American Library Association announces 2024 Youth Media Award winners

BALTIMORE - The American Library Association (ALA) today announced the top books, digital media, video and audio books for children and young adults – including the Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, Newbery and Printz awards – at its LibLearnX: The Library Learning Experience held January 19-22, in Baltimore.

A list of all the 2024 award winners and honor selections follows:


Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children: “Big,” illustrated and written by Vashti Harrison, is the 2024 Caldecott Medal winner. The book was published by Little, Brown and Company a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.


Coretta Scott King (Author) Book Award recognizing an African American author and illustrator of outstanding books for children and young adults.

“Nigeria Jones,” written by Ibi Zoboi, is the King Author Book winner. The book is published by Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

“An American Story,” illustrated by Dare Coulter, is the King Illustrator Book winner. The book is written by Kwame Alexander and published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book, Inc.


Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award: “There Goes the Neighborhood,” written by Jade Adia, is the Steptoe author award winner. The book is published by Hyperion, an imprint of Buena Vista Books, Inc.

Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award: “We Could Fly,” illustrated by Briana Mukodiri Uchendu, is the Steptoe illustrator award winner. The book is written by Rhiannon Giddens and published by Candlewick Press.

Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement: Christopher Paul Curtis is the winner of the Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. The award pays tribute to the quality and magnitude of beloved children’s author Virginia Hamilton. As a historical fiction novelist, Curtis writes in accessible ways for emerging readers to understand the world around them. His novels have received numerous starred reviews and awards throughout ALA, like ALSC Notables, Odyssey, and YALSA Best Books for Young Adults. We see his influence all over Black creators today.


Schneider Family Book Award for books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience: “Henry, Like Always,” written by Jenn Bailey, illustrated by Mika Song and published by Chronicle Books wins the award for young children (ages 0 to 8). Two honor books for young children were selected: “Dancing Hands,” written by Joanna Que and Charina Marquez, illustrated by Fran Alvarez and published by Chronicle Books; and “What Happened to You?” written by James Catchpole, illustrated by Karen George and published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

“The Fire, the Water, a nd Maudie McGinn,” written by Sally J. Pla and published by Quill Tree Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers is the winner for middle grades (ages 9 to 13). Two honor books for middle grades were selected: “Good Different,” written by Meg Eden Kuyatt and published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.; and “Simon Sort of Says,” written by Erin Bow and published by Disney • Hyperion, an imprint of Buena Vista Books, Inc.

“Forever Is Now,” written by Mariama J. Lockington and published by Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group, is the winner for teens (ages 14-18). Two honor books for teens were selected: “Where You See Yourself,” written by Claire Forrest and published

The ALSC Children’s Literature Lecture is an annual event featuring an author, critic, librarian, historian or teacher of children’s literature. Author Kyle Lukoff will deliver the 2025 ALSC Children’s Literature Lecture. Lukoff’s books include "Too Bright to See," a Newbery Honor Book, Stonewall Award winner and National Book Award finalist, "When Aidan Became a Brother," a Stonewall Book Award winner, "If You’re a Kid Like Gavin: The True Story of a Young Trans Activist" and "Different Kinds of Fruit," among others.

Children’s Literature Legacy Award honors an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have made, over a period of years, a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children through books that demonstrate integrity and respect for all children’s lives and experiences. The 2024 winner is Pam Muñoz Ryan. Her award-winning works include a 2002 Pura Belpre Author Award for “Esperanza Rising;” a 2011 Pura Belpre Author Award for “The Dreamer;” a 2016 Newbery Honor for

The Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media Award is given to a digital media producer that has created distinguished digital media for an early learning audience. The 2024 winner is “Work It Out Wombats,” produced by GBH Kids and Pipeline Studios.

The committee selected one honor title: "Jamming on the Job" produced by PBS North Carolina for PBS Kids.


Three Honor Books also were selected: “The House of the Lost on the Cape,” published by Yonder, an imprint of Restless Books, written by Sachiko Kashiwaba, illustrated by Yukiko Saito and translated by Avery Fischer Udagawa; “Later, When I’m Big,” published by Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, written by Bette Westera, illustrated by Mattias De Leeuw and translated by Laura Watkinson; and “Pardalita,” published by Levine Querido, written and illustrated by Joana Estrela and translated by Lyn Miller-Lachmann.


Pura Belpré Awards honoring Latinx writers and illustrators whose children's and young adult books best portray, affirm and celebrate the Latino cultural experience:

“Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir, illustrated by Pedro Martín, is the 2024 Pura Belpré Youth Illustration Award winner. The book was written by Pedro Martín and published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

Three Belpré Youth Illustration Honor Books were named: “Mi papá es un agrícola/My Father, the Farmworker,” illustrated by José B. Ramírez, written by J. Roman Pérez Varela and published by Lil’ Libros; “Papá’s Magical Water-Jug Clock,” illustrated by Eliza Kinkz, written by Jesús Trejo and published by Minerva, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers, a division of Astra Publishing
House; and “Remembering,” illustrated by Adriana M. Garcia, written by Xelena González and published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing Division.

“Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir,” written by Pedro Martín, is the 2024 Pura Belpré Children’s Author Award winner. The book is illustrated by Pedro Martín and published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House.


“Saints of the Household,” written by Ari Tison, is the 2024 Pura Belpré Young Adult Author Award winner. The book is published by Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group.

Two Belpré Young Adult Author Honor Book were named: “The Prince and the Coyote,” written by David Bowles, illustrated by Amanda Mijangos and published by Arthur A. Levine, an imprint of Levine Querido; and “Worm: A Cuban American Odyssey,” written and illustrated by Edel Rodriguez and published by Metropolitan Books, an imprint of Henry Holt and Company.


Stonewall Book Awards - Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children’s & Young Adult Literature Award given annually to English-language works of exceptional merit for children or teens relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender experience.

“Cross My Heart and Never Lie,” written and illustrated by Nora Dåsnes, translated by Matt Bagguley and published by Hippo Park, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers, is the 2024 recipient of the Stonewall Book Awards – Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children’s Literature Award.

Four Honor Books for children’s literature were selected: “Desert Queen,” written by Jyoti Rajan Gopal, illustrated by Svabhu Kohli and published by Levine Querido; “Not He or She, I’m Me,” written by A. M. Wild, illustrated by Kah Yangni and published by Henry Holt and Company; “The Otherwoods,” written by Justine Pucella Winans and published by Bloomsbury Children’s Books; and “Stars in Their
Eyes,” written by Jessica Walton, illustrated by Aška and published by Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.

“Only This Beautiful Moment,” written by Abdi Nazemian and published by Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, is the 2024 recipient of the Stonewall Book Awards – Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Young Adult Literature Award.


Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for the most distinguished beginning reader book: “Fox Has a Problem” written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor, is the 2024 Geisel Award winner. The book is published by Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishing House.

Two Geisel Honor Books were named: “Henry, Like Always,” written by Jenn Bailey, illustrated by Mika Song and published by Chronicle Books; and “Worm and Caterpillar Are Friends,” written and illustrated by Kaz Windness and published by Simon Spotlight, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing Division.

Four other books were finalists for the award: “All the Fighting Parts,” written by Hannah V. Sawyerr and published by Amulet Books, an imprint of Abrams; “Once There Was,” written by Kiyash Monsef and published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; “Saints of the Household,” written by Ari Tison and published by Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group; and “She Is a Haunting,” written by Trang Thanh Tran and published by Bloomsbury YA, a division of Bloomsbury Publishing Inc.


American Indian Youth Literature Awards are announced in even years (e.g. 2022, 2024, 2026) and were established to identify and honor the very best writing and illustrations by and about American Indians and Alaska Natives. Selected titles present American Indians in the fullness of their humanity in the present and past contexts. This year’s winners include: Picture Book: “Forever Cousins,” written by Laurel Goodluck (Mandan & Hidatsa and Tsimshian), illustrated by Jonathan Nelson (Navajo/Diné) and published by Charlesbridge and “A Letter for Bob,” written by Kim Rogers (Wichita & Affiliated Tribes), illustrated by Jonathan Nelson (Navajo/Diné) and published by Heartdrum, an imprint of HarperCollins
Publishers; Middle Grade Book: “We Still Belong,” written by Christine Day (Upper Skagit), cover art by Madelyn Goodnight (Chickasaw Nation) and published by Heartdrum, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; and Young Adult Book: “Rez Ball,” written by Byron Graves (Ojibwe), jacket art by Natasha Donovan (Métis) and published by Heartdrum, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

The American Indian Youth Literature Awards Honor titles include:

Picture Honor Books: "Celebration," by Lily Hope (Tlingit), illustrated by Kelsey Mata Foote (Tlingit) and published by Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI); "Contenders," by Traci Sorell (Cherokee Nation), illustrated by Arigon Starr (Kickapoo Tribe) and published by Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Random House; “Berry Song,” written and illustrated by Michaela Goade (Tlingit Nation) and published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.; “Remember,” by Joy Harjo (Mvskoke Nation), illustrated by Michaela Goade (Tlingit Nation) and published by Random House Studio, an imprint of Random House Children’s Books, a division of Penguin Random House; and “Rock Your Mocs,” by Laurel Goodluck (Mandan & Hidatsa and Tsimshian), illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight (Chickasaw Nation) and published by Heartdrum, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Young Adult Honor Books: “Warrior Girl Unearthed,” by Angeline Boulley (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians), jacket illustrations by Michaela Goade (Tlingit Nation) and published by Henry Holt and Company, a trademark of Macmillan Publishing Group; “Funeral Songs for Dying Girls,” by Cherie Dimaline (Métis) and published Tundra Books, an imprint of Tundra Book Group, a division of Penguin Random House of Canada Limited; “Man Made Monsters,” by Andrea L. Rogers (Cherokee Nation), illustrated by Jeff Edwards (Cherokee Nation) and published by Levine Querido; “Running with Changing Woman,” by Lorinda Martinez (Diné), cover design by Brittany Gene (Navajo) and published by Salina Bookshelf; and “Heroes of the Water Monster,” by Brian Young (Navajo Nation), jacket art by Shonto Begay (Diné) and published by Heartdrum, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature. The award promotes Asian/Pacific American culture and heritage and is awarded based on literary and artistic merit. The award offers three youth categories including Picture Book, Children’s Literature and Youth/Young Adult Literature. The award is administered by the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), an affiliate of the American Library Association. This year’s winners include:


The Youth/Young Adult Literature winner is “I'd Rather Burn Than Bloom,” written by Shannon C. F. Rogers and published by Feiwel and Friends, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group. The committee
selected one Youth/Young Adult Literature honor title: “In Limbo,” written by Deb JJ Lee and published by First Second, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing.

The Sydney Taylor Book Award is presented annually to outstanding books for children and teens that authentically portray the Jewish experience. Presented by the Association of Jewish Libraries since 1968, the award encourages the publication and widespread use of quality Judaic literature. This year’s Gold Medalists include: Picture Book winner: “Two New Years,” written by Richard Ho, illustrated by Lynn Scurfield and published by Chronicle Books; Middle Grade winner: “The Dubious Pranks of Shaindy Goodman,” by Mari Lowe and published by Arthur A. Levine, an imprint of Levine Querido; and Young Adult winner: “The Blood Years,” by Elana K. Arnold and published by Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

The Sydney Taylor Body-of-Work Award recognizes an author or entity who has made a substantial contribution over time to the genre of Jewish children’s literature. This year's winner is Joni Sussman.

Recognized worldwide for the high quality they represent, ALA awards guide parents, educators, librarians and others in selecting the best materials for youth. Selected by judging committees of librarians and other children’s experts, the awards encourage original and creative work. For more information on the ALA youth media awards and notables, please visit www.ala.org/yma.