

Books selected to represent West Virginia state at the 2022 National Book Festival

“Frankenslime” and “Flight Behavior” were chosen for the National Center for the Book’s Great Reads from Great Places program.

Charleston – The West Virginia Center for the Book has selected one youth book and one adult book to represent the state at the 2022 National Book Festival (URL: <https://www.loc.gov/events/2022-national-book-festival/>): “Frankenslime” by Joy Keller and illustrated by West Virginia native Ashley Belote and “Flight Behavior” by Barbara Kingsolver which is about Monarch Butterflies, West Virginia’s state butterfly.

Both titles will be part of the Library of Congress National Center for the Book’s (URL: <https://read.gov/cfb/>) Great Reads from Great Places (URL: <https://www.read.gov/greatreads/index.html>) program. Great Reads from Great Places features books and authors representing the literary heritage of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Marianas. For over 20 years, this program has included a highlighted youth title from each affiliate center. In 2022, Great Reads from Great Places includes titles for adults for the first time.

“West Virginia’s Center for the Books is proud to have representing our State Barbara Kingsolver’s Flight Behavior rich in Appalachian culture and Frankenslime a children’s book illustrated by Ashley Belote,” said West Virginia Library Section Director Donna B. Calvert.

This year’s National Book Festival on September 3 will be held in person in Washington, D.C., but will include live-streamed and recorded virtual programs celebrating books and authors at the Library of Congress’s YouTube channel (URL: <https://www.youtube.com/c/loc>).

About the Books

Frankenslime by Joy Keller and illustrated by West Virginia native Ashley Belote

Victoria Franken loves making slime, so she creates a lab dedicated to engineering it. With the help of her beloved dog and lab partner, Igor, Victoria works on perfecting her recipes.

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver

Dellarobia Turnbow comes upon a miraculous event on an Appalachian mountainside, millions of Monarch butterflies glowing in a sheep pasture owned by her in-laws. Dellarobia starts working with the research team that arrives to study the phenomenon and gains new insight into her life on the sheep farm.

About the National Book Festival

The Library of Congress National Book Festival is an annual event held at the Washington Convention Center this Labor Day weekend, September 3, and will feature more than 120 authors, poets, and writers. This year’s theme is “Books Bring Us Together.” For more information about the Library of Congress National Book Festival visit [loc.gov/bookfest](https://www.loc.gov/bookfest).

About West Virginia Center for the Book

West Virginia Center for the Book is a state affiliate of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. It promotes literacy and a love of books, reading, and libraries throughout the state, celebrating West Virginia's robust literary heritage. West Virginia Center for the Book is administered by the Library Section, a division of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, and History.