



Mitten Award Guidelines

Purpose: The purpose of the Mitten Award is to recognize and promote quality literature for youth in picture book format and highlight the best new books for Michigan picture book readers.

Background: This award was first given in 1999 by the Children's Services Division of the Michigan Library Association. The award is given annually to one children's picture book originally published in English between January 1 and December 31 that has captured the attention of the youth librarians throughout the State of Michigan for its ability to communicate through literature to its intended audience.

Qualifications:

- Children's work of fiction or nonfiction with illustrations
- Must be published in English for the first time during the calendar year of the award. *"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.*
- Should fall under the guidelines as noted for the Association for Library Service to Children's (ALSC) Notable Books. The guidelines include books of especially commendable quality, books that exhibit venturesome creativity, and books of fiction, information, poetry, and pictures for all age levels that reflect and encourage children's interest in a unique or innovative fashion.
- MLA recognizes, enhances and promotes the values of equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility and belonging. Workgroup members will consider books for their authenticity and representation of the diversity of human culture and experiences.

Eligibility: Any picture book that is published for children for the first time in English during the calendar year may be nominated for the award.

Book Selection Process:

- Titles for the first list of nominations are pulled from starred reviews in library journals (ex. Horn Book, Kirkus, School Library Journal) that have received at least two (2) stars.
- Michigan Librarians may freely submit nominations. Publishers may submit nominations of books that meet the criteria, but they will be required to provide submit a nomination form as well as two (2) copies of the book for the workgroup to review.
- Nominations may be submitted from January 1 through December 31.
- The year of the award will match the year that it is selected and announced. It will be presented at that year's MLA Youth Literary Awards event.
- The workgroup narrows the reading list to their Top Ten Titles and selects the winner and any honor books from the Top Ten Titles.
- The workgroup may choose to recognize up to four (4) honor books.

Presentation of Award: The author of the award-winning title will be invited to accept the award at the virtual MLA Youth Literary Awards announcement.