

Good Booklists for Elementary School Libraries

From Idaho School Librarians and ICfL Staff, updated July 2018

Multiple Ages, Fiction and Nonfiction:

ALSC's Notable Lists include the best titles for all types of books for children, fiction and nonfiction, picture book and chapter book, from the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA).

www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb

ALSC's Recommended Books include categories such as the Graphic Novels Reading List for K-6, Summer Reading lists, Tween Reads, Hi-Lo titles, content/themed lists, and much more.

www.ala.org/alsc/publications-resources/book-lists

Best STEM Books is a joint project of the American Society for Engineering Education, the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association, the National Science Teachers Association, the Society of Elementary Presidential Awardees, and the Children's Book Council. This list of 31 books aims to provide recommendations to educators, librarians, parents, and guardians for the best children's books with STEM content.

www.cbcbooks.org/best-stem/

The **Children's & Teen Choice Book Awards**, sponsored by the Children's Book Council (CBC), is the only national book awards program where the winners are selected by kids and teens of all ages. Participating classrooms receive hot-off-the-press books, which the students read and vote on. You can see the winners and finalists in each category for each year, as well as booklists for diversity and other various topics. There is also a great running list of "hot-off-the-press" titles.

www.cbcbooks.org/ccba/

Common Core ELA Text Exemplars: The infamous Appendix B is a list of *examples* of the types of text and the levels of text complexity that will align the Idaho Core Standards. It is not a reading list. These titles are not required for your collection. It is likely that many of these titles are in your collection already, and some of these may be out of print.

www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf

Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) at the School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison has lists of lists of books. Fiction, nonfiction, picture book, wordless books, teen books, pre-K books... it's comprehensive. This organization also awards the Charlotte Zolotow Award (see below).

<http://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/detailLists.asp?idBookListCat=7>

The **Coretta Scott King Book Awards** are given annually 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 commemorates the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and honors his wife, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, for her courage and determination to continue the work for peace and world brotherhood.

www.ala.org/emiert/ckskbookawards

Hornbook Awards or the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards for Excellence in Children's Literature, are given to a winner and honor books for picture book, works of fiction, and works of nonfiction each year that have been published in the United States.

www.hbook.com/boston-globe-horn-book-awards/

Houston Public Library's Next Reads for Kids (preschool - Grade 6): Lists by age level, interest level, award winners, topic-specific, updated annually.

<http://hpl.lib.tx.us/next-reads-for-kids>

International Latino Book Awards from Latino Literacy Now. This organization recognizes outstanding Latino literature in fiction, non-fiction, in English and Spanish for every age group. From picture books to chapter books to novels, history to religion to self-help; it's all at

<http://lascomadres.com/latinolit/latino-book-awards/>

International Literacy Association Children's and Young Adults Book Awards have been given to newly published authors who show unusual promise in the children's and young adults' book field since 1975. Books in fiction and nonfiction in primary, intermediate, and young adult categories that are published in English for the first time are considered for this award.

www.literacyworldwide.org/about-us/awards-grants/ila-children's-and-young-adults'-book-awards

The **National Book Award**, presented by the National Book Foundation, honors books as winners and finalists in four categories each year: Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, and Young People's Literature. Fortunately, this site also includes the long list of the books that were considered for the award.

www.nationalbook.org/

NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People is an annual reading list of exceptional books for use in social studies classrooms, selected by social studies educators. This is an annual project of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and the CBC. This bibliography features K-12 annotated titles published in the previous calendar year, selected by a book review committee appointed by the NCSS.

www.socialstudies.org/publications/notables

NCTE Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children: The National Council of Teacher of English (NCTE) Orbis Pictus Award was established in 1989 for promoting and recognizing excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children.

www.ncte.org/awards/orbispictus

NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12: Science books for students of all ages selected by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) in collaboration with the Children's Book Council. Remember, these award lists are for K-12, so read the description to determine a good fit for your collection.

www.nsta.org/publications/ostb/

Nerdy Book Club is a website with a collection of book bloggers. They publish annual "best of" lists of every type: fiction, nonfiction, picture books, chapter books, novels, graphic novels, everything.

<https://nerdybookclub.wordpress.com/>

The **Odyssey Award** is for the best (gold seal) audio book produced for children and/or young adults, and there may be honor books (silver seal), as well. This award is sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the ALA.

www.ala.org/yalsa/odyssey-award

PNLA Young Reader's Choice Award lists the books that are most popular with students in the Pacific Northwest, as voted by children and teens in three age divisions. They can be fiction, nonfiction, graphic novel, anime and manga, but are mostly fiction. Sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA).

<https://pnla.org/young-readers-choice-award/>

The **Pura Belpre Award** is given to a Latina/Latino writer and illustrator that portray and celebrate the Latino cultural experience through literature. This award could be given for books for any age group, so it is important to make sure it is appropriate for the collection.

www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal

ReadKiddoRead.com is a project started by best-selling author James Patterson to help parents and educators understand the importance of free choice in reading. There are also several great lists of books that get kids (especially reluctant boys, but there are lots of titles for everyone) reading.

www.readkiddoread.com/index

The **Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal** is awarded each year to the author(s) and Illustrator(s) of the most distinguished informational book published in the United States in English. The Sibert Award is an excellent source of the best non-fiction titles and authors for your collection.

www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/sibertmedal

The **Scott O'Dell Award** is given for a distinguished work of historical fiction for children or young adults. Again, check age level appropriateness.

<http://scottodell.com/the-scott-odell-award>

Picture Books:

The **Caldecott Medal**, the most famous award for picture books, has been awarded since 1938. It is awarded to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children. Whatever the subject matter of the book, fiction or nonfiction, the Caldecott winner and honor books will be beautifully illustrated.

www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecottmedal

The **Charlotte Zolotow Award** is given each year to honor outstanding writing in a picture book published in the United States during the preceding year, along with up to five honor books. This site also lists up to ten "highly commended titles."

<http://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/detailListBooks.asp?idBookLists=221>

The **CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards** are an annual recognition of five high-quality picture books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. Sponsored by the Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy (CLEL), one book for each of the five practices (sing, talk, read, write, play) is chosen each year.

www.clel.org/clelbellaawards

Juvenile Fiction:

The **Batchelder Award** is given to the most outstanding book originally published in a language other than English in a country other than the United States, and has been translated into English for publication in the United States. These beautiful books can introduce students to aspects of other cultures, but they span all the ages of children's literature. Be sure of age appropriateness for your collection.

www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/batchelderaward

The **Geisel Award** is given each year to author(s) and an illustrator(s) for the most outstanding American books for beginning readers. The award is in honor of Theodore Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss.

www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/geiselaward

The **Legacy Award** (formally the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award) honors an author or illustrator whose books published in the United States have made, over a period of years, a substantial contribution to literature for children. It is a lifetime achievement award and is given every two years.

www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/clla

The **Newbery Award** is the granddaddy of children's literature awards. A gold medal for the winner and silver medal for honor books have been awarded since 1922 to the author(s) of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children each year.

www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberymedal

(see also "Multiple Ages" lists)

Juvenile Nonfiction:

The **Royal Society's Young People's Book Prize** is chosen by young people from schools and youth groups around the United Kingdom. An adult short listing panel narrows down submissions from UK publishers, and the younger judging panel chooses the winner from that list.

<https://royalsociety.org/awards/young-people/>

(see also "Multiple Ages" lists)

Professional Development and Resources for Teachers:

American Indians in Children's Literature is a blog that includes booklists, reviews, and thoughtful discussions about how indigenous peoples are portrayed in current literature and media.

<https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/>

The **Bank Street College of Education Library** site has just about anything you need to develop your collection. Booklists for both children and adults, call numbers, reviews, and award-winners.

www.bankstreet.edu/library/center-for-childrens-literature/

National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) has books and other resources for teachers including books, journals, eNewsletters, events, and even some freebies for science teachers.
www.nsta.org/publications/

Handy Tools:

NoveList at LiLI.org offers a large array of readers' advisory tools including read-alike recommendations, book discussion guides, picture book extenders, books to movies, and award and notable lists. NoveList breaks down recommendations by age and has a section on working with youth. This is a "one-stop shop."

<http://lili.org/>

TeachingBooks.net has a free author name pronunciation site. So you know that Jon Scieszka's name rhymes with "Fresca" and Riordan has a long "i" sound. As well as how to pronounce hundreds of other author names!

www.teachingbooks.net/pronunciations.cgi

Fict Fact: Want to know the title of Magnus Chase #2, or when #3 is coming out? This site keeps track of popular series, so you can plug in the author or series name and see the order of the books.

www.fictfact.com/

Here are other sites to search a series' order of books.

- **Kent District Library** <http://ww2.kdl.org/libcat/whatsnext.asp>
- **MidContinent Public Library** <http://www.mymcpl.org/cfapps/juvser/title.cfm>

A Book and A Hug is a great site to bookmark for your students, so they can browse titles by personality type, new books, reading levels, and many more categories.

<https://abookandahug.com/>

**** Special thanks to the Idaho Librarians who contributed to this list****

Susan Tabor-Boesch, Wood River Middle School; Lynn Johnson, Mountain View School District; Sharon Slaney, Timberlake High School; Gena Marker, Centennial High School; Pam Juel, Meridian School District; and Gregory Taylor, Hillside Jr. High.

Do you have a great site to find booklists and award-winners, professional development, or handy tools? Send to staci.shaw@libraries.idaho.gov and we'll include in the next updated version!