. Will Mars discover what really happened to their sister following Caroline's summer with the group of girls known as The Honeys?

## THE WEIGHT OF BLOOD

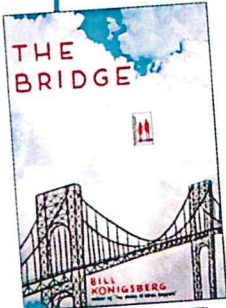
by Tiffany D. Jackson

When her racial identity is revealed and the star quarterback asks her to prom, Maddy Washington is caught at the center of a town full of people who hate her simply for existing. Inspired by Stephen King's novel *Carrie*, mixed with the brutal reality of racism and a touch of unlikely romance, this is a story you'll never forget.





# 2024 Nutmeg Book Award High School Nominees Grades 9-12



## The Bridge

by Bill Konigsberg

Aaron and Tillie are strangers until they lock eyes as each is about to jump off the George Washington Bridge to their death. Readers will hear four different captivating narratives that explore the impact of mental illness, suicide, and recovery.

## Firekeeper's Daughter

by Angeline Boulley

Daunis Fountaine, a biracial eighteen year old, has never felt like she fits in with her Ojibwe or white heritage. Her dreams of going to college take a turn when several tragedies strike her family and the town. Daunis is pulled into the complex, high stakes investigation and she soon realizes nothing she has known is what it appears

## Girls Like Us

by Randi Pink

Set in 1972, this historical fiction novel explores the lives of 4 teenage girls from different walks of life dealing with unplanned pregnancies; Sue, the daughter of a senator, Mississippi, a 14 year old with very little education, and Izella and Ola, daughters trying to keep their secret from an intensely strict mother.

## Heartstopper 1

by Alice Oseman

When teens Charlie Spring and Nick Nelson are forced to sit together in school, they are both happily surprised at the start of an easy friendship. Charlie is sort of high-strung and anxious after being outed as gay last year, and Nick is a very friendly, outgoing member of the school rugby team. When Charlie starts to fall hard for Nick, he thinks he's hopelessly crushing on his straight friend – but love can be surprising, and maybe it's not as hopeless as it seems?

## Heroine

by Mindy McGinnis

After a car accident sidelines her, star softball player Mickey Catalan will do anything to get back behind the plate where she belongs—but the painkillers her doctors prescribe quickly lead to a deadly downward spiral. McGinnis's novel is a gritty portrayal of one teen's struggle with opioid addiction and her determination to reclaim her own life.

## How Moon Fuentez Fell in Love With the Universe

by Raquel Vasquez Gilliland

Moon Fuentez lives in the background of her life and in the shadow of her sister, a social media star. On the summer bus tour with beautiful influencers, Moon uses her photography skills to capture her sister's cultivated image and sells merch with sullen, but super-handsome, Santiago. Accepting the good and bad in relationships with her family, Santiago, and herself, Moon discovers she is the center of her universe.

## In the Wild Light

by Jeff Zentner

Would you leave the only place you've ever known and the people who love you to follow a dream? Cash and Delaney take a chance and leave rural Tennessee for an elite prep school in CT where their bond of friendship is more important than ever.

## Raybearer

by Jordan Ifueko

Tarisai has been raised in isolation by her absent mother known as The Lady. Tarisai has finally come of age and is sent to the capital to compete to be one of the Crown Prince's Council of Eleven. If chosen, she'll join the others through the Ray, a bond stronger than blood. This closeness is all Tarisai has ever wanted. But The Lady has other plans, including a magical wish that Tarisai is compelled to obey: gain the Prince's trust and kill him.

## Three Things I Know Are True

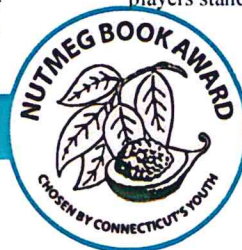
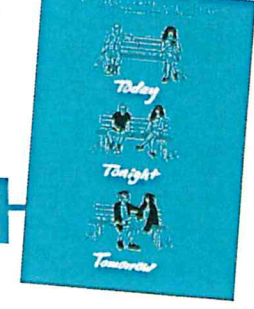
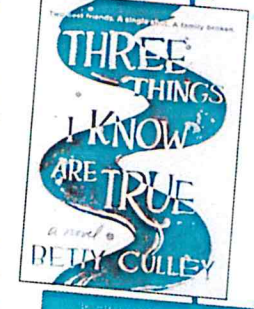
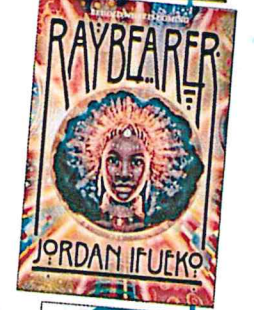
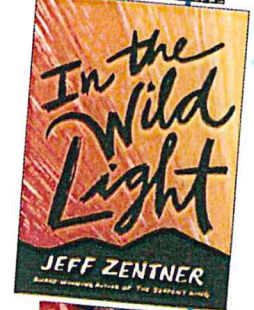
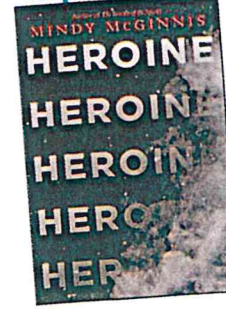
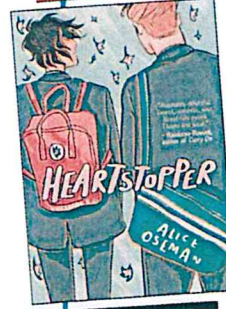
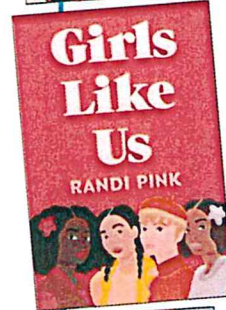
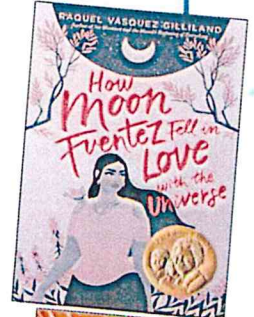
by Betty Culley

Liv's brother Jonah accidentally shot himself with his best friend's father's gun. Now, his 24/7 medical needs and an ugly lawsuit threaten to dominate their lives. In this haunting novel in verse, Liv must harness the power of forgiveness to forge a new path through the aftermath of tragedy.

## Today, Tonight, Tomorrow

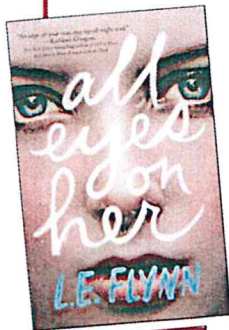
by Rachel Lynn Solomon

Rowan Roth and Neil McNair have been bitter rivals for all of high school. They have one last chance to best each other in Howl, a senior class game on the last night of high school. After being targeted by other students they reluctantly join forces, at least until they are the last two players standing.





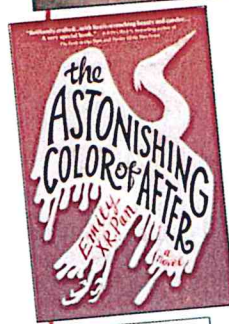
# 2023 Nutmeg Book Award High School Nominees Grades 9-12



## **All Eyes On Her**

by L. E. Flynn

Everyone has a theory about the death of Tabby's boyfriend, Mark, and some of them are convinced that Tabby was the one who murdered him. The real story unravels in alternating perspectives from Tabby's classmates as they try to piece together what happened on that fateful night in the woods.



## **The Astonishing Color of After**

by Emily X. R. Pan

Leigh is convinced her mother became a bird after dying by suicide. To prove it, Leigh travels to her grandparents in Taiwan, leaving behind her best friend and crush, Axel. There, Leigh uncovers family secrets that help her understand her mother's pain and come to terms with her own grief.



## **Flamer**

by Mike Curato

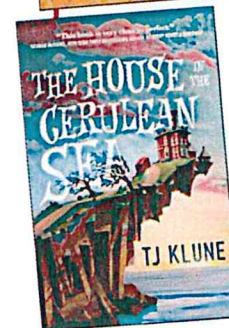
Curato's first graphic novel is the story of Aiden Navarro, a 14-year-old who decides to spend the summer before high school at camp. This bravely honest tale includes dealing with bullies, creating friendships, and learning to accept oneself, all in one unforgettable summer.



## **Furia**

by Yamile Saied Méndez

Camila Hassan is a rising soccer star in her hometown of Rosario, Argentina, with aspirations to play professionally. When her team qualifies for a national tournament, she has a chance to make her dreams come true. Yet her family's traditional expectations and the unexpected return of a former boyfriend threaten to derail all her hard work.



## **The House in the Cerulean Sea**

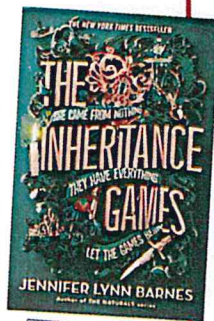
by TJ Klune

Linus Baker lives by the rules and routine. He is a dedicated Case Worker at the Department in Charge Of Magical Youth. But an unexpected, curious, and highly classified assignment to travel to the Marsyas Island Orphanage forces Linus to set aside his fears and determine whether or not the residents of the island are a danger to society or themselves.

## **The Inheritance Games**

by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

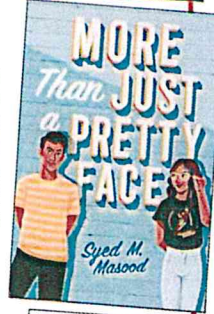
Avery Grambs's careful life plan changes drastically when she gets pulled into a crazy game. A billionaire she's never heard of has left her his house and fortune. But why? To claim the estate, Avery has to solve puzzles, codes, and riddles. The problem? The billionaire's grandsons are also determined to win. Who can Avery trust? And can she crack the clues before someone else does?



## **More Than Just a Pretty Face**

by Syed M. Masood

Known for his confidence and looks, Danyal is just as surprised as his classmates when he's picked to compete in the annual Renaissance Man academic competition. Determined to prove his intelligence, he asks for help from Bisma (the girl he definitely doesn't like) and finds himself torn between new feelings for her and old feelings for his long-time crush, Kaval.



## **Punching the Air**

by Ibi Zoboi with Yusef Salaam;

art by Omar T. Pasha

Amal, a gifted teenage artist and poet, is convicted of a crime he didn't commit. He reflects on his past, the altercation that led to his arrest, and his trial and imprisonment, using his talents to hold onto hope that his story can still be changed.



## **We Are Not Free**

by Traci Chee

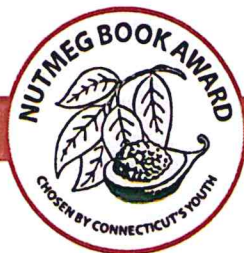
Fourteen Japanese-American teens tell their stories about being ripped from their community after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Forced to move to internment camps, they must do what they can to stick together and survive.



## **What I Carry**

by Jennifer Longo

A foster kid who's seen twenty different homes, Muir is used to packing light and not getting attached. Just as she's ready to age out of the system, she finds herself placed with a trusting foster mom, hired for the perfect job, and making friends. Used to always leaving, can Muir finally find the strength to stay?



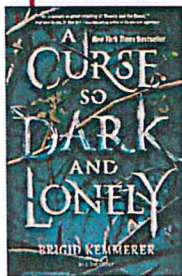


# 2022 Nutmeg Book Award High School Nominees Grades 9-12



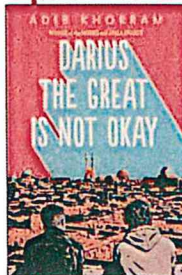
## **Cosmoknights (Book One)** by *Hannah Templer*

Pan's world isn't as small as she once believed when a pair of off-world gladiators show up on her doorstep for help. Pan joins the ragtag group of LGBTQ+ individuals to fight the medieval-style patriarchy and find her long lost best friend.



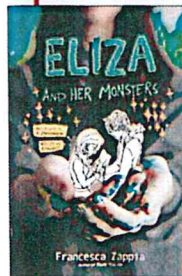
## **A Curse So Dark and Lonely** by *Brigid Kemmerer*

One minute Harper's playing lookout for her brother's shady dealings, and the next she's whisked away to a distant enchanted land and a curse that only she can break. Can Harper help Prince Rhen slay the beast and break the curse? Or is she doomed to stay in Emberfall forever?



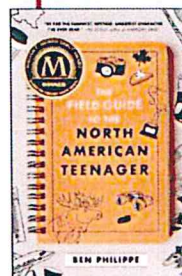
## **Darius the Great is Not Okay** by *Adib Khorram*

When Darius travels to Iran to visit his family, he struggles to fit in as the odd member out. But over time he learns how to make new friends and come to terms with his depression.



## **Eliza and Her Monsters** by *Francesca Zappia*

Eliza is the creator of a famous webcomic. Wallace is a new student at her school and one of the most popular writers of fanfic centered around her webcomic. He doesn't realize that she is the comic's creator—and revealing that secret could have disastrous consequences for both of them.

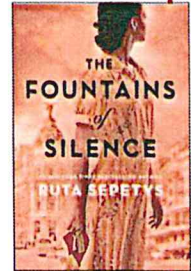


## **The Field Guide to the North American Teenager** by *Ben Philippe*

Norris moves from Montreal to Austin, Texas, where he reluctantly starts at a new high school. Armed with sarcasm and snark, he catalogs the various groups in his school while struggling to form new friendships.

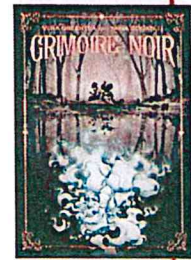
## **The Fountains of Silence** by *Ruta Sepetys*

Spain 1957. General Francisco Franco controlled all aspects of Spanish society. While visiting Spain with his parents, Daniel, an American teenager with a passion for photography, becomes intertwined with Ana, who works at his hotel. Together, they discover one the Franco regime's dark secrets.



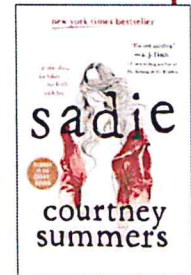
## **Grimoire Noir** by *Vera Greentea & Yana Bogatch*

Bucky Orson lives in Blackwell, a gloomy town, home to witches. When his little sister is kidnapped because of her powers, Bucky tries to find her and while searching, discovers his town's dark past.



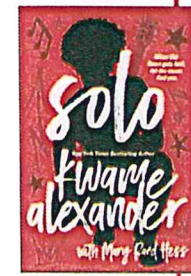
## **Sadie** by *Courtney Summers*

Sadie and her sister, Mattie, live on their own in a small town. When Mattie goes missing and winds up dead, Sadie is determined to do a better job than the police to catch her killer. Podcast host West McCray follows the mystery when Sadie herself goes missing.



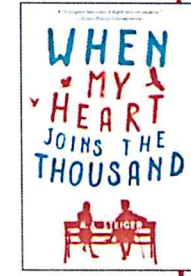
## **Solo** by *Kwame Alexander with Mary Rand Hess*

The son of a wealthy but washed-up rock star with an addiction to drugs, Blade Morrison narrates a lyrical struggle to find himself and where he belongs.



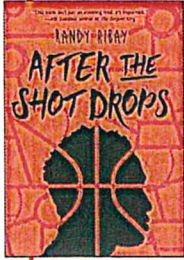
## **When My Heart Joins the Thousand** by *A. J. Steiger*

If Alvie Fitz can make it to her eighteenth birthday, without issues, she'll be emancipated, otherwise she'll end up in a group home. She meets Stanley and finds herself getting closer to him. But Alvie needs to find the strength to face her past to have a chance at happiness.





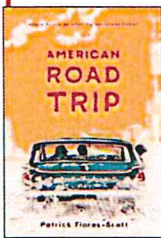
# 2021 Nutmeg Book Award High School Nominees Grades 9-12



## After the Shot Drops

by Randy Ribay

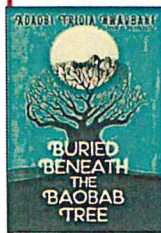
Bunny and Nasir have been best friends since they were little, however that friendship is tested when Bunny gets an athletic scholarship at a prestigious school across town. While Bunny tries to fit in with his new peers, Nasir begins to spend more time with his cousin Wallace who is being evicted. Told in alternating voices, *After the Shot Drops* is a powerful story about friendship, basketball, and one teen's mission to create a better life for his family.



## American Road Trip

by Patrick Flores-Scott

Teodoro is in love with his mom's green chile cheeseburgers and a girl named Wendy Martinez. When his brother, Manny, returns home from Iraq with PTSD, his family, already reeling from the housing bubble, is thrown into survival mode. Teodoro is afraid all of his hard work to prepare for college will be lost. Luckily, his sister has a plan to save them all!



## Buried Beneath the Baobab Tree

by Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani

276 girls were kidnapped from their Nigerian homes, schools, and families on April 14, 2014. This story follows one of these girls as her dreams of any future are torn away, she is forced into a camp to radicalize her beliefs, and watches as the group Boko Haram terrorizes her country.



## Check, Please! Book 1:

#Hockey by Ngozi Ukazu

Bitty enters freshman year at Samwell University armed with a love of skating, baking, and a sense of humor—all documented on his vlog—but is he ready to face the challenges of university hockey, hockey bros, and a gorgeously talented captain?



## Dread Nation

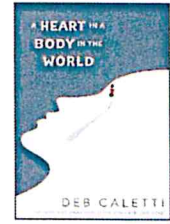
by Justina Ireland

When the dead rise up from the battlefield during the U.S. Civil War, there is suddenly a new enemy to fight. Miss Preston's School of Combat for Negro Girls is one of the best training schools in the country, and Jane McKeene is the top pupil. She could easily find herself working to protect any of the fine women of Baltimore from the shamblers, but when whole families start to go missing, Jane sets out to uncover the secrets and solve the mystery.

## A Heart in a Body in the World

by Deb Caletti

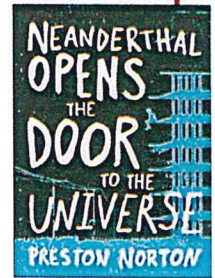
Months after a devastating tragedy, Annabelle starts to run. Down the street. Into the next town. Soon she's on a 2,700 mile journey from Seattle to Washington DC. With her grandfather following in his RV, and her friends and family supporting her from a distance, Annabelle embarks on a cross-country journey of healing.



## Neanderthal Opens the Door to the Universe

by Preston Norton

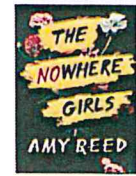
Cliff Hubbard thinks he has nothing going for him and out of all the people he hates at his school he hates Aaron Zimmerman the most. But Aaron has heard the voice of God and has been commanded to get Cliff's help at making their school better. What follows is a story that will have you laughing, crying and making you realize that when you label someone, what you see is not exactly what you get.



## The Nowhere Girls

by Amy Reed

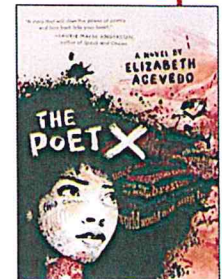
Three new friends decide to seek justice after an assault goes unpunished. They form an anonymous club that encourages a diverse group of girls to rise up and fight the sexist power structure that surrounds them.



## The Poet X

by Elizabeth Acevedo

A victim of constant harassment in her city of Harlem by both men and women, the only place Xiomara Batista feels like herself is while writing her poetry and with her new love interest, Aman, both of which she must hide from her intensely catholic mother who is determined to force Xiomara to obey the laws of the church. A novel written in verse, readers explore the inner thoughts of Xiomara, her frustrations that fuel her creativity and the power of the written and spoken word.



## Symptoms of Being Human

by Jeff Garvin

As a closeted gender fluid teenager, Riley must struggle with high school, relationships, and discovering what it means to feel comfortable in your own body. On the advice of a therapist, Riley starts an anonymous blog that gains national attention, however just when things are starting to look up someone discovers Riley's true identity and threatens exposure. Now Riley must decide to speak out and face the world or walk away from the safe space the blog created.

