

PRESS RELEASE

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ILLINOIS READS! A Reading State of Mind www.illinoisreads.org

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ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL ANNOUNCES 2019 ILLINOIS READS BOOK SELECTIONS

The Illinois Reading Council has unveiled its list of top books to read in 2019 as part of its nationally acclaimed Illinois Reads program.

Each year for the past seven years, the IRC and Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White, who serves as Honorary Chairman of the Illinois Reads program, have worked together to select six books in each of six age categories written by authors who have a tie to Illinois.

A statewide project promoting reading for Illinois citizens, ILLINOIS READS recommends books ranging from read-to books for infants to books for adult readers. A variety of topics and themes are chosen for each age group.

The 2019 ILLINOIS READS program gets underway with a Book Festival Saturday, March 16 at Waukegan High School's Brookside Campus. Readers from throughout Illinois are invited to the free event. Details will be forthcoming.

The ILLINOIS READS book selections for 2019 are:

Ages Birth – 4 Years

Hope, Matthew Cordell

The World Never Sleeps, Natalie Rompella

What to do with a Box, Chris Sheban (illustrator)

Kitten and the Night Watchman, John Sullivan

The Forever Tree, Tereasa Surratt and Donna Lukas

Ready, Set, Sail, Meg Fleming

Grades K-2

Through the Window: Views of Marc Chagall's Life & Art, Barbara Rosenstock

What Can A Citizen Do? Dave Eggers

My Heart is a Compass, Deborah Marcero

Hey Black Child, Useni Eugene Perkins

Shark Nate-O, Beckie Cattie

Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic, Ginnie Lo

Grades 3-5

Earth Verse: Haiku from the Ground Up, Sally M. Walker

Dangerous Jane, Suzanne Slade
Stick Cat: A Tail of Two Kitties, Tom Watson
The Mortification of Fovea Munson, Mary Winn Heider
Field Tripped, Allan Woodrow
The Cardboard Kingdom, Chad Sell

Grades 6-8

Out of the Wild Night, Blue Balliett
The Unsinkable Walker Bean and the Knights of the Waxing Moon, Aaron Renier
The First Rule of Punk, Celia C. Perez
Speechless, Adam P. Schmitt
Drum Roll Please, Lisa Jenn Bigelow
It's Not Me It's You, Stephanie Kate Strohm

Grades 9-12

A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919, Claire Hartfield
I am not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter, Erika L. Sanchez
Love, Hate and Other Filters, Samira Ahmed
How to be an American: A Field Guide to Citizenship, Silvia Hidalgo
Fatal Throne: The Wives of Henry the VIII Tell All, Stephanie Hemphill, Linda Sue Park & Candance Fleming
American Panda, Gloria Chao

Adult

The House of Broken Angels, Luis Alberto Urrea
The Great Believers, Rebecca Makkai
The Feather Thief, Kirk Wallace Johnson
The Girl from Berlin, Ronald H. Balson
Murder in the News: An Inside Look at How Television Covers Crime, Robert H. Jordan, Jr.
A Word for Love, Emily Robbins

Booklists for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 can be found on the ILLINOIS READS' web site:
www.illinoisreads.org

Illinois Reads is sponsored by the Illinois Reading Council, a nonprofit organization with close to 4,000 members across the State of Illinois. The mission of the Illinois Reading Council is to provide support and leadership to all who promote and teach lifelong literacy.

More information is available at www.IllinoisReads.org