

For Immediate Release

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Students Choose Winners of 2023-2024 Vermont Youth Book Award

(Barre, Vermont) – The votes are in for Vermont’s three student-choice book awards: the Red Clover Book Award, the Vermont Golden Dome Book Award, and the Green Mountain Book Award!

Bobcat Prowling written by Maria Gianferrari and Illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline wins the 2023-2024 Red Clover Book Award. The book was described by members of the award committee: “Yearling is the bobcat prowling in this story, embarking on the lifecycle task of leaving his mother to claim his own territory. The beautiful, realistic, and Vermont-like illustrations complement the lyrical text and provide additional visual details about Yearling’s daily habits and challenges, including specific competitors and prey. Just as we are learning to co-exist with apex predators in our local environments, the reader is never far from Yearling in the story, spotting tracks while waiting for the school bus, and camping in a backyard tent mere yards from Yearling’s eventual den.”

Odder written by Katherine Applegate and Illustrated by Charles Santoso wins the 2023-2024 Vermont Golden Dome Book Award. Members of the award committee shared: “Mischievous and inquisitive Odder spends her days in the Pacific waters off the coast of Monterey Bay, California. When one of her adventures leads to trouble, Odder must rely on the human scientists at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Center for help. This gentle tale based on the real Monterey Bay Aquarium Center Otter Rehabilitation Program will have readers falling in love with Odder as they learn about her resilient species and the steps being made to ensure their survival.”

Four for the Road written by K. J. Reilly wins the 2023-2024 Green Mountain Book Award. Award committee members describe the book: “An unlikely group of friends, three teens and one senior citizen, all dealing with loss embark on a road trip to Graceland. Each has their own agenda and is looking for ways besides their therapy group to help ease their pain. What transpires is a hilarious and touching story of people finding their way through grief with the help of each other.”

The Vermont Department of Libraries provides administrative support for the three book awards including facilitating voting by students across the state. “Over 18,000 students from across the state submitted votes this year,” said State Library Consultant for Children and Teen Services Jonathan Clark, “The success of the youth book award program relies on committee members who read tirelessly throughout the year to curate the booklists; the teachers and librarians who support students in reading and voting; and, of course, Vermont youth, who are at the heart of the Vermont youth book awards.”

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The Vermont Department of Libraries is housed within the Vermont Agency of Administration and supports Vermont libraries as they work to ensure access to quality information for their

patrons. The Department supports the work of the Vermont youth book award committees. To learn more, visit libraries.vermont.gov.

The Red Clover Book Award is designed for children in kindergarten through fourth grade. Each spring since 1997, thousands of Vermont school children have read the nominated picture books and voted for their favorite. For more information, visit the [Red Clover Book Award committee website](#).

The Vermont Golden Dome Book Award was created to honor excellence in children's literature. Each year since 1957, Vermont students in grades four through eight have selected their favorite book from a list of nominees. For more information, visit the [Vermont Golden Dome Book Award committee website](#).

The Green Mountain Book Award, established in 2005, is a reader's choice award for Vermont students in grades nine to twelve. The program encourages high schoolers to become enthusiastic and discriminating readers. For more information, visit the [Green Mountain Book Award committee website](#).