**2019 Nutmeg Book Award**  
**High School Nominees**

**All American Boys** by Jason Reynolds & Brendan Kiely  
Rashad was just buying a bag of chips at a local convenience store, but instead he wakes up in the hospital after an encounter with a violent cop. Quin witnesses the violent act committed by a man whom he loves and respects. Two teenage boys—one black, one white—deal with the consequences of a single violent act that tears their community apart.

**The Female of the Species** by Mindy McGinnis  
Three years ago, Alex’s sister was murdered. The killer walked free, so Alex decided to take matters into her own hands. Now she knows she can’t be trusted among others - not with Pekay, the preacher’s kid, or with Jack, the star athlete. The three teens grow closer, and as their senior year unfolds Alex’s violent nature begins to emerge, setting them on a path that will change their lives forever.

**Illuminae** by Amie Kaufman & Jay Kristoff  
Kady can’t believe it when her planet is attacked right after she breaks up with Ezra. She, Ezra, and other refugees flee the planet on a squadron of spaceships, with an enemy ship following closely behind. Soon thereafter, a deadly disease breaks out across the fleet. The artificial intelligence system AIDAN is supposed to protect the ships from any harm - including the virus - but it has other plans. Kady’s not trying to be a hero, but she just might end up saving the entire fleet.

**Nimona** by Noelle Stevenson  
Why be normal when you could be a dragon? (Always choose dragon!) Join shapeshifter Nimona on her quest to be the best henchwoman possible to supervillain scientist Ballister Blackheart. Help them expose the lies of the the kingdom and its goody-goody hero Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin. As the battle escalates it becomes obvious Nimona is more dangerous than she appears. Is she really just a sidekick? Is she even human?

**Salt to the Sea** by Ruta Sepetys  
Near the end of WWII the Wilhelm Gustloff, a hospital ship, is evacuating German civilians, Nazi officials, and military personnel from East Prussia. Joana, Florian, Emilia, and Alfred all unite to find strength, courage, and trust as they struggle toward freedom and their chance of escape. The story and its characters bring history to life with gripping danger, mystery, and hope.

**Scythe** by Neal Shusterman  
In a world that has found a way to conquer all forms of death, everyone must now depend on scythes to keep the world’s population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen as apprentices to a scythe—a role that neither wants. The teens must master the skill of taking a life, knowing that if they fail, they could be next.

**The Serpent King** by Jeff Zentner  
Dill comes from a family of fanatical Pentecostal preachers. Travis is obsessed with a fantasy author. Lydia’s blog has an impressive following. These three quirky high school seniors refuse to let their backgrounds or their small Tennessee hometown hold them back from what they know life has in store.

**Six of Crows** by Leigh Bardugo  
Katterdam is a city known for its international trade, a city where anything can be bought for a price. Kaz is given the opportunity to execute an almost-impossible heist that will make him rich beyond his dreams, but he can’t do it alone. Kaz assembles a team of six of the most deadly outcasts, and together they will accomplish the impossible, if they don’t kill each other in the process.

**This is Our Story** by Ashley Elston  
No one knows what really happened the morning that five close friends went hunting and only four came back alive. They’re sticking to their story, and their parents and lawyers are with them. But Kate, a new intern in the District Attorney’s office who goes to school with them, is assisting the prosecution, and she is determined to discover the truth – accident or murder? The evidence is confusing, the case is compelling, and no one is talking.

**Trashed** by Derf Backderf  
Take out the trash and get a job! J.B. does both. Join J.B., Mike, and Bone as they clean up the streets and learn the secret life of your garbage. Funny and gross in the best possible way.

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