PRESS RELEASE

For Release: Immediately
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ILLINOIS READS! A Reading State of Mind  www.illinoisreadsbookfestival.org
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ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL’S 2021 ILLINOIS READS BOOK SELECTION
2021 VIRTUAL BOOK FESTIVAL IS MARCH 13

A statewide project promoting reading for Illinois citizens, ILLINOIS READS annually recommends six books in each of six different age categories ranging from read-to books for infants to books for adult readers. For the past nine 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 books written by authors who have a tie to Illinois.

The 2021 ILLINOIS READS program formally gets underway with a Virtual Book Festival from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, March 13, 2021. Readers from throughout Illinois are invited to the free event. Details will be forthcoming.

The ILLINOIS READS book selections for 2020 & 2021 are:

**Ages Birth – 4 Years**
*Bear’s Scare* by Jacob Grant
*Beware!* by Bob Raczka, illustrated by Larry Day
*Chinese New Year Colors* by Rich Lo
*Mermaid Dreams* by Kate Pugsley
*Peekity Boo-What You Can Do!* by Heidi Bee Roemer
*Pick a Pumpkin* by Patricia Toht

**Grades K-2**
*Jasper & Ollie* by Alex Willan
*Just Read!* by Lori Degman
*My Teacher is a Robot* by Jeffrey Brown
*Oak Leaf* by John Sandford
*Sofia Valdez, Future Prez* by Andrea Beaty
*This is How I Do It: One Day in the Life of You and 59 Real Kids from Around the World* by Matt Lamoteh

**Grades 3-5**
*Cape—The League of Secret Heroes, Book One* by Kate Hannigan
*Captain Superlative!* by J.S. Puller
*The Peculiar Incident on Shady Street* by Lindsay Currie
*The Superlative A. Lincoln: Poems About Our 16th President* by Eileen R. Meyer
*Time Castaways #1: The Mona Lisa Key* by Liesl Shurtliff
*Weird Little Robots* by Carolyn Crimi
Grades 6-8
Fireborne by Rosaria Munda
Ninja: Get Good: My Ultimate Guide to Gaming by Tyler Blevins
Powers in Action, Volume 1: The Hero Squadron! by Art Baltazar
Robert E. Lee: The Man, the Soldier, the Myth by Brandon Marie Miller
Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers by Celia C. Pérez
Windy City Magic, Book 1: The Best Kind of Magic by Crystal Cestari

Grades 9-12
All That I Can Fix by Crystal Chan
Sorry for Your Loss by Jessie Ann Foley
The Waking Forest by Alyssa Wees
Thirteen Doorways, Wolves Behind Them All by Laura Ruby
Verify by Joelle Charbonneau
We Speak in Storms by Natalie Lund

Adult
An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago by Alex Kotlowitz
The Boat Runner: A Novel by Devin Murphy
Midwest Made: Big, Bold Baking from the Heartland by Shauna Sever
Monument: Poems New and Selected by Natasha Trethewey
Radio Flyer: 100 Years of America’s Little Red Wagon by Robert Pasin
The Vanishing Man: A Charles Lenox Mystery by Charles Finch


Illinois Reads is sponsored by the Illinois Reading Council, a nonprofit organization with close to 3,000 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