

**Texas Talking Book Program**  
**TEXAS BLUEBONNET AWARD 2022-2023 NOMINEES**  
**To Read NOW and vote on in January 2023**

AMARI AND THE NIGHT BROTHERS by BB Alston

DB 102312

After fighting a bully at school and losing her scholarship, Amari discovers a mysterious briefcase in her brother Quinton's closet that contains an invitation for summer tryouts at the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs—which she believes is key to locating Quinton, who is missing. Commercial audiobook. For grades 3-6. 2021.

BAREFOOT DREAMS OF PETRA LUNA by Alda P. Dobbs

DB 106811

During the Mexican Revolution, twelve-year-old Petra Luna flees north with her abuelita and siblings in search of a safe place to live a better life. Commercial audiobook. For grades 5-8. 2021.

BARTALI'S BICYCLE: THE TRUE STORY OF GINO BARTALI, ITALY'S SECRET HERO by Megan Hoyt

DB 109168

"Gino Bartali pedaled across Italy for years, winning one cycling race after another, including the 1938 Tour de France. Gino became an international sports hero! But the next year, World War II began, and it changed everything. Soldiers marched into Italy. Tanks rolled down the cobbled streets of Florence. And powerful leaders declared that Jewish people should be arrested. To the entire world, Gino Bartali was merely a champion cyclist. But Gino's greatest achievement was something he never told a soul—that he secretly worked with the Italian resistance to save hundreds of Jewish men, women, and children, and others, from certain death, using the one thing no authority would question: his bicycle." Provided by publisher. For grades 2-4. 2021

BECOMING MUHAMMAD ALI: A NOVEL by James Patterson & Kwame Alexander

DB 101045

A fictional account of boxing legend and activist Muhammad Ali's youth. Despite school struggles and dealing with racism, a very determined Cassius Clay overcame obstacles in his life—in and out of the ring. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7. 2020.

BILLY MILLER MAKES A WISH by Kevin Henkes

DB 104497

On his eighth birthday, Billy Miller wishes for something exciting to happen. Not one of his wishes is answered the way he expects, but he does have lots of surprises—and the final one is possibly the best one ever. Companion to *The Year of Billy Miller* (DB 77924). Commercial audiobook. For grades 2-4. 2021.

HUNGRY PLACE by Jessie Haas

DB 107505

A pony with a mind of her own and a girl with a spine of steel find in each other the remedy to their loneliness. For grades 3-6. 2020.

J.D. AND THE GREAT BARBER BATTLE by J. Dillard

DB 103096

The night before the start of third grade, eight-year-old J. D.'s mom gives him his worst home haircut. When he fixes his own hair, J. D. discovers he is a genius with clippers and turns a disaster into a thriving barber business. Commercial audiobook. For grades 2-4. 2021.

LION OF MARS by Jennifer Holm

DB 102242

Bell has spent his whole life—all eleven years of it—on Mars. When a virus breaks out in their colony and the grown-ups all fall ill, Bell and the other children are the only ones who can help. Commercial audiobook. For grades 3-6. 2021.

LONG LOST by Jacqueline West

DB 107617

Feeling lonely and out of place after her family moves to a new town, eleven-year-old Fiona Crane ventures to the local library, where she finds a gripping mystery novel about a small town, family secrets, and a tragic disappearance. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7. 2021.

MEMOIRS OF A TORTOISE by Devin Scillian

DBC 09770

Oliver the tortoise looks back on his happy life as he wonders why his pet human, Ike, who he has had for eighty years, has stopped visiting the garden. For grades K-3.

NIGHTINGALE by Deva Fagan

DB 107616

After twelve-year-old Lark, determined to escape her squalid life, steals a magical sword from the Royal Museum, she reluctantly becomes the next Nightingale, destined to vanquish an ancient evil. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7. 2021.

NO PLACE FOR MONSTERS by Kory Merritt

DB 107614

Cowslip Grove seems like the perfect place to raise a family until the children start disappearing. Nobody looks for the kids because nobody can remember them--except Levi and Kat. They must uncover what is happening before the entire town disappears. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7. 2020.

Sequel: DB 107615

ONCE UPON A CAMEL by Kathi Appelt

DB 106184

1910 - Zada, a camel, treks across the West Texas desert to save two baby kestrels from an approaching haboob, a mountain-sized storm. She shares stories of the adventures from her youth in Turkey to keep them calm. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7. 2021.

THE ONE THING YOU'D SAVE by Linda Sue Park

DB 103047

A teacher asks her class to identify the one thing they would save if their house were on fire. Commercial audiobook. For grades K-3. 2021.

ROCK BY ROCK: THE FANTASTICAL GARDEN OF NEK CHAND by Jennifer  
Bradbury

DB 108951

The author recounts the story of artist Nek Chand and how his secret—and illegal—art project became one of India's most treasured wonders. For grades K-3. 2021.

STELLA by McCall Hoyle

DB 103410

As a puppy, Stella was trained to use her powerful beagle nose to sniff out dangerous chemicals. But after a terrible accident, she goes to live on a small family farm to recover from her fear of loud noises. For grades 3-6. 2021.

SWISH! THE SLAM-DUNKING, ALLEY-OOPING, HIGH-FLYING, HARLEM GLOBE  
TROTTERS by Suzanne Slade

DB 107903

The history of the exhibition basketball team, the Harlem Globetrotters, a group of one-finger ball-spinning, rapid-fire mini-dribbling, skilled athletes, expert players, and electrifying performers, all rolled into one. For grades K-3. 2020.

TWINS (graphic novel) by Varian Johnson and Shannon Wright (Not in NLS)

UNSPEAKABLE: THE TULSA RACE MASSACRE by Carole Boston Weatherford

DB 103676 and BR 23732

An award-winning author recounts the 1921 Tulsa, Oklahoma, race massacre—one of the worst incidents of racial violence in our nation's history. For grades 3-6. 2021.

WILLODEEN by Katherine Applegate

DB 105239

When the annual migration of hummingbirds, a source of local pride and income, dwindles and no one knows why, Willodeen, armed with a magical birthday gift, speaks up for the animals she loves and vows to uncover this mystery. For grades 3-6. 2021.