

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 Lamothe

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

Booklists for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 may 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 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