

Dear Educators,

We are delighted to share the 2019 Neev Book Award Shortlist with you.

If you are looking for high quality children's literature for your students, we encourage you to explore our rich and varied shortlist. Here are some great ways to get your students to engage with the books:

- **Battle of the Books Club:** Encourage your avid readers to form a special reading club where they can judge the books and announce their own verdict! Encourage students in the club to read *all* the books in the category appropriate for their age. They can engage in a heated discussion about which book deserves the Neev Award and announce their own winner. Most importantly, they can send their book ratings and reviews to the Neev Book Award Jury. We'd love to hear what children think as we make our final decisions.
- **Reading Challenges:** Engage your children in a reading challenge. See how many books on the shortlist they can each read. Students who read all the books in a particular category get special recognition.
- **Literature Circles or Student Book Clubs:** Get students to form small reading groups (4 or 5 students per group). Have each group choose one of the books off the shortlist to read and discuss.
- **Literary Café:** Encourage students to choose one of the books on the list to read and think about. Then each student can do a book talk, where they share a particularly powerful passage from the book with the class, as well as their thoughts about the book. Bring food to make it a special celebratory occasion.
- **Read Aloud:** (for the picture book category): Engage your younger students in read aloud of our wonderful shortlisted picture books. Students will love listening to these stories. Plan activities around each book; for example, students can draw pictures related to the book.

If you'd like to purchase book bundles for your school library or your classrooms, here is link you need to use:

<https://www.flipkart.com/neev-book-award-2019-store>

As author Kate DiCamillo said, "*Reading should not be presented to children as a chore, a duty. It should be offered as a gift.*" We hope that through our shortlist, you will be able to offer your students the gift of reading.

Warm regards,

Maya Thiagarajan
Jury Chair
The Neev Book Award