

Punching the Air



by Ibi Zoboi and
Yusef Salaam

Traces the story of a young artist and poet whose prospects at a diverse art school are threatened by a racially biased system and a tragic altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood.

Want to see YOUR favorite title on this list next year?

7th & 8th graders only!

Send your school or public librarian the title, author, and why you think it should be nominated along with your name, grade, and town! Only books published within two years will be accepted.

You can also email us at
jenny@merrimacklibrary.org

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Past winners:

- 2022 *Cinderella is Dead*
- 2021 *A Curse So Dark and Lonely*
- 2020 *Refugee*
- 2019 *Restart*
- 2018 *Ghosts*
- 2017 *Everything Everything*
- 2016 *The War That Saved My Life*
- 2015 *Prisoner B-3087*
- 2014 *In A Heartbeat*
- 2013 *Divergent*
- 2012 *I am Number Four*
- 2011 *The Maze Runner*
- 2010 *The Hunger Games*
- 2009 *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*
- 2008 *Perfect*
- 2007 *Twilight*
- 2006 *One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies*



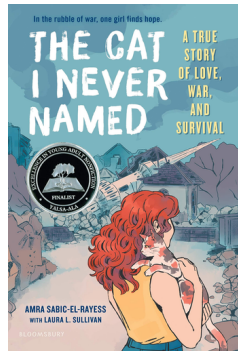
ISINGLASS Teen Read Award 2023



The Isinglass Award promotes teen reading by inviting teens to help select great literature.

Each year, 7th and 8th graders across NH nominate their favorite books and vote on the top 10 in April.

The Cat I Never Named



by Amra Sabic-El-Rayess and Laura L. Sullivan
In Bihac, Bosnia, in 1992, sixteen-year-old Amra and her family face starvation and the threat of brutal ethnic violence as Serbs and Bosnians clash, while a stray cat, Maci, provides solace.

House of Hollow



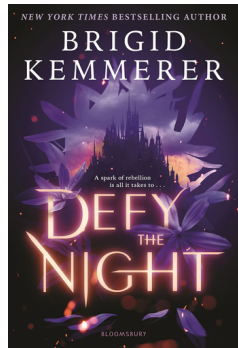
by Krystal Sutherland
Iris and Vivi work to uncover their dark, dangerous, and possibly magical past when their older sister Grey goes missing.

Legendborn



by Tracy Deonn
Wanting to escape her previous life after the accidental death of her mother, 16-year-old Bree enrolls in a program for high school students at the local university before her witness to a magical attack reveals her undiscovered powers as well as sinister truths about her mother's death..

Defy the Night



by Brigid Kemmerer
Stealing supplies to help those in need after a devastating plague whose cure is only available to the wealthy, Tessa hatches a dangerous plan to tear down the divide between those with power and those without.

Luck of the Titanic



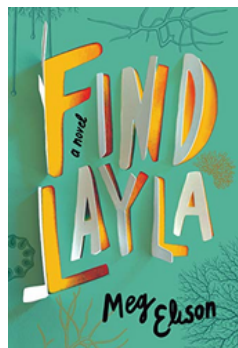
by Stacey Lee
After smuggling herself onto the RMS Titanic, British-Chinese teenager Valora Luck reunites with her twin brother and tries to convince him that their acrobatic training could be their ticket to a better life.

Instructions for Dancing



by Nicola Yoon
After picking up a book from the library, Yvette--who has given up on love--gains the ability to see how other people's romantic relationships will end.

Find Layla



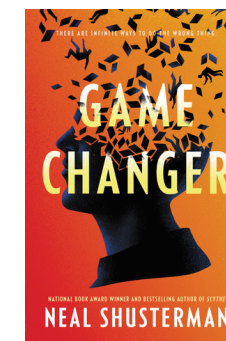
by Meg Elison
A neglected girl's chaotic coming-of-age becomes a trending new hashtag in a novel about growing up and getting away.

Here the Whole Time



by Vitor Martins
When Felipe, who is very insecure about his weight, is forced to spend winter break with his long-term crush, Caio, he must face his unresolved issues head-on.

Game Changer



by Neal Shusterman
Transported into other dimensions by a seemingly random hit, a young football player visits alternate worlds that evolved differently in accordance with respective belief systems.