

2021 Notable Poetry Books and Verse Novels Selected by the NCTE Award for Excellence in Children's Poetry Committee *For Children Ages 3–13

2021 Notable Books in Poetry

A New Green Day. Antoinette Portis. Illus. by the Author. 2020. Neal Porter Books.

A Place Inside of Me. Zetta Elliott. Illus. by Noa Denmon. 2020. Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR).

Black is a Rainbow Color. Angela Joy. Illus. by Ekua Holmes. 2020. Roaring Brook Press.

Amphibian Acrobats. Leslie Bulion. Illus. by Robert Meganck. 2020. Peachtree Publishing Company.

Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom. Carole Boston Weatherford. Illus. by Michele Wood. 2020. Candlewick Press.

By and By: Charles Albert Tindley, The Father of Gospel Music. Carole Boston Weatherford. Illus. by Bryan Collier. 2020. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Cast Away: Poems for Our Times. Naomi Shihab Nye. 2020. Greenwillow Books.

Construction People. Lee Bennett Hopkins. Illus. by Ellen Shi. 2020. Wordsong.

Dictionary for a Better World: Poems, Quotes, and Anecdotes from A to Z. Irene Latham and Charles Waters. Illus. by Mehrdokht Amini. 2020. Carolrhoda Books.

Follow the Recipe: Poems About Imagination, Celebration, and Cake. Marilyn Singer. Illus. by Marjorie Priceman. 2020. Dial Books.

Green on Green. Dianne White. Illus. by Felicita Sala. 2020. Beach Lane Books.

I Wish. Toon Tellegen. Illus. by Ingrid Godon. Trans. by David Colmer. 2020. Elsewhere Editions.

I'm Feeling Blue, Too! Marjorie Maddox. Illus. by Philip Huber. 2020. Resource Publications.

In the Woods. David Elliott. Illus. by Rob Dunlavey. 2020. Candlewick Press.

Mexique: A Refugee Story from the Spanish Civil War. María José Ferrada. Illus. by Ana Penyas. 2020. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.

No Voice Too Small: Fourteen Young Americans Making History. Ed. by Lindsay H. Metcalf, Keila V. Dawson, and Jeanette Bradley. Illus. by Jeanette Bradley. 2020. Charlesbridge.

On a Snow Melting Day: Seeking Signs of Spring. Buffy Silverman. 2020. Millbrook Press.

On the Horizon. Lois Lowry. Illus. by Kenard Pak. 2020. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

Snow Birds. Kirsten Hall. Illus. by Jenni Desmond. 2020. Harry N. Abrams.

Summer Feet. Sheree Fitch. Illus. by Carolyn Fisher. 2020. Nimbus Publishing.

The World Below the Brine. Walt Whitman. Illus. by James Christopher Carroll. 2021. Creative Editions.

This Poem is a Nest. Irene Latham. Illus. by Johanna Wright. 2020. Wordsong.

When You Breathe. Diana Farid. Illus. by Billy Renkl. 2020. Henry N. Abrams.

Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice. Mahogany L. Browne, Elizabeth Acevedo, and Olivia Gatwood. Illus. by Theodore Taylor III. 2020. Roaring Brook Press.

Write! Write! Amy Ludwig VanDerwater. Illus. by Ryan O'Rourke. 2020. Wordsong.

2021 Notable Verse Novels

All He Knew. Helen Frost. 2020. Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR).

Becoming Muhammad Ali. James Patterson and Kwame Alexander. 2020. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Before the Ever After. Jacqueline Woodson. 2020. Nancy Paulsen Books.

Ben Bee and the Teacher Griefer: The Kids Under the Stairs. K. A. Holt. 2020. Chronicle Books.

Closer to Nowhere. Ellen Hopkins. 2020. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers.

Flooded: Requiem for Johnstown. Ann E. Burg. 2020. Scholastic Press.

Grasping Mysteries: Girls Who Loved Math. Jeannine Atkins. 2020. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Land of the Cranes. Aida Salazar. 2020. Scholastic Press.

Love, Love. Victoria Chang. 2020. Sterling Children's Books.

The Canyon's Edge. Dusti Bowling. 2020. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

The Places We Sleep. Caroline Brooks DuBois. 2020. Holiday House.

When You Know What I Know. Sonja K. Solter. 2020. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Wishes, Dares, and How to Stand Up to a Bully. Darlene Beck-Jacobson. 2020. Creston Books.

NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children Committee Members:

Dr. Ted Kesler, Chair, Queens College, CUNY, Flushing, NY

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