



# 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 T.J. 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?

