



For Immediate Release

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VERMONT STUDENTS CHOOSE YOUTH BOOK AWARD WINNERS

(Barre, Vermont) – Each year thousands of Vermont kids pick their favorites for three student-choice book awards, and the votes are now in. The Vermont Department of Libraries announced winners on Thursday, May 11, 2023, of all three student-choice literary awards, the Red Clover Book Award, Vermont Golden Dome Book Award, and Green Mountain Book Award.

I Eat Poop. A Dung Beetle Story by Mark Pett wins the 2022-2023 [Red Clover Book Award](#). The book was described by members of the award committee: “Dougie the Dung Beetle struggles with issues of identity and conformity in this charming, crowd-pleasing book. He hides his lunch from home every day, so that no one at the bug school will know that he eats poop. Underneath the humor is a poignant story about feeling different from your peers that reinforces the idea that ‘we’re all a little weird.’” Initiated in 1997, the Red Clover Award is chosen by children in kindergarten through fourth grade. With teacher guidance and support, each year thousands of kids read the ten nominated picture books and vote for their favorite.

Alone by Megan E. Freeman wins the 2022-2023 [Vermont Golden Dome Book Award](#). Golden Dome Award committee members described this book: “Twelve-year old Maddie awakens to find herself alone. Everyone else in the town has been mysteriously evacuated, leaving Maddie behind. Now she and her neighbor’s abandoned dog, George, must find food, clean water, fuel, and a way to try to communicate with her missing family. As the months pass, Maddie has to deal with the realization that there may not be a rescue forthcoming, and she must face the challenges of her new life alone.” Since 1957, Vermont students in grades four through eight select their favorite book from a list of nominees for this award. Students are encouraged to read at least five of the year's 25 nominated titles before voting.

In an unusual three-way tie, *The Mary Shelley Club* by Goldy Moldavsky, *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir, and *Iron Widow* by Xiran Jay Zhao won the 2022-2023 [Green Mountain Book Award](#). Award committee members created three-word descriptions for each book: “Secret Horror Society” for *The Mary Shelley Club*; “Humanity’s Last Chance” for *Project Hail Mary*; and “Vengeance Feminist Anime” for *Iron Widow*. Initiated in 2005, this reader's choice award, intended to encourage high schoolers to become enthusiastic and discriminating readers, is selected by Vermont students in grades 9 - 12. Students read the 15 nominated books and vote for their favorite.

About the Vermont Youth Book Awards, State Librarian and Commissioner of Libraries Catherine Delneo said, “These long-standing and beloved statewide awards promote a love of reading and allow young readers to explore diverse voices and experiences.”

“We thank the committee members who read tirelessly throughout the year to curate the booklists, and the teachers and librarians who support students in reading and voting,” said State Library Consultant for Youth Services Jonathan Clark, “We also want to thank Vermont youth, who are at the heart of these student-choice book awards. Each year they read the titles on the lists and vote for their favorite, which

determines the winners. This year we had 18,075 students from across the state submit votes and make their voices heard!”

This program is supported, in part, by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency, through the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Vermont Department of Libraries.

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