**Lincoln Award: Illinois Teen Readers’ Choice**

**2021 Nominees’ Master List**

**All of these titles can be requested through our online card catalog at** [**www.masoncitylibrary.org**](http://www.masoncitylibrary.org)

**Title Author (Call #) Page Count Summary of book**

**All the Crooked Saints** by Maggie Stiefvater (F STI YA) 311 pages

Here is a thing everyone wants: a miracle. Here is a thing everyone fears: what it takes to get one. Any visitor to Bicho Raro, Colorado, is likely to find a landscape of dark saints, forbidden love, scientific dreams, miracle-mad owls, estranged affections, one or two orphans, and a sky full of watchful desert stars. At the heart of this place you will find the Soria family, who all have the ability to perform unusual miracles. And at the heart of this family are three cousins longing to change its future: Beatriz, the girl without feelings, who wants only to be free to examine her thoughts; Daniel, the Saint of Bicho Raro, who performs miracles for everyone but himself; and Joaquin, who spends his nights running a renegade radio station under the name Diablo Diablo. They are all looking for a miracle. But the miracles of Bicho Raro are never quite what you expect.

**Black Enough: Stories of Being Young and Black in America** Ibi Zoboi, editor (F BLA UA) 400 pages

A collection of short stories explores what it is like to be young and black, centering on the experiences of black teenagers and emphasizing that one person’s experiences, reality, and personal identity are different than someone else.

**Darius the Great is Not Okay** by Adib Khorram (F KHO YA) 314 pages

Clinically depressed Darius Kellner, a high school sophomore travels to Iran to meet his grandparents, but it is their next-door neighbor, Sohrab, who changes his life.

**Devils Within** by S.F. Henson (F HEN YA) 395 pages

Raised in a white supremacist compound where he was honored for his acts of violence before killing his own father, 14-year-old Nate is placed in the custody of his uncle and starts over with a new identity before forging an unexpected bond with a kind boy he was taught to hate.

**Dress codes for Small Towns** by Court Stevens (F STE YA) 337 pages

Rebelling against the role others believe she should play, Billie McCaffrey struggles with her feelings for two of her friends.

**Dry** by Neal Shusterman (F SHU YA) 390 pages

When the Tap-Out, a lengthy California drought, escalates to catastrophic proportions, Alyssa’s quiet suburban street turns into a war zone, and she is forced to make impossible choices if she and her brother are to survive.

**Every Falling Star: The True Story of How I Survived and Escaped North Korea** by Sungju Lee (B LEE YA) 314 pages

The memoir of a boy named Sungju who grew up in North Korea and, at the age of twelve, was forced to live on the streets and fend for himself after his parents disappeared. Finally, after years of being homeless and living with a gang, Sungju is reunited with his maternal grandparents and eventually, his father.

**A Heart in a Body in the World** by Deb Caletti (F CAL YA) 355 pages

Followed by Grandpa Ed in his RV and backed by her brother and friends, Annabelle, eighteen, runs from Seattle to Washington D.C., becoming a reluctant activist as people connect her journey to her recent trauma.

**Heroine** by Mindy McGinnis (F MCG YA) 418 pages

Determined to see her softball team through a historic tournament run despite severe injuries, Mickey Catalan is prescribed painkillers that initially help before high pressure leads to an out-of-control addiction.

**Hey, Kiddo: How I lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt with Family Addiction** by Jarrett Krosoczka (B 741.5 KRO YA) 294 pages-graphic novel

Traces the author’s unconventional coming of age with a drug-addict mother, an absent father and two lovingly opinionated grandparents.

**Internment** by Samira Ahmed (F AHM YA) 387 pages

Set in a futuristic United States where Muslim-Americans are forced into internment camps, seventeen-year-old Layla Amin must lead a revolution against complicit silence.

**Obsessed: A Memoir of My Life with OCD** by Allison Britz (B BRI YA) 351pages

A brave teen recounts her debilitating struggle with obsessive-compulsive disorder and brings readers through every painful step as she finds her way to the other side.

**The Nickel Boys** by Colson Whitehead (F WHI YA) 213 pages

As the Civil Rights movement begins to reach the black enclave of Frenchtown in segregated Tallahassee, Elwood Curtis takes the words of Dr. Martin Luther King to heart. Abandoned by his parents but kept on the straight and narrow by his grandmother, Elwood is about to enroll in the local black college. But for a black boy in the Jim Crow South of the early 1960’s, one innocent mistake is enough to destroy the future. Elwood is sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, a grotesque chamber of horror where the sadistic staff beats and sexually abuses the students, corrupt officials and locals steal food and supplies, and any boy who resists is likely to disappear “out back.” Elwood’s friend Turner thinks Elwood is worse than naïve, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. The tension between Elwood’s ideals and Turner’s skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades.

**Patron Saints of Nothing** by Randy Ribay (F RIB YA) 323 pages

When seventeen-year-old Jay Reguero learns his Filipino cousin and former best friend, Jun, was murdered as part of President Duterte’s war on drugs, he flies to the Philippines to learn more.

**Price of Duty** by Todd Strasser (F STR YA) 177 pages

Hailed as a hero, twenty-year-old Jake returns to his pro-military hometown and family injured physically and emotionally, unsure if he can return to active duty but uncomfortable with the alternative.

**Slay** by Brittney Morris (F MOR YA) 321 pages

An honors student at Jefferson Academy, seventeen-year-old Keira enjoys developing and playing Slay, a secret, multiplayer online role-playing game celebrating black culture, until the two worlds collide.

**They Called Us Enemy** by George Takei (940.53 YA) 204 pages-graphic novel

Takei’s firsthand account of years spent in a Japanese concentration camp, the joys and terrors of growing up under legalized racism, his mother’s hard choices, his father’s faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future.

**Truly Devious** by Maureen Johnson (F JOH YA) 420 pages

Ellingham Academy was founded by a tycoon who wanted to make a place where learning could be a game. A few years later, his wife and daughter were kidnapped, and the only clue was a riddle. Many years later, first year student and true crime fan, Stevie sets out to solve the cold case.

**A Very Lage Expanse of Sea** by Tahereh Mafi (F MAF YA) 310 pages

It’s 2002, a year after 9/11. It’s an extremely turbulent time politically, but especially so for someone like Shirin, a sixteen-year-old Muslim girl who’s tired of being stereotyped. Shirin is never surprised by how horrible people can be. She’s tired of the rude stares, the degrading comments—even the physical violence—she endures as a result of her race, her religion, and the hijab she wears every day. So, she’s built up protective walls and refuses to let anyone close enough to hurt her. Instead, she drowns her frustrations in music and spends her afternoons break-dancing with her brother. But then she meets Ocean James. He’s the first person in forever who really seems to want to het to know Shirin. It terrifies her—they seem to come from two irreconcilable worlds—and Shirin has had her guard up for so long that she’s not sure she’ll ever be able to let it down.

**We’ll Fly Away** by Bryan Bliss (F BLI YA) 407 pages

Best friends Toby and Luke just want to get out of their dead-end town. It is finally senior year and Toby and Like are so close to freedom—until they each make a series of choices that sets them down an irrevocable path.