

SO YOU WANT TO BE IN THE MITTEN?

Spring Institute 2018

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RESOURCES – Books

Illustrating Children's Books: Creating Pictures for Publication. Martin Salisbury, Barron's Education Series, Inc., 2004.

Magic Pencil: Children's Book Illustration Today. Selected by Quentin Blake to accompany the exhibition "Magic Pencil," in England, 2002-2003.

Reading Picture Books to with Children: How to Shake Up Storytime and Get Kids Talking about What They See. Megan Dowd Lambert, Charlesbridge, 2015.

Reading the Art in Caldecott Award Books: A Guide to the Illustrations. Heidi Hammond and Gail Nordstrom, Rowman & Littlefield. 2014.

Show and Tell: Exploring the Fine Art of Children's Book Illustration. Dilys Evans, Chronicle Books, 2008.

The Telling Line: Essays on Fifteen Contemporary Book Illustrators. Douglas Martin, Delacorte Press, Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., 1989. **OTHER TITLES??**

RESOURCES – Museums

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art
125 West Bay Road, Amherst, MA 01002
<https://www.carlemuseum.org/>

The Mazza Museum
201 College St., Findlay, OH, 45840
<https://www.mazzamuseum.org/>

RESOURCES – Courses

ALSC Online Courses (\$\$)
<http://www.ala.org/alsc/elearning/courses>

For example: The Caldecott Medal: Understanding Distinguished Art in Picture Books
Postmodern Picture Books: Changing Minds for Life

RESOURCES – Online

7 Impossible Things Before Breakfast -- <http://blaine.org/sevenimpossiblethings/>
Jen J.'s Booksheets -- <https://booksheets.wordpress.com/>
Individual artist's or illustrator's websites

THE MITTEN AWARD

<http://www.milibraries.org/about/mitten-award/>

Purpose: The purpose is **to recognize and promote quality literature** for youth in picture book format. Michigan librarians will utilize their critical skills to choose the award and will improve their reader's advisory skills.

Additionally: You will hone and practice observational skills and translate them into verbal expression that will assist not only with readers' advisory tasks, but also enhance your review reading and collection development skills. Reading book reviews will never be the same! You will learn to listen deeply to other perspectives, become open to diverse interpretations of what is important in the picture book format, and you will practice collaborative communication. All these may be stepping stones to someday serve on ALA/ALSC award committees or write your own reviews for professional publications.

Title Eligibility & Qualifications:

- Children's work of fiction or nonfiction with illustrations, in picture book format
- Published for children during the calendar year
- Originally published in the United States
- **Should fall under the guidelines** as noted for the Association for Library Service to Children's (ALSC) Notable Books, including 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. [See next page]

NOTABLE CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2018

ALSC (Association for Library Services to Children)

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb>

Each year a committee of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) identifies the best of the best in children's books. According to the Notables Criteria, "notable" is defined as: **Worthy of note or notice, important, distinguished, outstanding. As applied to children's books, notable should be thought to include books of especially commendable quality, books that exhibit venturesome creativity, and books of fiction, information, poetry and pictures for all age levels (birth through age 14) that reflect and encourage children's interests in exemplary ways.**

According to ALSC policy, the current year's Newbery, Caldecott, Belpré, Sibert, Geisel, and Batchelder Award and Honor books automatically are added to the Notable Children's Books list.

The evaluative criteria to be used are:

1. literary quality;
2. originality of text and illustration;
3. clarity and style of language;
4. excellence of illustration;
5. excellence of design and format;
6. subject matter of interest and value to children;
7. the likelihood of acceptance by children.

According to the ALSC Notable Children's Books Committee manual, these categories **loosely** represent the following:

Younger Readers – Preschool-grade 2 (age 7), including easy-to-read books;

Middle Readers – Grades 3-5, ages 8-10;

Older Readers – Grades 6-8, ages 11-14;

All Ages – Has appeal and interest for children in all of the above age ranges.

Purpose of the Notable Children's Books List

The Notable Children's Books selection committee is charged with selecting, annotating, and presenting for publication annually the list of notable children's books of the preceding year. The committee reads extensively during the year and at the ALA Midwinter Meeting selects for the list those titles they believe to be notable. **The list is intended for children: to assist them in selecting books to read, to encourage them to seek out those that are considered notable** among the many books available in bookstores and libraries. While it is not expected that every children's library of all sizes and types will necessarily select all of the books listed, it is hoped that nationwide, through library networks and bookstores, children will find these books to be accessible.

IDEAL MITTEN QUALITIES 2017-2018

Text

- ✓ Literary
- ✓ Creative, words are used uniquely, has wow, new
- ✓ Words flow well
- ✓ Transformative
- ✓ Has a narrative
- ✓ Engaging
- ✓ Words could stand alone and retain unique quality, expression
- ✓ Appropriate length for targeted audience

Illustrations

- ✓ Artistic, aesthetic, pleasing, accessible
- ✓ Unique, wow, new, eye-catching
- ✓ Help portray the quality or atmosphere of the story
- ✓ Move the story along, complete the story
- ✓ Show artistic talent, skill

As a whole

- ✓ Has kid appeal; kids want to hear it/read it again; always revisitable; holds the child's attention
- ✓ After child is presented with it, wants to revisit
- ✓ Reader gets something more out of the book with each reading
- ✓ Transformative, something lasts after a reading, the experience lingers, lasting value to the child, lasting meaning, lasting significance
- ✓ Book is like a door opening to something novel, wider than one's previous world, a broader perspective
- ✓ Addresses a universal theme
- ✓ Something new
- ✓ Child makes and keeps a connection to the book/character
- ✓ Text & illus complement each other perfectly; both are essential to the book's success
- ✓ Every MI kid should read this
- ✓ Targets the intended audience
- ✓ Targeted audience broader than one niche; multi-aged appeal/meaning; wide targeted audience; multi-layered readings
- ✓ Well-edited
- ✓ Excellent design to the whole book, nothing random, unique touches that correlate with the content/theme
- ✓ Uniqueness that is entertaining
- ✓ More than entertainment, but entertainment could be present, though not essential

MITTEN AWARD SHORT LIST 2017

TITLE	AUTHOR	ILLUSTRATOR
<i>A Different Pond</i>	Bao Phi	Thi Bui
<i>A Greyhound, A Groundhog</i>	Emily Jenkins	Chris Appelhans
<i>A Perfect Day</i>	Lane Smith	
<i>After the Fall</i>	Dan Santat	
<i>All Ears, All Eyes</i>	Richard Jackson	Katherine Tillotson
<i>Balderdash!</i>	Michelle Markel	Nancy Carpenter
<i>Be Quiet!</i>	Ryan T. Higgins	
<i>Big Cat, Little Cat</i>	Elisha Cooper	
<i>Bob, Not Bob!</i>	Elizabeth Garton Scanlon	
	Audrey Vernick	Matthew Cordell
<i>Creepy Pair of Underwear</i>	Aaron Reynolds	Peter Brown
<i>Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut</i>	Derrick Barnes	Gordon C. James
<i>Don't Blink!</i>	Tom Booth	
<i>Flowers for Sarajevo</i>	John McCutcheon	Kristy Caldwell
<i>Goldfish Ghost</i>	Lemony Snicket	Lisa Brown
<i>Her Right Foot</i>	Dave Eggers	Shawn Harris
<i>Hey Black Child</i>	Useni Eugene Perkins	Bryan Collier
<i>Jabari Jumps</i>	Gaia Cornwall	
<i>Life on Mars</i>	Jon Agee	
<i>Little Fox in the Forest</i>	Stephanie Graegin	
<i>Littles and How They Grow</i>	Kelly DiPucchio	AG Ford
<i>Noisy Night</i>	Mac Barnett	Brian Biggs
<i>Over and Under the Pond</i>	Kate Messner	Christopher Silas Neal
<i>Sergeant Reckless</i>	Patricia McCormick	Iacopo Bruno
<i>The Antlered Ship</i>	Dashka Slater	Eric and Terry Fan
<i>The Hawk of the Castle</i>	Danna Smith	Bagram Ibatoulline
<i>The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet!</i>	Carmen Agra Deedy	Eugene Yelchin
<i>The Unexpected Love Story of Alfred Fiddleduckling</i>	Timothy Basil Ering	
<i>The Wolf, the Duck & the Mouse</i>	Mac Barnett	Jon Klassen
<i>Town Is By the Sea</i>	Joanne Schwartz	Sydney Smith
<i>What Will Grow?</i>	Jennifer Ward	Susie Ghahremani
<i>Windows</i>	Julia Denos	E. B. Goodale
<i>Winter Dance</i>	Marion Dane Bauer	Richard Jones
<i>Wolf in the Snow</i>	Matthew Cordell	

ALSC NOTABLE BOOKS for YOUNGER READERS

TITLE	AUTHOR	ILLUSTRATOR
<i>Alfie</i>	Thyra Heder	
<i>All Around Us</i>	Xelena Gonzalez	Adriana M. Garcia
<i>All the Way to Havana</i>	Margarita Engle	Mike Curato
<i>Baby Goes to Market</i>	Atinuke	Angela Brooksbank
<i>Big Cat, Little Cat</i>	Elisha Cooper	
<i>Blue Sky, White Stars</i>	Sarvinder Naberhaus	Kadir Nelson
<i>The Book of Mistakes</i>	Corinna Luyken	
<i>The Boy and the Whale</i>	Mordicai Gerstein	
<i>Charlie & Mouse</i>	Laurel Snyder	Emily Hughes
<i>Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos</i>	Monica Brown	John Parra
<i>Good Night, Planet</i>	Liniers	
<i>A Greyhound, A Groundhog</i>	Emily Jenkins	Chris Appelhans
<i>Home in the Rain</i>	Bob Graham	
<i>I See a Cat</i>	Paul Meisel	
<i>Jabari Jumps</i>	Gaia Cornwall	
<i>King and Kayla and the Case of the Missing Dog Treats</i>	Dori Hillestad Butler	Nancy Meyers
<i>La Princesa and the Pea</i>	Susan Middleton Elya	Juana Martinez-Neal
<i>Life on Mars</i>	Jon Agee	
<i>The Little Red Cat Who Ran Away and Learned His ABC's (the Hard Way)</i>	Patrick McDonnell	
<i>My Kite is Stuck! And Other Stories</i>	Salina Yoon	
<i>Noodleheads See the Future</i>	Tedd Arnold, Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss	Tedd Arnold
<i>Now</i>	Antoinette Portis	
<i>The Only Fish in the Sea</i>	Philip C. Stead	Matthew Cordell
<i>A Perfect Day</i>	Lane Smith	
<i>Professional Crocodile</i>	Giovanna Zoboli	Mariachiara Di Giorgio
<i>The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet!</i>	Carmen Agra Deedy	Eugene Yelchin
<i>Snail & Worm Again</i>	Tina Kugler	
<i>Stay: A Girl, a Dog, a Bucket List</i>	Kate Klise	M. Sarah Klise
<i>Town is by the Sea</i>	Joanne Schwartz	Sydney Smith
<i>Triangle</i>	Mac Barnett	Jon Klassen
<i>Walk with Me</i>	Jairo Buitrago	Rafael Yockteng
<i>When a Wolf Is Hungry</i>	Christine Naumann-Villemin	Kris Di Giacomo

continued...

NOTABLE BOOKS for YOUNGER READERS, continued

TITLE	AUTHOR	ILLUSTRATOR
<i>When's My Birthday?</i>	Julie Fogliano	Christian Robinson
<i>Windows</i>	Julia Denos	E. B. Goodale
<i>Wolf in the Snow</i>	Matthew Cordell	
<i>The Wolf, the Duck & the Mouse</i>	Mac Barnett	Jon Klassen
<i>You Can't Be Too Careful</i>	Roger Mello Translated by Daniel Hahn	
<i>The Youngest Marcher</i>	Cynthia Levinson	Vanessa Brantley-Newton

NOTABLE BOOKS for ALL AGES

<i>Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut</i>	Derrick Barnes	Gordon C. James
<i>Grand Canyon</i>	Jason Chin	
<i>Her Right Foot</i>	Dave Eggers	Shawn Harris
<i>I'm Just No Good at Rhyming and Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-ups</i>	Chris Harris	Lane Smith
<i>Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask About Having a Disability</i>	Shane Burcaw	Matt Carr
<i>Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets</i>	Kwame Alexander	Ekua Holmes
<i>The Street Beneath My Feet</i>	Charlotte Guillain	Yuval Zommer

THE MITTEN AWARD WORK GROUP

A Look thru the Year

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MARCH 21 – APRIL 27	Spring Institute Previous Year's Mitten Winner recognized New Top Ten Titles announced MLA Call for volunteers http://www.milibraries.org/volunteers/general-information/
Early MAY	Assignments confirmed by email
JUNE – JULY	1st Mitten Work Group meeting – mandatory! Usually at MLA Offices: 3410 Belle Chase Way, Lansing, MI 48911
JULY – AUGUST	Read & Review, the 2-starred title spreadsheet begins All Mitten related info accessed via Google Drive Member communication through email group
OCTOBER-ish	2nd Mitten meeting Scheduled as members decide In-person, virtually, or by conference call Spreadsheet has grown to 100+ titles
DECEMBER	Publishing year is over – publisher nominations arrive! Spreadsheet probably lists 250+ titles
JANUARY	3rd Mitten meeting Time to evaluate the cream of the crop Reread, listen, woo & wow your group members
FEBRUARY, 1st half	Prior to 4th (and last) meeting – submit votes to determine Top Ten Titles (TTT) 4th meeting – discuss TTTs <i>thoroughly, openly</i> Reread, remember others' observations, reflect
FEBRUARY, 2nd half	Final votes submitted Results are confidential until publicly announced! Chair submits final documentation to MLA