

## PRESS RELEASE

Great Lakes Great Books Award  
Jesse Shirtz, committee co-chair  
906-486-4381  
[GreatLakesGreatBooks@gmail.com](mailto:GreatLakesGreatBooks@gmail.com)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 2024-25 Great Lakes Great Books Award Winners Announced

**[ISHPEMING, MI]** - The Great Lakes Great Books Award Committee announced this year's winners at the Michigan Reading Association's Annual Conference on Saturday, March 8, 2025 in a Facebook Live event. Michigan students in grades K-12 elected the winners and up to two honor books in each category by voting on the pool of 40 nominees chosen by the committee. The winners and honor books are as follows:

K-1:

**Winner:** *One Chicken Nugget* by Tadgh Bentley (Balzer + Bray)

**Honor Books:** *Chickadee*, *Criminal Mastermind* by Monica Silvie, illustrated by Elina Ellis (Kids Can Press)

*Sprout Branches Out* by Jessika von Innerebner (Roaring Brook Press)

2-3:

**Winner:** *The Skull* by Jon Klassen (Candlewick Press)

**Honor Books:** *Virginia Wouldn't Slow Down!: The Unstoppable Dr. Apgar and Her Life-Saving Invention* by Carrie Pearson, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter (Norton Young Readers)

*Stranded!: A Mostly True Story from Iceland* by Ævar Þór Benediktsson, illustrated by Anne Wilson (Barefoot Books)

4-5:

**Winner:** *How to Stay Invisible* by Maggie C. Rudd (Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers)

**Honor Books:** *My Head Has a Bellyache: And More Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups* by Chris Harris, illustrated by Andrea Tsurumi (Little, Brown and Company)

*Strikers: A Graphic Novel* by Kiel Phegley, illustrated by Jacques Khouri (Graphic Universe)

6-8:

**Winner:** *Four Eyes: A Graphic Novel* by Rex Ogle, illustrated by Dave Valeza (Graphix)

**Honor Books:** *The Lost Year* by Katherine Marsh (Roaring Brook Press)

*Buzzing* by Samuel Sattin, illustrated by Rye Hickman (Little, Brown Ink)

9-12:

**Winner:** *Numb to This: Memoir of a Mass Shooting* by Kindra Neely (Little, Brown Ink)

**Honor Books:** *Together We Rot* by Skyla Arndt (Viking Books)  
*Warrior Girl Unearthed* by Angeline Boulley (Henry Holt & Co.)

Votes on the 2025-26 Nominations may be submitted until January 11, 2026 on the MRA's website. The committee maintains a web presence at [www.michiganreading.org/great-lakes-great-books](http://www.michiganreading.org/great-lakes-great-books) and on social media: @MichGLGBooks on Facebook and Twitter, and @GreatLakesGreatBooks on Instagram.

###