

Foreword

The Newbery Medal is named for John Newbery (1713–67), known as the first publisher of books for children. The son of a farmer, he married a widow who owned a printing business in Reading, England. They moved to London, and, in 1743, Newbery published *A Little Pretty Pocket-Book, intended for the Instruction and Amusement of Little Master Tommy and Pretty Miss Polly, with an agreeable Letter to read from Jack the Giant-Killer, as also a Ball and a Pincushion, the use of which will infallibly make Tommy a good Boy and Polly a good Girl*. Although this was not the first book published for children (*A Play-Book for Children* was published by “J.G.” as early as 1694), Newbery was the first person to take children’s book publishing seriously, and many of his methods were copied by other authors and publishers. Newbery was an admirer of John Locke, who advocated teaching children through “some easy pleasant book, suited to his capacity.” Newbery’s books invariably had their didactic side, but he tempered instruction with a sense of humor. Works like *Goody Two-Shoes*, in which a poor but virtuous young woman is rewarded with riches, satisfied

Resignation

Preparation

Committee Participation

Identifying, Obtaining, and Reading Eligible Books

Identifying Eligible Books

Obtaining Eligible Books

Determining Eligibility

Reading Eligible Books

Note-taking

Suggestion and Nomination Processes

Suggestions

Nominations

Meetings

(Virtual)

Introductory Meeting (Optional, Virtual)

Initial Discussion Meeting (Required, Virtual)

Preparation required, Virtual

Agenda

Book Discussion

BOOK DISCUSSION

BOOK DISCUSSION

BOOK DISCUSSION

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[Award and Honor Book Notification Calls](#)

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Editorial Work

Editorial Office

Book Eligibility Issues

American Literature for Children

Original Work

Young Readers' Editions

Compilations/Anthologies

Portion Previously Published Elsewhere

Traditional Works

In English

Children's Book

Book and E-book

Author/Illustrator Eligibility Issues

Resident

Citizen

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Sample Calendar

Employer/Supervisor Information Form

[Letter to Employer/Supervisor #1: Beginning of Service](#)

[Letter to Employer/Supervisor #2: End of Service](#)

[Press Release: Notice of Committee Appointment](#)

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Part I: Background Information

History

On June 21, 1921, Frederic G. Melcher proposed to the Children's Librarians' Section at the annual meeting of the American Library Association that a medal be given for the most distinguished children's book of the year. He suggested that ³/₄

2. The Medal is restricted to authors who are citizens or residents of the United States.
3. The committee in its deliberations is to consider only the books eligible for the award, as specified in the terms.

Definitions

1. "Contribution to American literature" indicates the text of a book. It also implies that the committee shall consider all forms of writing—fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Reprints, compilations, and abridgements are not eligible.
2. A "contribution to American literature for children" shall be a book for which children are an intended potential audience. The book displays respect for children's understandings, abilities, and appreciations. Children are defined as persons of ages up to and including fourteen, and books for this entire age range are to be considered.
3. "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.
4. "Author" may include co-authors. The author(s) may be awarded the medal posthumously.
5. The term "original work" may have several meanings. For purposes of these awards, it is defined as follows:
 - The text was created by this writer and no one else. It may include original retellings of traditional literature, provided the words are the author's own.
 - The text is presented for the first time and was not previously published elsewhere in any form. Text reprinted or compiled from other sources is not eligible. Abridgements are not eligible.
6. "In English" means that the committee considers only books written and published in English. This requirement DOES NOT limit the use of words or phrases in another language where appropriate in context.
7. "American literature published in the United States" means that books first published in previous years in other countries are not eligible. Books published simultaneously in the U.S. and another country may be eligible. Books published in a U.S. territory or U.S. commonwealth are eligible.
8. "Published during the preceding year" means that the book has a publication date in that year, was available for purchase in that year, and has a copyright date no later than that year. A book might have a copyright date prior to the year under consideration but, for various reasons, was not published until the year under consideration. If a book is published prior to its year of copyright as stated in the book, it shall be considered in its

year of copyright as stated in the book. The intent of the definition is that every book be eligible for consideration, but that no book be considered more than one year.

9. "Resident" specifies that the author has established and maintains a residence in the United States, a U.S. territory, or a U.S. commonwealth and is not a casual or occasional visitor.
10. The term, "only the books eligible for the award," specifies that the committee is not to consider the entire body of the work by an author or whether the author has previously won the award. The committee's decision is to be made on the basis of the books of the specified calendar year. The committee shall consist of a member

Criteria

1. In identifying "distinguished contribution to American literature," defined as text, in a book for children,
 - a. Committee members need to consider the following:

Interpretation of the theme or concept.

Presentation of information including accuracy, clarity, and organization.

Development of plot
Characterization
Dialogue

SAVA 4th Year Awards Committee

Part II: ALSC Policies and Procedures

ALSC Community Agreements

These community agreements were developed so that all meetings convened by members of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) are spaces where meaningful and respectful conversations are held. The agreements outline best practices to ensure that everyone has an opportunity for expression, accountability, and growth.

They provide a guide to how topics are discussed, the language used, and how our different experiences, identities, and knowledge are reflected in our thought processes, discussions, and decisions. As you participate in discussions, meetings, presentations, etc., please use these guidelines as a starting point and add additional agreements as a _rtt t nd

Each year there will be

serve should be directed to the ALSC President, Committee Chair, Priority Group Consultant (PGC), and Executive Director. The final decision rests with the Executive Committee.

Confidentiality

The principle of confidentiality drives the work of all award committee members in order to maintain the integrity of the award process

3) Members should not accept appointment to an award committee if ept

- 2) Have ready access to the major part of the current output of children's books under consideration in outlets such as their local library or bookstore and through interlibrary loan. It is recognized that there will be an occasional book under consideration that a committee member is unable to obtain. In such an instance, arrangements for review copies may be made as prescribed in the committee's guidelines, which can be found in the [Relationship with Publishers - Guidelines for Committee Members](#) section.

Although these requirements may limit membership on a committee, wise selection requires complete participation of all members of the committee.

Frequency of Service on Award or Notable Book Committees

No individual may serve on the Batchelder Award, Caldecott Medal, Geisel Award, Newbery Medal, Sibert Medal, Children's Literature Legacy ("Legacy") Award or Notable Children's Books Committee more often than once every four years. The four-year period shall begin from the last year of the term of service regardless of length of term. This guideline will not apply to the appointment for Chair. This guideline will not apply to other ALSC committees. Additionally, in the event that an emergency, mid-year replacement must be made, the four-year rule may be suspended, providing the appointing officer the necessary flexibility and a greater pool of experienced candidates.

Policy adopted February 2007 and revised May 2009, June 2011, January 2014, February 2018, August 2018, and March 2023.

Relationship with Publishers

Guidelines for Committee Members

Important points regarding committee members' relationships with publishers are listed below.

Many publishers send committee members eligible books for consideration. Committee members may accept these unsolicited books.

The Chair consults committee members to verify the addresses where publishers should send books and makes a roster for publishers. Addresses should be viable for the term of service because it is difficult for publishers to change the mailing address once established with a warehouse.

The ALSC Awards Coordinator makes the committee roster available to publishers as soon as possible in the year under consideration.

The Chair surveys committee members regularly to ascertain which books have not been received. It's quite common for book shipments to arrive weeks apart.

If certain titles have been difficult to obtain, the Chair may contact publishers directly to request needed titles, with assistance from the PGC as needed. Towards the end of the year, as

deliberations approach, the PGC assumes the role of requesting needed titles, with the assistance of the Awards Coordinator.

Committee members are not to solicit publishers for free, personal copies of eligible books. Members accept appointments to this committee with the understanding that they have access to new books. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of each committee member to obtain such books.

Committee members are cautioned to avoid any conflicts of interest that might grow out of personal contact with personnel involved in publishing children's books. It is not necessary to suspend these contacts so long as there is the express understanding that such contacts in no way influence how books are considered or the final choices made.

Committee members are not to solicit publishers for favors, invitations, or the like. However, should there be such unsolicited offers, committee members may accept with the express understanding that acceptance in no way influences how books are considered or final choices made.

Guidelines for Publishers

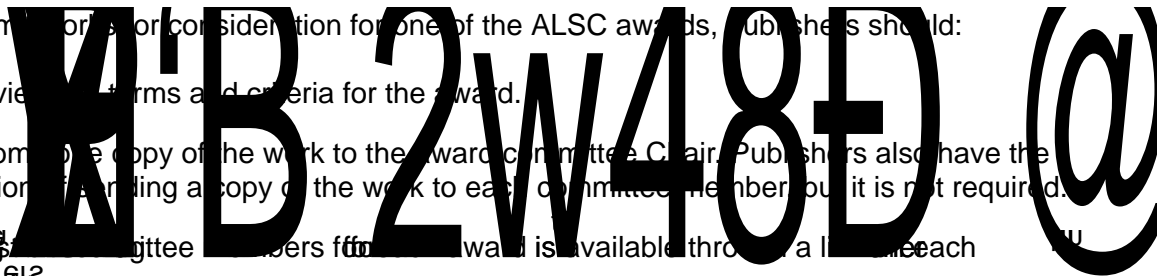
Publishers are encouraged to support the work of the Award Committee. Submission procedures are outlined for publishers on the ALSC website.

To submit works for consideration for one of the ALSC awards, publishers should:

Review the terms and criteria for the award.

Submit one copy of the work to the Award Committee Chair. Publishers also have the option of sending a copy of the work to each committee member but it is not required.

Lists of committee members for each award is available through a link on each award page.
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Part III: Committee Work

Welcome

Once the committee is complete, usually mid-fall prior to the year under consideration, it is good practice for the Chair to send a letter of welcome to the membership. The letter might include an outline of the year's work and upcoming issues. It is usually accompanied by relevant enclosures, including the committee roster, guidelines for book discussions, etc.

Also in the welcome, the Chair encourages members to use this time early in the committee process to focus on the committee manual, which lays the groundwork for success. The Chair also encourages the use of the manual's [Reading](#) fofnd

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Virtual meetings are also used as a way to winnow down the discussion list prior to the in-person LibLearnX selection meeting.

The Chair should bear this requirement in mind, and schedule these meetings as far in advance as possible.

Members are therefore urged at the outset of their service to ensure that they can attend all required meetings. For virtual meetings, they should ensure that their calendar is cleared, they have access to any necessary technology for signing into the meeting, and they have secured any necessary time off from their supervisor.

For the LibLearnX Selection Meeting, currently the only required in-person event, members should:

- Secure permission from their supervisor and, if necessary, their director or library board.

- Secure funding to attend (whether from personal funds or funds provided by their employer).

- Make hotel reservations at the earliest date these are available (bearing in mind that many hotels fill on the first day of registration).

- Make timely arrangements for transportation to the conference site.

- Register for the conference.

- Communicate with the Chair if there are any emergency or last-minute delays (such as inclement weather) that would affect the committee's operation

Resignation

Unforeseen personal and professional circumstances can arise that may interfere with a committee member's service; there is no shame in stepping down. A committee member must resign immediately upon the development of any circumstance that disqualifies them from committee service under this policy or that would otherwise affect, *or give the appearance of tending to affect*, their ability to carry out assigned responsibilities fairly and without self-interest of any kind. Committee members will also be asked to resign if they cannot attend a required meeting. Committee member resignations must be sent to the Chair, President, and the Vice

for the LibLearnX Selection Meeting, the committee will operate one member down and will reformulate the voting procedure accordingly.

Preparation

The focus of the awards committee is distinct from the usual selection concerns in a library. Committee members need to be able to apply traditional literary and sometimes artistic standards to evaluate the books.

Identifying, Obtaining, and Reading Eligible Books

Committee

In addition to the book itself, possible sources of information may include: 1) publishers' catalogs; 2) websites of publishers, authors, and illustrators; 3) Library of Congress website; and 4) Amazon.com and Amazon.co.uk.

In ambiguous cases, committee members should notify the Chair, who consults with the PGC on eligibility questions. After the Chair and the PGC make a determination, the Chair informs the committee of the decision.

If a current title under consideration has a publication or release date

which books merit consideration by the group. And they help committee members begin to identify the strongest books based on award criteria—books that will ultimately

Nominations will be compiled in an online format viewable with a link provided by the Chair.
After the first round of nominations, members

An opportunity for committee members to become reacquainted.

Discussion of terms, criteria, and definitions for Award/Medal Winner and Honor Books. At the discretion of the Chair, an expert may be invited to address the committee.

Discussion of procedures to be used by the committee during the remainder of the year and at the LibLearnX Selection Meeting.

Review of responsibilities for committee members and the Chair.

Discussion of the importance of full participation by committee members and the Chair.

Discussion of what steps to take should full participation be impossible (e.g., how to tender a resignation).

Review role of the PGC. At the discretion of the Chair, the PGC may be invited to address the committee.

Practice book discussion using a short list of suggested books.

Optional look at suggestions list. Members who have made suggestions can remove them at this time; removed suggestions can be added back at a later date.

Book Discussion

The practice book discussion is a critical element of the Initial Discussion Meeting. It's important to remember, however, that this exercise is for practice only and that it will not play a role in the final selection. Instead, it allows the committee to practice meaningful book discussion based on the award criteria, to raise and address questions, and to become comfortable with the process of working together as a group. During the practice book discussion, the committee will use the guidelines employed during the award selection process as a guide to ensure a meaningful and productive session as possible. See *LibLearnX* for more information.

Meeting Minutes and Quarterly Reports

The secretary takes minutes during the meeting. No notes are taken on the practice book discussion. In the Initial Discussion Meeting, the secretary prepares the minutes and submits them to the Chair.

The Chair will submit Quarterly Reports to the PGC. The reports will include the minutes, to appropriate committees, and Quarterly Reports to the PGC.

LibLearnX Selection Meeting (Required, In-Person)

The LibLearnX Selection Meeting is all-important. It results in

Review of the terms, criteria, and definitions of the Award.

Decide order for discussion of books, ordinarily alphabetical by author unless similar titles are considered together.

Discuss voting procedures for the Award/Medal winner and possible Honor books.

Book Discussion

Each book suggested after the last round of nominations has been made will be considered. Any nominated book that was not eliminated during the preliminary deliberations but does not seem a serious contender may be eliminated at this time by some agreed upon procedure, bearing in mind that

Last-minute changes to the list should be communicated to the Awards Coordinator, with a copy to the Executive Director.

Once this review is completed, a full discussion of each book remaining on the discussion list takes place. These books are then discussed one by one. After all books have been discussed, it is possible to re-open discussion on selected titles before moving to a selection ballot. Throughout book discussion, important guidelines apply:

Use critical analysis; avoid plot summaries and generalities such as cute, nice, good, etc.

Be clear in what you say, think through the point you are making, and speak loudly enough to be heard by everyone.

Refer back to the criteria to keep the discussion focused.

the CCBC's book discussion guidelines, see Vicky Smith's insightful article, "[Considering the Criteria: Addressing Book Discussion Guidelines in the Twenty-First Century.](#)"

Balloting

When there is consensus that all the books on the discussion list have been fully discussed, the committee proceeds to a selection ballot.

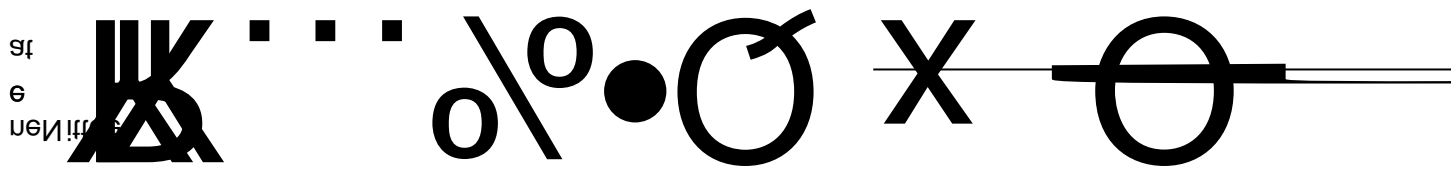
Certain procedures apply:

Committee members list first, second, and third place votes for the award in an online tool created by the Awards Coordinator and sent to the Chair for distribution.

In the balloting ballot tool, the online tool will assign four points to each first-place vote, three points to each second-place vote, and two points to each third-place vote.

A specific formula is used to determine the winner. A book must receive at least eight first-choice votes at four points each for a total of at least thirty-two points, and it must have an eight-point lead over the book receiving the next highest number of points.

If the committee is operating an odd number of members down, it is recommended that the Chair refrain from voting, as an even number of committee members makes it significantly harder for a book to achieve the margin of points needed to win. If a committee is operating an odd number of members down, the Awards Coordinator can adjust the formula



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After LibLearnX Selection Meeting

Public Relations

Committee members work with their local news media in publicizing ALSC awards and other ALA children's book awards. If interviewed, committee members should emphasize the importance of the role librarians play in selecting the award-winning titles, the value of emphasizing and making accessible distinguished books for young readers, the award criteria, and the committee's reasons for its choices as stated in the press release. Committee members are free to express their own views on particular books while being mindful of confidentiality issues.

If contacted by the national media, committee members should immediately email the details to the Chair, PGC, ALSC Executive Director and the current ALSC President and await further instructions from them.

Correspondence

The Chair handles correspondence specific to their committee's selection and work:

Sends appreciation letters to members and members' employers (refer to [Appendix A: Letter to Committee Members' Employer/Supervisor #2: End of Service](#)).

Sends the next Chair a list of any potentially eligible books

In addition, the Chair prepares remarks for the Award presentation, as directedeh

Part IV: Additional Roles and Responsibilities

Introduction

Responsibility for selection of the Medal/Award winner and Honor books rests with the Award Committee. The bulk of this manual describes these responsibilities. However, there are others who have responsibilities for the awards. These roles are detailed here.

Committee Chair: Additional Responsibilities

Most of the Chair's roles and responsibilities are discussed where relevant throughout the manual. However, it is worth noting that the Chair is a voting member of the committee with all the rights and responsibilities of other committee members. As such, they must maintain a delicate balance between being the Chair and being a committee member. Many Chairs find it helpful to the free flow of the discussion if they limit their remarks to books they feel strongly about, speak later in the discussion of any book, and speak only to make a point that has not already been made. The Chair must also be ready to abstain from voting should the committee find the ballotting one chair down smoother selection process.

The Chair is responsible for setting the tone for committee discussion. This can be done by accepting statements relevant to the discussion, by leading the discussion on pertinent issues, and by ensuring that all committee members are allowed to speak and that none are allowed to dominate.

It is recommended that the Chair establish contact with the Chairs of other major Award committees and the Notable Children's Books Committee in order to share common concerns and provide mutual support.

In addition, the Chair does the following:

Attends Chair orientation, which is held online, early in the year under consideration. This orientation is usually done in the

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Represents the committee at the virtual Division Leadership Meeting (first LibLearnX and Annual Conference) and meetings of the PGCs.

Attends the ALA YMA Press Conference briefing at the LibLearnX Selection Meeting (usually held on Friday at 5pm).

Presents problems to the PGC and Awards Coordinator as needed.

Administrative Assistant

The Chair's administrative workload is large. As such, the Chair may request the appointment of an administrative assistant, a volunteer who can help with the Chair's many tasks. Although not a voting member, the Administrative Assistant is held to the same standards of confidentiality as other committee members. The Administrative Assistant is not required to attend conferences, although virtual participation may be requested to facilitate committee deliberations.

The Chair should direct their request for an assistant to the Awards Coordinator, the Program Officer for Governance, and the President at the time of their appointment.

Participation of ALSC Membership

Offering ALSC members an opportunity to participate in the selection of the award is an important process.

It is the responsibility of the Chair to call for books to consider several times during the year on the ALSC blog, the ALSC website, ALA Connect, through tweets @weareALSC, and in *Children and Libraries: The Journal of the Association for Library Service to Children*. In addition, the Chair may call for books to consider on other electronic discussion lists having to do with children's literature. On an individual basis, committee members may also call for books to consider from members-at-large. Suggestions are currently collated using an [online tool](#) created by the Awards Coordinator. The Chair is automatically emailed a notification of any resulting suggestions, and ensures that committee members are provided with this information. Books submitted for consideration by members-at-large are accepted up to two weeks before the LibLearnX Selection Meeting.

The committee is not obligated to include books submitted for consideration by members-at-large on the LibLearnX discussion list, but committee members should take these suggestions seriously and consider these books along with all other eligible books when making monthly suggestions, nominations, or, late in the year, further suggestions. At the LibLearnX Selection Meeting, only books nominated by committee members are considered, along with further suggestions from committee members moved forward after the nomination process is complete. Refer to [Appendix C: Call for Membership Suggestions](#).

Priority Group Consultant (PGC)

A Priority Group Consultant is assigned to the committee to address questions from the Chair and the committee regarding procedure, personnel, and

- 0 The PGC works with the Chair to review annually the procedures of the committee and to make recommendations for improving the process. The recommendations range from those that can be implemented easily to those requiring action by the ALSC Board.

Committee members consult the PGC should there be unusual issues that the Chair cannot resolve, particularly issues regarding the Chair.

The PGC attends the Introductory Meeting and/or the Initial Discussion Meeting (at the request of the Chair) to explain their role to the committee.

ALSC Staff

General Responsibilities

Checks eligibility for membership of those appointed to the committee (Program Officer for Governance).

- On the President's instructions, sends formal invitations to potential committee

Works with ALA CMO on arrangements for the announcement: contacting winners, ALA

ALSC President

Appoints members of the committee and the Chair.

If necessary, makes appointments to fill committee vacancies.

If necessary, deals with conflicts of interest or non-participation of committee members, in consultation with the Executive Committee and the PGC.

Presides at announcement and presentation ceremonies.

Appendix A: Supporting Documents

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a committee's confidential deliberations, from questioning the legitimacy of the committee's decision.

The evolution of social media outlets and other opportunities for the

Geisel committee members may write signed reviews or discuss via social media any books beyond the scope of a beginning reader.

The wide and wonderful world of YA literature is available to all of us who value and evaluate literature for older youth.

Award committee members may not blog or otherwise communicate electronically (outside of the committee process) regarding any aspect of eligible titles during their term of service. At no time during or after their service may committee members discuss the status of books as having been or not having been a consideration, suggested, and/or nominated for the award.

ALSC policy indicates that you may not engage in print or electronic communication regarding eligible titles* during your "term of service," which officially begins July 1 of your appointment year. If appointed after July 1, your term of service begins immediately. However, once your committee's selections have been announced at the LibLearnX Youth Media Awards Press Conference, you may begin reviewing (bylined), writing articles, and blogging again even though the term does not end until the following Annual Conference.

*Please note: This prohibition includes any and all new fall publication books that would be reviewed in galley form. Official publication dates are sometimes delayed, meaning that a book could potentially become eligible for an Award/Medal the following year. As such, to be on the safe side, ALSC uses the July 1 cut-off date for books in galley form. This also ensures consistency among all committee members. In the time between July 1, and when the committee's year under consideration begins, you may still review finished, published books of that year, books published in previous years, and imports, all of which have no chance of being eligible. (The exception to this is for members of the Batchelder Committee.) Of course, after January 1, you can review any books published in the previous year.

For example, a 2021 committee member could review any 2019 book in its final form, but NOT any galleys produced after July 1, as publication could be delayed, and the book could become eligible.

selection of, discussion of, and voting on materials eligible for the award on which they serve.

In summary, while committee members are encouraged to participate in book discussions, members are NOT to

Reading Lists

General Reading List

The following list may be helpful to members in reviewing criteria and understanding various aspects of the evaluation of children's literature.

Derman-Sparks, Louise. "Guide to Selecting Anti-Bias Children's Books." *Social Justice Books: A Teaching For Change Project*, 2016.

<https://socialjusticebooks.org/guide-for-selecting-anti-bias-childrens-books/>

Defines biases and how to identify and better evaluate children's literature.

"Diversity Resources." *Cooperative Children's Book Center*, School of Education, University of Madison, Wisconsin.

<https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/literature-resources/diversity-resources-multicultural-literature/>

Accessed 5 January 2023. Resources addressing cultural competence, critical thinking, and content review. Continuously updated.

Horning, Kathleen T. *From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children's Books*. New York: HarperCollins, 2010. The gold standard in how to review and evaluate children's books.

Hunt, Peter. "How Not to Read a Children's Book." *Children's Literature in Education*. Dec 95, Vol. 26 Issue 4, pp 231–240. Hunt looks at how adults versus children view books, specifically contrasting Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows* with Enid Blyton's series "The Famous Five."

Kiefer, Barbara Z., *Charlotte Huck's Children's Literature, Tenth Edition*. New York: McGraw Hill, 2009, relevant chapters. A textbook on children's literature; covers the basics of evaluation and review.

L'Engle, Madeleine. "Is it Good Enough for Children?" *Writer (Kalmbach Publishing Co.)*. Jul 2000, Vol. 113 Issue 7, p8. Argues that the quality for writing children books is similar with the quality in writing adult books, and the importance of respecting the child reader.

Lukens, Rebecca, *A Critical Handbook of Children's Literature, 9th Edition*. London: Pearson, 2012. A textbook on children's literature, useful for reviewing the basics of evaluation and review.

Parrott, K. *SLJ Diversity and Cultural Literacy, online course syllabus*, Summer 2016.

<https://contributors.slj.com/2016/10/slj-diversity-and-cultural-literacy-syllabus/> A collection of articles, videos, and podcasts on cultural literacy, originally offered as part of an online course.

Smith, Vicky. "Considering the Criteria:"

Schwebel, Sara L., and Jonathan Van Tuyl, eds. *Off the Gold Medal: Rediscovering Children's Literature*. New York: Routledge, 2021. A collection of essays published on the occasion of the Newbery's 100th anniversary that discuss the hidden diversity and awareness of contemporary issues in overlooked Award books.

Terroneo, Letitia. "Twenty Years in the Making: How Pura Belpré Paved the Way for Latino Firsts at the 2016 YMAA School Library Journal." *School Library Journal* (March 4, 2016).

<https://www.sjl.com/?d=how-pura-belpre-paved-the-way-for-latino-firsts-at-2016-ymaa-school-library-journal>. A discussion of the significance of *Last Stop on Market Street* winning the Newbery (as well as many other awards), a first for a book written by a Latinx author.

Toth, Anita. "What It Takes to Choose a Newbery Medal Winner." Published February 9, 2021.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/what-it-takes-choose-newbery-medal-winner>

An interview with a librarian who served on the 2021 Newbery Medal Committee. An in-the-trenches discussion about what committee members can expect during the course of their term.

Past Award/Medal Winners

For a complete list of past Newbery Medal and Honor books, please visit [the ALA website](#).

Award/Medal Specific Documents

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consideration. There are no limitations as to the character of the book considered except that it be original work. It need not be written solely for children, the judgment of the librarians voting shall decide whether a book be a "contribution to the literature for children." The award considers only the books of one calendar year and does not pass judgment on an author's previous work or other work during that year outside the volume that may be named.

The Method of Award

The donor agrees to leave the methods and practice of selecting each annual winner of the John Newbery Medal entirely to the American Library Association, whose president shall have power to delegate each year the responsibility for all details to the officers of a subsidiary group in the Association. It is the thought of the donor that the decision should be made by votes of such members of the American Library Association as are especially connected with the work with children and young people. If the award be announced at the annual meeting of the American Library Association, the month between January first and that date will be available for process of election. It may be possible to have the author present at the annual conference to receive the award then first announced; otherwise the name might be there announced and proper delegate appointed to deliver same.

Possible Termination of Arrangement

The American Library Association may terminate its agreement to serve as the awarding body by two-thirds vote of its Executive Board. Such decision to be communicated to the donor before October 1 of a year. The donor or heirs may terminate the agreement by three years' notice to the American Library Association or may endow the award with funds sufficient to cover costs of striking, engraving and case, leaving the medal thereafter entirely in the hands of the American Library Association.

The Purpose of the John Newbery Medal

To encourage original and creative work in the field of books for children. To emphasize to the public that contributions to the literature for children deserve similar recognition to poetry, plays or novels. To give to those librarians, who make it their life work to serve children's reading interests, an opportunity to encourage good writing in this field.

Executive Board Resolutions

June 25, 1937

To the Executive Board:

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The second set of resolutions passed by the Section for Library Work with Children reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED: that the School Libraries Section be invited to take part in the Newbery and Caldecott awards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Chairman of the School Libraries Section and for school librarians designated by the Section be given votes for the Newbery and Caldecott Awards and that these five persons be added to the Newbery Medal Committee.

(signed) Ruth Giles
Secretary
Section for Library Work with Children

**Note: This policy became void once the Newbery and Caldecott Medals were awarded by separate selection committees. It is now possible for the same book to be nominated for, and win, both awards.*

Appendix B: Expanded Definitions and Examples

Introduction

The intent of this section is to shed light on the often difficult process of determining eligibility. This is not to be the end of the process, but the beginning of the discussion. Members are to be reminded that often eligibility decisions ARE difficult and do not have clear answers. Thoughtful evaluation among members is expected, and, in some cases, committees will need to use their best judgment and come to a consensus. However, it should be noted that in cases where there is a question, communication with publishers should be done by the Chair or PCG, with the assistance of ALSC staff if needed, not by individual committee members.

It should also be noted that the examples in this section may or may not apply to a specific award. All examples have been included for informational purposes and to shed light on the process of each committee.

Publication Eligibility Issues

Simultaneous

Definition

For purposes of these awards, "published simultaneously" means that a book was first published in the United States within the same calendar year that it was first published in any other country, whether or not the actual dates of publication are identical.

Example

How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff was published in 2004 by Wendy Lamb/Random House and simultaneously published in Great Britain. It was explained by the editor, Wendy Lamb, that the book had been jointly acquired by the U.S. and British publishers; that editorial work had, from the beginning, been a joint process by the two editors; and that every effort had been made to be sure that the publication of the two editions was, literally, simultaneous. However, certain procedures specific to each publisher were impossible to manipulate (such as Tuesday always being publication day in the U.S. while the British publication day was always Thursday for these publishers). For this reason, the British edition was actually released a few days—but only a few days—before the U.S. edition. The book was ruled eligible with regard to date. Note: This example does not address other issues, such as the age level of *How I Live Now*, nor the fact that Rosoff is a resident of the U.K., and it is unknown, at this writing, whether she has maintained her U.S. citizenship.

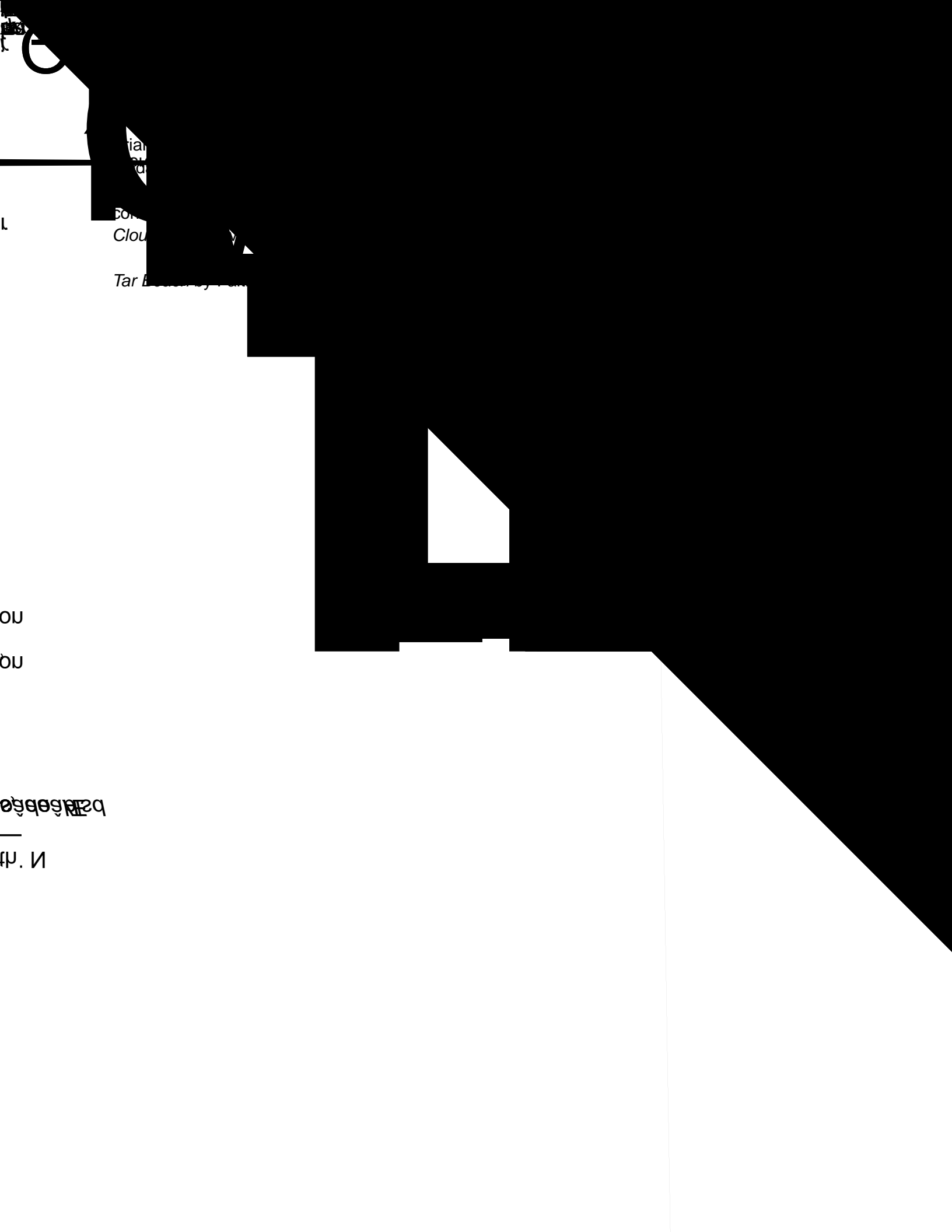
First Published in the United States

Definitions

"First published in the United States" means the acquisition of the book and the editorial work were done by a publisher with editorial offices in the United States that publishes books under U.S. publishing conventions for a United States market. A book may be eligible if published

Example

Several Canadian publishers have maint



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United States, and only one of the stories had been published previously, the book was determined to be ineligible, as it was not a single work, but rather ten separate works.

Portion Previously Published Elsewhere

Clarification

If a portion of a book was previously published elsewhere—for instance, in a magazine, a collection of short stories, or in electronic format—then the amount of previously published material must be a minor portion of the entire work. The substantial majority of the book must be

In English

Definition

Committee members

Author/Illustrator Eligibility Issues

Author/illustrator eligibility can be a challenging issue to address. Where eligibility is not certain, the Chair should discuss the issue with the PGC. The Chair or the PGC may contact the publisher directly.

Resident

Definition

The author has established and maintains residence in the United States, U.S. territory, or U.S. commonwealth, as distinct from being a casual or occasional visitor, or the author meets one of the following criteria: a) the author, a citizen of another ^{OM}

Appendix C: Samples

Sample Calendar

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Winter/Spring Month/day | Introductory meeting Meet and greet for members, establishment of expectations and anticipated virtual meeting schedule* |
| May/day | Suggestions due** |
| June/day | Suggestions due** |
| July/day | Initial Discussion Meeting Including procedural orientation, practice book discussion |
| August/day | Suggestions due** |
| September/day | Suggestions due** |
| October/day | Suggestions due** |
| October/day | due*** |
| November/day | Suggestions due** |
| November/day | due*** |
| December/day | Suggestions due** |
| December/day | due*** |
| January/day | Suggestions due (for late submissions only) |
| January/day | Delegations start as only) |

Employer/Supervisor Information Form

Employer/Supervisor Information:

Please supply your employer/supervisor information, if you choose, so a letter can be sent regarding your participation on the Committee. You may list as many names as you like.

Your Name

Supervisor's Name

Supervisor's Title

Name of Institution

Mailing Address

Email Address

Supervisor's Name

Supervisor's Title

Name of Institution

Mailing Address

Email Address

Letter to Employer/Supervisor #1: Beginning of Service

Dear _____,

Please accept our congratulations and gratitude for your service during their term on the Association of Librarians Library Service Committee.

This is an especially exciting award. The award is widely considered to be among the most prestigious awards in child and books selected by the committee will become part of the canon of distinguished books for years to come. As part of this committee, you have selected a book to be adopted as a winter award.

Over 20,000 trade books are published for children each year. I

Letter to Employer/Supervisor #2: End of Service

Dear _____,

Please accept our congratulations and gratitude for your support of _____ upon completion of their term on the _____ Committee. As you probably know, the award is administered by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA).

For your information, the winners, announced in _____, are as follows:

Winner:

(Insert title)

In addition, there are XXX Honor Books:

(Insert titles.)

Well over 20,000 trade books are published for children each year, and many are books for _____. It is an enormous professional commitment to be involved in the intense and time-consuming selection process: reading, evaluating, discussing, and selecting the year's most distinguished _____ books.

The _____ Committee met at the LibLearnX meeting in _____ in _____ to make our final selections. The awards were announced at the ALA's Youth Media Awards ceremony, and will be officially presented to the winners at the ALA Annual Conference in _____.

On behalf of ALSC I thank you for your support during this exciting year. _____ was instrumental in maintaining the distinguished traditions of the _____.

Thank you again for your support of _____ and the _____.

Sincerely,

Chair,

COMMITTEE

Sample Resignation Letter

To: Chair, President, and Executive Director

Please accept my resignation from _____) _____ Committee
effective _____ . I can no longer honor my committee membership because of _____
(brief explanation).

Signed

To: President, Executive Director, and all committee members

Please accept my resignation from _____) _____ Committee
effective _____ . I can no longer honor my committee chair position because of _____
(brief explanation).

Signed

Call for Membership Suggestions

The Chair calls on ALSC members to submit titles for consideration by the committee. The Chair posts an announcement on the ALSC blog, ALA Connect/ALSC, and through tweets @wearealsc during the year. The Chair may also solicit suggestions from other electronic discussion lists having to do with children's

Sample Note-taking Form

if desired, thd

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Accuracy (author authority, currency, etc):

Organization (appropriate scope and sequence):

Documentation (appropriate citations to allow verification):

Comments:

REMEMBER: Not every book relies equally on every element. The committee need not find excellence across the board, but rather in those elements relevant to the book. The book must be a self-contained entity, not dependent on other media for enjoyment.

Reviews: BCCB Booklist Horn Book Kirkus PW SLJ Other
