

↓ **CATERPILLAR SUMMER\*** by Gillian McDunn

Since her father's death, Cat has taken care of her brother for their hardworking mother but while spending time with grandparents, Cat has the chance to be a child again.

↓ **BECOMING MUHAMMAD ALI\*** by James Patterson & Kwame Alexander

Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. The authors join forces to vividly depict his life up to age 17 in both prose and verse, including his childhood friends, struggles in school, the racism he faced, and his discovery of boxing.

↓ **TUNE IT OUT\*** by Jamie Sumner

Twelve-year-old Lou Montgomery's life has been centered on her mother's terrifying plan to make her a singing star, but a crisis reveals Lou's sensory processing disorder, and people determined to help her address it.

↓ **UNSPEAKABLE: THE TULSA RACE MASSACRE\***

by Carole Boston Weatherford & Floyd Cooper

A powerful look at the 1921 Tulsa race massacre, one of the worst incidents of racial violence in our nation's history.

Lexile Grade

540L 3-6

1010L 4-8

670L 4-6

1100L 3-6

# TAKE THE



## FOR GRADES 3-5

The Bluestem Young Readers' Book Award is an annual award given to the author of the book voted most outstanding by students in grades 3–5 in participating Illinois schools and libraries.

### CHOOSE A CHALLENGE:

1. Read or listen to at least four of this year's Bluestem books, and vote for your favorite in February 2023 at Indian Prairie Public Library. **OR**
2. Read or listen to all 20 Bluestem books, vote for your favorite in February 2023, and **receive a free paperback book from the current list or a past Bluestem list.** Ask your parent or teacher to put their initials on this flier next to the title of each book you read or listen to. Return your initialed Bluestem Challenge form to the Guest Services Desk by March 11, 2023.

## STUDENT'S INFORMATION - PLEASE PRINT

First & Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Book Selection (1st choice) \_\_\_\_\_

Book Selection (2nd choice) \_\_\_\_\_



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**STAFF ONLY**

Returned Forms:

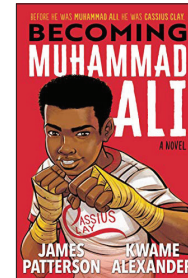
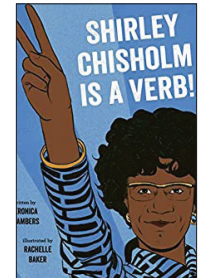
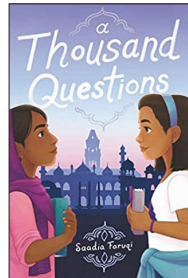
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Order Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Pick-Up Date \_\_\_\_\_



↓ **EVA EVERGREEN: SEMI-MAGICAL WITCH\*** by Julie Abe & Shan Jiang  
Eva must travel to a seaside town to complete her training and earn the rank of Novice Witch before her 13th birthday, or be banned from using magic forever.

**THE SPIRIT OF SPRINGER: THE REAL-LIFE RESCUE OF AN ORPHANED ORCA** by Amanda Abler & Levi Hastings

A heart-warming and true story about an orphaned orca named Springer who was found swimming alone in the Puget Sound in 2002.

↓ **THE LAST HUMAN\*** by Lee Bacon  
In a future when humans are believed to be extinct, what will one curious robot do when it finds a girl who needs its help?

↓ **MAC B. KID SPY: MAC UNDERCOVER\*** by Mac Barnett & Mike Lowery  
One day, Mac receives a telephone call from the Queen of England, recruiting him to find the crown jewels and so he embarks on his first adventure as a secret agent—with the assurance that the Queen will give him a note excusing him from school.

↓ **ABOVE THE RIM: HOW ELGIN BAYLOR CHANGED BASKETBALL\*** by Jen Bryant & Frank Morrison  
One of the first professional African-American players, Elgin Baylor inspired others on and off the court. But when traveling for away games, many hotels and restaurants turned him away because he was Black. One night, Elgin had enough and staged a one-man protest that captured the attention of the press, the public, and the NBA.

↓ **WINTERBORNE HOME FOR VENGEANCE AND VALOR\*** by Ally Carter  
After years in foster care, April gets to live in a mansion where she and four other children are caught up in a mystery related to a missing heir, a lost legacy, and the Phantom.

**SHIRLEY CHISHOLM IS A VERB!** by Veronica Chambers & Rachelle Baker  
A picture book biography celebrating the life and contributions of Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman in Congress, who sought the Democratic nomination to be the president of the United States.

↓ **THE LOSERS CLUB\*** by Andrew Clements  
Alec, a sixth-grade bookworm always in trouble for reading instead of listening and participating in class, starts a book club, solely to have a place to read, and discovers that real life, although messy, can be as exciting as the stories in his favorite books.

Lexile Grade

760L 3-7

950L 2-5

n/a 3-6

460L 3-6

n/a K-4

680L 4-6

n/a 2-3

860L 3-6

↓ **A THOUSAND QUESTIONS\*** by Saadia Faruqi  
Told in two voices, 11-year-olds Mimi, who is visiting her wealthy grandparents in Karachi, Pakistan, for the first time, and Sakina, daughter of the grandparents' cook, form an unexpected friendship.

↓ **THE AMELIA SIX: AN AMELIA EARHART MYSTERY\*** by Kristin L. Gray  
Accepting the opportunity of a lifetime when she is invited to a sleepover at the preserved childhood home of Amelia Earhart, a pilot's daughter meets five other girls before finding herself on a race to recover a pair of goggles.

**THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE: RISING FROM THE ASHES (HISTORY COMICS)** by Kate Hannigan & Alex Graudins

A graphic novel introduction to the events surrounding the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. This story covers the trapping two siblings and their pup in a race to escape and reunite with their family.

↓ **THE LION OF MARS\*** by Jennifer L. Holm  
Bell has spent his whole life—all 11 years of it—on Mars. He's curious about the secrets the adults in the US colony are keeping. When a virus breaks out and the grown-ups all fall ill, Bell and the other children are the only ones who can help.

↓ **TWINS\*** by Varian Johnson & Shannon Wright  
Twins Maureen and Francine distinguish themselves for the first time by pursuing separate interests at the beginning of the sixth grade.

↓ **SONG FOR A WHALE\*** by Lynne Kelly  
From fixing the class computer to repairing old radios, 12-year-old Iris is a tech genius. But, she's the only deaf person in her school, so people often treat her like she's not very smart. When she learns about Blue 55, a real whale who is unable to speak to other whales, Iris understands how he must feel. Then she has an idea: she should invent a way to "sing" to him!

↓ **MEASURING UP\*** by Lily LaMotte & Ann Xu  
Twelve year-old Cici enters a cooking competition to win the chance to see her grandmother again.

↓ **GLITCH\*** by Laura Martin  
Regan Fitz and Elliot Mason have been enemies since they started training to become Glitchers—people who travel through time to preserve important historical events. But, everything changes when they find a letter from Regan's future self, warning them about an impending disaster that threatens them and everyone they know.

Lexile Grade

n/a 4-7

570L 4-6

n/a 4-6

530L 3-6

GN 360L 3-7

800L 4-6

HL 360L 3-6

n/a 4-6