

# 2016 Nutmeg Book Award High School Nominees

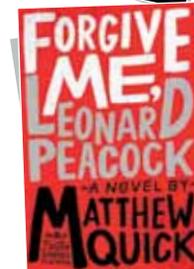
## **Aristotle & Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe** by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Ari is a sad and angry young man when he meets Dante at the local pool. Dante—who is open and happy and expressive where Ari is closed off. Dante—with whom he has so much in common, but who is still so different. Can Dante help Ari better know himself?



## **Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock** by Matthew Quick

Leonard has a plan laid out for his 18th birthday: say good-bye to the four people closest to him, murder his former best friend, and commit suicide. As he makes his rounds, is there anyone who will take note of Leonard's odd behavior before it is too late?



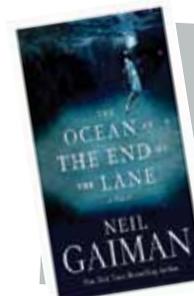
## **If You Find Me** by Emily Murdoch

15-year-old Carey barely remembers a time when she lived in a real house instead of an old camper hidden in a large forest. She takes care of her mute younger sister Jenessa as her mentally ill mother disappears for longer and longer periods of time. One day a social worker shows up to return her to the father she has only ever been warned against, and she is thrown into a new life of high school and regular life. Will Carey and Jenessa adjust and speak the truth of what happened in the woods?



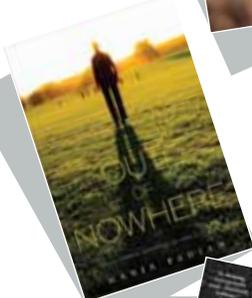
## **The Ocean at the End of the Lane** by Neil Gaiman

This atmospheric fable follows a man's 40-year flashback to a time in his youth when a tragedy set off a chain of events that forced him to face a dark, mysterious, and deadly force. The boy-without-a-name is aided by strange companions to save his family from an evil that has taken over his home.



## **Out of Nowhere** by Maria Padian

Soccer captain and high school senior, Tom Bouchard can do no wrong—until he does. Out of nowhere, a night of shenanigans with his best friend changes everything. His once middle-of-the-road existence takes one messy turn after another. Facing the consequences of his actions leads him to finally see the struggles of his best friend's addiction, his girlfriend's bigotry, and the plight of the new Somali immigrants who have flooded his small Maine town. Now he must choose a side as tension rises among his family, his town, and his heart.



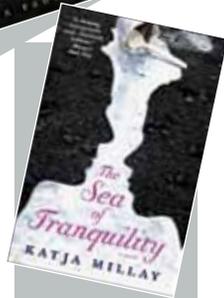
## **Ready Player One** by Ernest Cline

In 2044, real life is so miserable that everyone lives in OASIS, the virtual reality created by James Halliday. When Halliday died, he left a massive puzzle built into OASIS: solve the puzzle and you inherit his fortune. Enter Wade Wyatt, the 18-year-old gamer who solves part one first—and winds up with a bull's-eye on his back. He's got to solve the rest of the puzzle before he's taken out of the game—permanently.



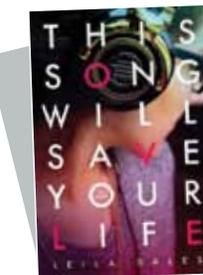
## **Sea of Tranquility: a Novel** by Katja Millay

After a brutal, random attack, Nastya Kashnikov finds her identity stolen. She used to be a "good" girl well on her way to becoming a concert pianist; now she's silent and angry, and has withdrawn from the world. In an attempt to help her recover, Nastya's parents send her to live with her aunt and get a fresh start in a new school. Here, she meets Josh, who has lost everyone he loves and keeps everyone else at a distance. Is it possible for people to be too damaged to truly reconnect with the world?



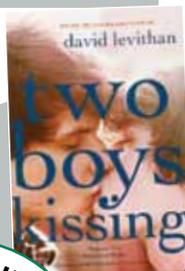
## **This Song Will Save Your Life** by Leila Sales

Elise has never been part of the popular crowd, despite her best efforts. A chance encounter at an underground club teaches Elise about friendship, romance, and awakens a love of music that gives her the confidence to embrace the unique person she's become.



## **Two Boys Kissing** by David Levithan

Harry and Craig, two 17-year-old ex-boyfriends, are about to attempt a new Guinness World Record—a 32 hour marathon of kissing. Filmed and broadcast live, the two boys quickly take center stage in the lives of other teen boys dealing with their own issues of love, identity, and belonging.



## **Winger** by Andrew Smith

Ryan Dean West, aka Winger, is a rugby player at a private boarding school who lives in the dorm for troublemakers, is in love with his best friend Annie, and manages to anger just about everyone as he navigates through his sophomore year. Winger gets by using his intelligence and humor, but can he keep it together when tragedy strikes?



**Confidentiality Statement:** This list of 2016 Nutmeg Nominees is confidential information provided to school media specialists and librarians only. We ask that you respect the Nutmeg Book Award's confidentiality policy until the nominees are made public on May 1, 2015.

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