



# LOW HANGING FRUIT

## It's Time for The Annual Youth Media Awards!

by Marina Rose

Every January, the American Library Association announces the Youth Media Award (YMA) winners at LibLearnX (formerly Mid-Winter Meeting). It's like the OSCAR's, but for books. This year, the awards will be presented live at the Baltimore Convention Center on Monday, January 22, at 8 am ET. You can also live stream the show from home but be prepared for an early morning (5 am PT / 6 am MT)!

The YMA's combine several prestigious awards for books, videos, and other outstanding materials for children and teens. These awards include the Alex Awards, Children's Literature Lecture Award, Children's Literature Legacy Award, Coretta Scott King Book Awards, Coretta Scott King - Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement, Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media Award, John Newbery Medal, Margaret A. Edwards Award, Michael L. Printz Award, Mildred L. Batchelder Award, Odyssey Award, Pura Belpré Awards, Randolph Caldecott Medal, Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal, Schneider Family Book Award, Stonewall Book Award - Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children's & Young Adult Literature Award, Theodor Seuss Geisel Award, William C. Morris Award, and the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults. Additional awards are given some years, including the American Indian Youth Literature Award, which will be announced this month. You can read more about these awards at this link: <https://www.ala.org/news/mediapresscenter/presskits/ymapk>.

The YMA's play a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of youth literature, influencing reading choices for educators, librarians, parents, and young readers alike. By highlighting diverse perspectives, genres, and voices, the YMA's contribute significantly to fostering a rich literary environment for the next generation, emphasizing the importance of quality storytelling and visual art in developing young minds. So, even if you don't tune in for the live announcement, make sure to review the list of winners so you can introduce students to the most prestigious books for their reading levels. Once the awards are announced, you can view a list of winners on the School Library Journal or American Library Association websites.

"Low Hanging Fruit" is available through school libraries and made possible with support from the Idaho Commission for Libraries. For previous editions, go to: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/lowhangingfruit>.



January 2024

LINKS TO MORE  
LEARNING



## Track the Newbery Favorites

Heavy Medal Mock Newbery Blog: [Assembles care packages for deployed troops, recruit grads, veterans, wounded heroes, and first responders.](#) Each package includes a handwritten letter from [grateful volunteers.](#) Letters from [youngsters are especially meaningful.](#)

<https://www.operationgratitude.com/volunteer/anywhere/letters/> The Heavy Medal Mock Newbery blog has been going steady since 2008. It brings together readers and bloggers to discuss the Newbery contenders, following the Newbery Committee processes as closely as possible.



PRACTICAL  
APPLICATIONS



Party! Invite students and teachers to a mock Caldecott awards party sometime in January. Work with your school librarian to provide snacks and copies of the books contending for the prize. Participants review the books and vote for their favorites. Although this blog post (<https://geekdad.com/2017/01/mock-ala-youth-media-awards/>) is a few years old, it still gives some practical advice for hosting your own mock awards party.

DIGITAL TOOLS



**Novelist Plus:** Novelist Plus is a great reader's advisory tool, but did you know you can browse award winners as well? Once you're logged in to Novelist Plus, click the Browse By button on the orange ribbon at the top of the screen, then select Award Winners. You can then browse awards by age group, genre, or type. Happy Reading!

