BEHIND THE GOLD, SILVER, AND BRONZE SEALS: SERVING ON NATIONAL CHILDREN’S BOOK AWARD COMMITTEES

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WHY AWARD-WINNING BOOKS

• Evaluated and selected by children's literature scholars

• Evaluation Criteria:
  • Plot
  • Character
  • Setting
  • Theme
  • Tone
  • Style (qualities of writing)
  • Aesthetic qualities
WHY AWARD-WINNING BOOKS

• Evaluation Criteria (Questions):
  • Is the language clear and appropriate?
  • Are the illustrations clear and appropriate?
  • Is it accurate?
  • Is the writing style consistent?
  • Does the book read aloud well
  • Do the words and illustrations complement each other?
  • Does the story flow?
  • Will children be drawn to the book?
  • Does the book avoid gender, racial, and other stereotypes?
  • Is the layout impressive (text, color, size, use of gutter, etc.)?
WHY AWARD WINNING BOOKS

- Most distinguished books
- Distinguished is defined as:
  - Marked by eminence and distinction; noted for significant achievement
  - Marked by excellence in quality
  - Marked by conspicuous excellence or eminence
  - Individually distinct
CRITERIA FOR THE CALDECOTT MEDAL

• Excellence of execution in the artistic technique employed

• Excellence of pictorial interpretation of story, theme, or concept

• Appropriateness of style of illustrations to the story, theme, or concept

• Delineation of plot, theme, characters, setting, mood, or information through pictures

• Excellence of presentation in recognition of a child audience
CRITERIA FOR THE CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS

• Must portray some aspect of the black experience, past, present, or future
• Must be written/illustrated by an African American
• Particular attention will be paid to titles that seek to motivate readers to examine their own attitudes and behaviors as well as to develop an understanding of their personal duties and responsibilities as citizens in a pluralistic society
CRITERIA FOR THE CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS

• Fictional works must meet established standards of quality writing for youth:
  • A clear, well-constructed, well-developed plot
  • Well delineated, life-like, multi-dimensional characters
  • Writing style that is appropriate to the subject and suitable for the intended age group
  • The story should read aloud smoothly
CRITERIA FOR THE CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS

• Informational books must meet established standards:
  • Accuracy and authenticity
  • Content suited to the comprehension level and interests of the intended age group
  • Clarity of presentation
  • Clear and helpful organization
CRITERIA FOR THE CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS

• Illustrations in picture books should reflect established qualitative standards:
  • Must be a seamless whole conveying meaning in both the art and text
  • Do not merely reflect the action on that page but shares in moving the story forward and in engaging the reader with the narrative on both an intellectual and an emotional level
  • Throughout the narration, illustrations should convey and enhance the meaning behind the story
The Newbery Medal is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of ALA, to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.
RANDOLPH CALDECOTT MEDAL

The Randolph Caldecott Medal is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of ALA, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.
CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARDS

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards are given to outstanding African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values. The award is sponsored by ALA's Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT).
Stonewall Book Award (Children’s & Young Adult Literature Award) is given annually to English-language works of exceptional merit for children or teens relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender experience. The award is sponsored by the American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table.
The Alex Awards are given to ten books written for adults that have special appeal to young adults, ages 12 through 18. The award is administered by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of ALA.
The Michael L. Printz Award is an award for a book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature. The award is administered by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and sponsored by Booklist, a publication of the American Library Association.
The Pura Belpré Award is presented to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth. It is co-sponsored by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), and REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking, an ALA affiliate.
The Odyssey Award is given to the producer of the best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults, available in English in the United States. The award is jointly given and administered by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), divisions of ALA, and is sponsored by Booklist.
The Schneider Family Book Awards honor an author or illustrator for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for children and young adults. Three annual awards are presented for the best Teen, Middle School and Children’s Book. ALA administers the Awards.
The Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal is awarded annually to the authors and illustrators of the most distinguished informational books published in the United States. The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of ALA, administers the award.
THEODOR SEUSS GEISEL AWARD

The Theodor Seuss Geisel Award is given annually to the authors and illustrators of the most distinguished American books for beginning readers published in the United States. The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of ALA administers the award.
WILLIAM C. MORRIS AWARD

The William C. Morris Award honors a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens and celebrating impressive new voices in young adult literature. The award is administered by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association.
GETTING STARTED

• Join ALA and affiliate committees
• Volunteer
• Build national recognition
• Get nominated for a committee
SERVING ON BOOK AWARD COMMITTEES

• Attend ALA Midwinter & Annual Conferences
• Designate space for books
• Be prepared to read, read, and reread
• Evaluate books
• Be prepared to read, read, and reread
SERVING ON BOOK AWARD COMMITTEES

- Nominate noteworthy books
- Write book reviews and annotations
- Deliberations
- Celebrations
  - Youth Media Awards
  - ALA Annual Conference
- Lifelong connections
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