

## Announcing the 2020 Moonbeam Children's Book Awards Results

“Moonbeam Winners are Dedicated to Bringing Comfort to Kids and Families”

(Traverse City, MI - Oct. 21, 2020) Pandemic. Protests.

Wildfires. The year 2020 has been stressful for us all, full of uncertainty about health, work, school – even the weather is a threat. Can you imagine facing this frightening year as a child? That is why Jenkins Group is proud to announce the results of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Moonbeam Children's Book Awards, honoring the year's best children's books and their creators for their dedication to bringing comfort and inspiration to kids and families.



When all else is in doubt, the familiarity of a parent and child sharing the joy of reading a book together is something we can count on, and the Moonbeam Awards were founded to celebrate that notion. This year's judges chose gold, silver and bronze medalists in 45 categories, covering the full range of children's book genres from picture books to poetry; holiday books to health issues. The awards attracted over a thousand entries from throughout North America and the English-speaking world, and medals will go to authors, illustrators and publishers from 37 U.S. states, 4 Canadian provinces, and 7 countries overseas.

Many of this year's winning books reflect messages from this past “summer of discontent,” such as calls for justice and equality, ending racism, and battling climate change.

“Good neighbors always look out for one another,” say the authors of medal-winning *Our Animal Neighbors: Compassion for Every Furry, Slimy, Prickly Creature on Earth* (Shambhala Publications). “And when we look with our eyes *and* our hearts, we can act with love and compassion toward all beings...even the grouchy ones.”

“Throughout our country's history, many people have been treated with hate and fear because of their skin color or their ethnic background – this is terribly wrong,” a school teacher tells her students in *Everyone Belongs* (Loyola Press). “Treating people in this way is a violation of their dignity as children of God.”

The afore-mentioned threatening weather caused the wildfires that burned down Carrie Barnes and her family’s house in Santa Rosa, CA. When her son had trouble adjusting to a new home, she was inspired to write, *Home: A Story of Resilience and Healing* (Roundtree Press) about his experience: “I learned a very big thing when we lost our house. It wasn’t the kitchen, the dining room, the yard, OR my bedroom that made my old house the best home. It is the love that I feel with my family that follows me wherever I go. Even to a new house. Our HOME.”

Numerous award-winning books encourage children to be generous, compassionate, and to get into what the late congressman and social activist John Lewis called “good trouble,” standing up for their rights and standing up against bullies. The diversity of the winning publishers proves that promoting childhood literacy knows no boundaries, as medal-winners came not only from long-established publishers and university presses, but from small presses, foundations, and self-published authors. Congratulations to all!

See complete contest results here: <http://www.moonbeamawards.com/90/2020-winners>

### About the Awards

The Moonbeam Awards are judged by expert panels of youth educators, students, and book reviewers, and are intended to bring increased recognition to exemplary children’s books and their creators. Award recipients receive gold, silver and bronze medals and stickers depicting a mother and child reading and silhouetted by a full moon.

### About Jenkins Group

Jenkins Group has been involved in book packaging, marketing and distribution since 1988, and many of its employees have children and grandchildren who strongly influence the company culture with their youthful exuberance and love of books.

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For more information about the Moonbeam Awards, contact Awards director Jim Barnes at [jimb@bookpublishing.com](mailto:jimb@bookpublishing.com) or visit [www.MoonbeamAwards.com](http://www.MoonbeamAwards.com). Check out winners’ posts on Instagram and Facebook (@MoonbeamAwards) or with the hashtag #Moonbeam2020.

