

Dear Educators,

We are delighted to share with you the 2020 Neev Book Award Shortlist.

If you are looking for high quality children’s literature for your students, we encourage you to explore this 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 spirited discussion about which book they think deserves the award.
- ***Reading Challenges***: Challenge students to read as many books as possible in their age appropriate category. Encourage older children to read titles in the younger age categories - they might be surprised at how enjoyable these books are. Offer special recognition to those students who read all books in a particular category.
- ***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 select one book from the shortlist to read. Each student can then share their thoughts and a particularly powerful passage from the book with the class. Bring food related to the book’s theme to make it a special celebratory occasion.
- ***Read Alouds*** (for the picture book category): Engage your younger students in read alouds of our wonderful shortlisted picture books. Students will love listening to these stories. Plan activities around each book; for example, students can draw their own illustrations for the book.

If you would like to purchase the shortlisted books for your school library or your classrooms, you can purchase them individually using the Amazon link provided [here](#).

As author Kate DiCamillo said, “*Reading should not be presented to children as a chore, a duty. It should be offered as a gift.*” It is our hope that the Neev Book Award shortlist is a gift that brings the joy of reading to children everywhere.

Warm regards,

The Neev Book Award Jury