



**2021 Notable Poetry Books and Verse Novels  
Selected by the NCTE Award for Excellence  
in Children's Poetry Committee  
\*For Children Ages 3–13**

**2021 Notable Books in Poetry**

***Amphibian Acrobats.*** Leslie Bulion. Illus. by Robert Meganck. 2020. Peachtree Publishing Company.

***Black is a Rainbow Color.*** Angela Joy. Illus. by Ekuu Holmes. 2020. Roaring Brook Press.

***BOX: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom.*** Carole Boston Weatherford. Illus. by Michele Wood. 2020. Candlewick Press.

***By and By: Charles Albert Tindley, the Father of Gospel Music.*** Carole Boston Weatherford. Illus. by Bryan Collier. 2020. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

***Cast Away: Poems for Our Time.*** Naomi Shihab Nye. 2020. Greenwillow Books.

***Construction People.*** Lee Bennett Hopkins. Illus. by Ellen Shi. 2020. Wordsong.

***Dictionary for a Better World: Poems, Quotes, and Anecdotes from A to Z.*** Irene Latham and Charles Waters. Illus. by Mehrdokht Amini. 2020. Carolrhoda Books.

***Follow the Recipe: Poems about Imagination, Celebration, and Cake.*** Marilyn Singer. Illus. by Marjorie Priceman. 2020. Dial Books for Young Readers.

***Green on Green.*** Dianne White. Illus. by Felicita Sala. 2020. Beach Lane Books.

***I Wish.*** Toon Tellegen. Illus. by Ingrid Godon. Trans. by David Colmer. 2020. Elsewhere Editions.

***I'm Feeling Blue, Too!*** Marjorie Maddox. Illus. by Philip Huber. 2020. Resource Publications.

***In the Woods.*** David Elliott. Illus. by Rob Dunlavey. 2020. Candlewick Press.

***Mexique: A Refugee Story from the Spanish Civil War.*** María José Ferrada. Illus. by Ana Penyas. 2020. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.

***A New Green Day***. Antoinette Portis. Illus. by the Author. 2020. Neal Porter Books.

***No Voice Too Small: Fourteen Young Americans Making History***. Ed. by Lindsay H. Metcalf, Keila V. Dawson, and Jeanette Bradley. Illus. by Jeanette Bradley. 2020. Charlesbridge.

***On a Snow-Melting Day: Seeking Signs of Spring***. Buffy Silverman. 2020. Millbrook Press.

***On the Horizon***. Lois Lowry. Illus. by Kenard Pak. 2020. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

***A Place Inside of Me***. Zetta Elliott. Illus. by Noa Denmon. 2020. Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR).

***Snow Birds***. Kirsten Hall. Illus. by Jenni Desmond. 2020. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

***Summer Feet***. Sheree Fitch. Illus. by Carolyn Fisher. 2020. Nimbus Publishing.

***This Poem Is a Nest***. Irene Latham. Illus. by Johanna Wright. 2020. Wordsong.

***When You Breathe***. Diana Farid. Illus. by Billy Renkl. 2020. Henry N. Abrams.

***Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice***. Mahogany L. Browne, Elizabeth Acevedo, and Olivia Gatwood. Illus. by Theodore Taylor III. 2020. Roaring Brook Press.

***The World Below the Brine***. Walt Whitman. Illus. by James Christopher Carroll. 2021. Creative Editions.

***Write! Write! Write!*** Amy Ludwig VanDerwater. Illus. by Ryan O'Rourke. 2020. Wordsong.

### **2021 Notable Verse Novels**

***All He Knew***. Helen Frost. 2020. Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR).

***Becoming Muhammad Ali***. James Patterson and Kwame Alexander. Illus by Dawud Anyabwile. 2020. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

***Before the Ever After***. Jacqueline Woodson. 2020. Nancy Paulsen Books.

***BenBee and the Teacher Griefer: The Kids under the Stairs***. K. A. Holt. 2020. Chronicle Books.

***The Canyon's Edge***. Dusti Bowling. 2020. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

***Closer to Nowhere.*** Ellen Hopkins. 2020. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers.

***Flooded: Requiem for Johnstown.*** Ann E. Burg. 2020. Scholastic Press.

***Grasping Mysteries: Girls Who Loved Math.*** Jeannine Atkins. 2020. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

***Land of the Cranes.*** Aida Salazar. 2020. Scholastic Press.

***Love Love.*** Sung J. Woo. 2015. Soft Skull Press.

***The Places We Sleep.*** Caroline Brooks DuBois. 2020. Holiday House.

***When You Know What I Know.*** Sonja K. Solter. 2020. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

***Wishes, Dares, and How to Stand Up to a Bully.*** Darlene Beck-Jacobson. 2020. Creston Books.

**NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children Committee Members:**

Dr. Gabrielle Halko, West Chester University, West Chester, PA

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