

## FCPS Cross-County BOTB Titles 2024-25

Title	Genre	Main Character
	Action/ Adventure	<p><b>The Great Greene Heist</b> by Varian Johnson</p> <p>Jackson Greene has a reputation as a prankster at Maplewood Middle School. After the last disaster, he is trying to go straight – but when it looks like Keith Sinclair may steal the election for school president from Jackson's former best friend, Gabriela, he assembles a team of talented troublemakers to make sure Keith won't succeed.</p>
	Fantasy	<p><b>Ruins of Gorlan</b> by John Flanagan</p> <p>15-year-old Will hopes to become a knight of Castle Redmont, but due to his small stature, he winds up as an apprentice to the fierce, mysterious Ranger. To protect both the Ranger and the kingdom, Will must develop his skills wielding a knife and learn to keep a heightened awareness of his surroundings. When the kingdom is attacked by evil magic forces, Will helps track down and defeat nasty beasts.</p>
	Fantasy	<p><b>Amari and the Night Brothers</b> by B. B. Alston</p> <p>Struggling with her brother Quinton's disappearance and bullying at school, 13-year-old Amari is at the end of her rope when she receives a mysterious container, purportedly from her brother. Inside she learns of a supernatural world and of an invitation to a training camp hosted by the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs. She agrees to attend and learns that she is a magician whose powers are considered illegal. But Amari is determined to become a junior agent no matter the obstacles so that she can find her brother.</p>
	Graphic Novel/ Realistic	<p><b>Parachute Kids</b> by Betty Tang</p> <p>After their two-week family tour of Los Angeles, 10-year-old Feng Li Lin and her older brother and sister learn they will remain in California while their parents return to Taiwan, forcing them to navigate a new school, a new language, bullies, racism, and the pressures of running a household.</p>
	Graphic Memoir	<p><b>A First Time for Everything</b> by Dan Santat</p> <p>Middle school was tough and Dan would rather forget it and try to remain invisible. When his parents suggest he join a three-week study abroad trip to Europe, he cringes at the thought of traveling with a group of girls who bullied him in middle school. However, as the trip unfolds, Dan finds friends, has a variety of first-time experiences, including his first kiss, and grows up in ways he could not have foreseen.</p>
	Nonfiction	<p><b>Crash from Outer Space</b> by Candace Fleming</p> <p>Explores the truth behind what happened after an unidentified flying object crashed in Roswell, New Mexico in 1947. Explains how speculations that it was an alien ship began, the rise in UFO hysteria during the 1950s, and the allegations of those claiming UFO encounters are real. Also discusses government and military investigations into the crash, the debunking of false evidence, and what questions still remain about the incident.</p>
	Historical fiction	<p><b>The Lost Year</b> by Katherine Marsh</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic strands thirteen-year-old Matthew's journalist dad overseas indefinitely, making the boy miserable. Worse, his stress and isolation only grow when his mom moves his great-grandmother into their home to ride out the pandemic. Then, Matthew discovers an ancient photo in his great-grandmother's belongings--one that unearths a life-changing family secret from all the way back to Soviet Ukraine in the 1930s.</p>

	<p>Horror</p>	<p><b>Small Spaces</b> by Katherine Arden  Impulsive 11-year-old Ollie plucks a book from the hand of a weeping woman threatening to throw it into the river and runs off with it. The book is "Small Spaces," and tells a haunting story of a girl, two boys in love with her, and a farm from hundreds of years ago, and a deal with the sinister specter called the Smiling Man, who grants wishes for the ultimate price. Now, Ollie finds herself on a school trip to a local farm with a haunted history...</p>
	<p>Mystery</p>	<p><b>Girl, Stolen</b> by April Henry  Out running errands one day, Cheyenne lies down in the backseat of the car while her mother enters a store. Then small-time crook Griffin steals the car and returns it to his father and associates. Upon discovering Cheyenne in the backseat, the group holds her hostage for \$5 million. Cheyenne must survive without her walking cane or seeing-eye dog to help her navigate the world as she awaits rescue.</p>
	<p>Mystery</p>	<p><b>The In-Between</b> by Rebecca K.S. Ansari  Everything seems to get on Cooper's nerves, including his annoying little sister Jess and the creepy girl next door. But when Cooper and Jess discover an unsolved mystery involving a railroad accident, Cooper becomes obsessed with solving it. The mystery involves a mysterious, unidentified dead boy whose only identifying feature is a strange insignia on his jacket... the same insignia on the jacket of the strange girl next door.</p>
	<p>Novel in Verse  Realistic</p>	<p><b>Eb &amp; Flow</b> by Kelly J Baptist  A novel in verse told in two voices that describes how African American tween girl Ebony "Eb" gets into a fight with her classmate De'Kari "Flow" Flood, a boy, and they both get suspended. Now they have ten days to explain their behavior to their families and reflect on their actions.</p>
	<p>Realistic</p>	<p><b>Ellen Outside the Lines</b> by A. J. Sass  13-year-old Ellen, who is autistic, likes order and certainty, so she struggles with changes between her and her best friend Laurel. She hopes to rekindle their friendship on a class trip to Spain. Unfortunately, nothing goes as planned. Ellen is placed with an unknown group of kids for a scavenger hunt. There she meets nonbinary Isa, who helps give her a new perspective on her gender and sexuality and may open up a pathway to a new friendship.</p>
	<p>Dystopian/  Sci-Fiction</p>	<p><b>Legend</b> by Marie Lu  As wealthy, intelligent June trains for the Republic's prestigious military and earns a perfect score in the Trials, Day, a street thug, becomes the Republic's most wanted criminal. Their worlds drastically collide when June's brother, Metias, gets murdered, and Day stands accused of the crime. The gripping story unfolds through the alternating perspectives of June and Day, both racing to uncover the truth about their lives and country.</p>
	<p>Fantasy/  Adventure</p>	<p><b>The Monster Missions</b> by Laura Martin  People began living on ships after rising sea levels submerged all land on Earth in an event known as the Tide Rising. 12-year-old Berkeley and her best friend Garth have never seen land and earn their keep through scavenging underwater cities. While on a dive, they awaken a Hydra which places their ship, the "Atlas," in grave danger. The two are soon recruited to live and work on the submarine "Britannica" as marine researchers who help study sea monsters. But just because they left the "Atlas" doesn't mean the Hydra plans to leave it alone. Berkeley and Garth must come up with a plan to save the "Atlas" and their families before it's too late.</p>
	<p>Sci Fi/ Action</p>	<p><b>The Switch</b> by Roland Smith  Just after Henry Ludd turns 13, power goes out across the world and people, without phones or news, descend into chaos. In the midst of the chaos, Henry's father disappears. Heading out with a trading crew to the place he was last seen, Henry searches for his father – but then their truck is hijacked and Henry stranded. Now, young Henry must survive in a dystopian new world.</p>