

**THE PENNSYLVANIA
YOUNG READER'S CHOICE
AWARDS PROGRAM
2021 – 2022**



**Sponsored by
The Pennsylvania School Librarians
Association**

The Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards Program
c/o Alice Cyphers
134 Bisbing Rd.
Henryville, PA 18332

OR CURRENT LIBRARIAN

Purpose of the Award

The purpose of the *Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards Program* is to promote reading of quality books by young people in the Commonwealth, to encourage teacher / librarian collaboration and involvement in YA and children's literature, and to honor authors whose works have been recognized by the students of Pennsylvania. The program is sponsored by the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA).

Guidelines for Participation

Participation in the Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards Program is open to all students who are attending public or private schools or are enrolled in a certified home study program in grades K-12.

The school library/media specialist may be the sponsor of the award program in a school; however, any teacher or administrator may act as sponsor.

1. Obtain the support and authorization of the principal.
2. Provide information about participating in the award program to teachers, students and parents. See additional tips in the "Ideas for Promoting the Award" section.
3. Be familiar with the books included in the master list and check that they meet book selection criteria for your district or school.
4. Have as many of the titles available as possible. **It is not necessary to purchase every book on the list to participate in the program.** Purchasing multiple copies may encourage additional student involvement. Many books on the list are available in paperback.
5. Begin the program at the start of the school year, or plan ahead and include PYRCA titles on summer reading lists.
6. In order to qualify to vote, students must either **read or have listened** to at least **3 books** from the list.
7. Provide ballots in early March so students may vote for their favorite book.
8. Participating libraries and schools should tally the votes and send the results to the Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award Committee by **MARCH 31**. (This date may vary depending on the dates of the PSLA Annual Conference.) Please be sure to include the number of votes **each** book received, not just the winning book at your school.

Submit votes to THE ONLINE VOTING REPORT FORM at **tinyurl.com/pyrca-vote**.
9. A certificate will be awarded to each participating school.

Criteria for Consideration

Titles to be considered for the master reading list are generally suggested by the Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards Program Committee, but suggestions may be submitted by students, teachers, librarians, parents or anyone who is interested in promoting reading.

Each book must meet the following criteria:

1. It must have an original copyright date within five years of the award's presentation.
2. It must be written by an author currently living in North America.
3. It must be appropriate to the interest, reading and grade level of those students in each grade strand: K-3, 3-6, 6-8, and 9-12.
4. It must receive positive reviews from recognized published sources.
5. It may be any genre: fiction, informational, or poetry, but not anthologies of collected works of multiple authors.

Post suggestions to the Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards website: **<https://pyrcapsla.wixsite.com/pyrca>**

Send book suggestions to:

The Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards Program Committee
c/o Alice Cyphers
134 Bisbing Rd.
Henryville, PA 18332

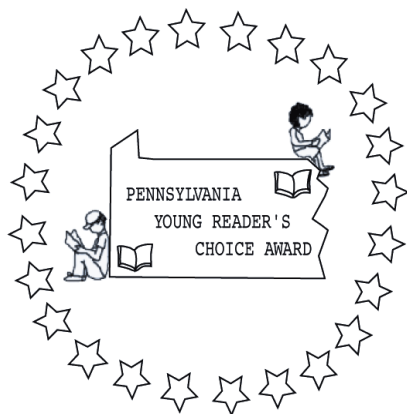
Please include your name, address, and professional position.

All suggestions should be submitted by **SEPTEMBER 1** in order to be considered for the following year.

Useful Information

- Award stickers are available for 25 cents each. Checks should be made out to PSLA. Send request with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Alice Cyphers, 134 Bisbing Rd., Henryville, PA 18332
- Visit the PSLA website for past winners, author thank-you letters, and more: <https://www.psla.org/pennsylvania-young-reader-s-choice-awards-program>
- Visit the PYRCA website for copies of this booklet in PDF, book talk scripts, bookmarks, best practices, updates and so much more at <https://pyrcapsla.wixsite.com/pyrca>
- Check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pyrca> and follow us on Twitter @PA_YRCA

For more information contact us at pyrca.psla@gmail.com



WINNERS OF THE

2020-2021

PENNSYLVANIA YOUNG READER'S CHOICE AWARDS

Can I Be Your Dog? by Troy Cummings (K-3)

Wedgie & Gizmo by Suzanne Selfors; illustrated by Barbara Fisinger (3-6)

New Kid by Jerry Kraft (6-8)

Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay (YA)

The PA Young Reader's Choice Award Program is Sponsored by PSLA's Award Committee

Alice Cyphers (Bangor Area School District) and Maria White (North Penn School District), Co-Chairpersons

PYRCA Committee Members

Alice Cyphers*
Ellen Stolarski*
Melinda Bender
Michelle Burns
Maureen Chilinskas
Sue Dahlstrom
Porsche Davis-Taylor
Aimee Emerson
Kate Hammond
Brooke Hauer
Deb Hoover
Lori Jordan
Martha Lambertsen
Beth McGuire
Marie Mengel
Christina Peterson
Amy Pickett
Nadine Poper
Kate Ramos
Shannon Resh
Angela Tarr
Michelle Wells
Jennifer Wentling

Bangor Area School District
Saint Marys Area School District
Conestoga Valley School District
The Haverford School
Friends Select School in Philadelphia
Radnor Township School District
Tredyffrin/Easttown School District
Bradford Area School District
The Perkiomen School
Tredyffrin/Easttown School District
Northeastern School District
Saint Marys Area School District
Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Hempfield Area School District
Reading School District
Conestoga Valley School District
Ridley School District
Reading School District
Chicheseter School District
South Western School District
Fort LeBoeuf School District
Mahanoy Area School District
Sharpsville Area School District

Please contact the committee if you need more information.

pyrca.psla@gmail.com

*Committee Coordinators

Ideas for Promoting The Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award

Librarian-Teacher Activities

- * Promote books in the program! Book talk scripts, bookmarks and online presentations for you to copy and use are available at <https://pyrcapsla.wixsite.com/pyrca>
- * Look at the PSLA webpage for more information and links to authors.
- * Have students do author studies.
- * Read the books aloud to students and encourage teachers and parents to do the same.
- * If your school has a book fair, include the books in the program.
- * Suggest these books to students and teachers as possible book reports and/or summer reading lists. Perhaps teachers could require students to read one title from the list.
- * Collaborate with public librarians to promote the program.

Student Activities

- * Have students help promote PYRCA books by creating Public Service Announcements (PSAs), QR codes, Prezis or PowerPoints.
- * Combine the program with other commercial reading programs, Reading Olympics, Battle of the Books or your summer reading program.
- * Have students write reviews for the school newspaper, your Web site or blog.
- * See the website for additional ideas and student handouts.

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA YOUNG READER'S CHOICE AWARDS

2007-2008

Good Dog by Maya Gottfried (K-3)
Aliens Are Coming! by Meghan McCarthy (3-6)
The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan (6-8)
Dairy Queen by Catherine Murdock (YA)

2008-2009

The Great Fuzz Frenzy by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel (K-3)
No Talking by Andrew Clements (3-6)
Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick (6-8)
Twilight by Stephenie Meyer (YA)

2009-2010

Scaredy Squirrel by Melanie Watt (K-3)
Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine (3-6)
Found by Margaret Peterson Haddix (6-8)
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (YA)

2010-2011

Chester by Melanie Watt (K-3)
Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship and Survival by Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery (3-6)
The Name of This Book Is Secret by Pseudonymous Bosch (6-8)
Perfect Chemistry by Simone Elkeles (YA)

2011-2012

Shark vs. Train by Chris Barton (K-3)
Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum by Meghan McCarthy (3-6)
The Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan (6-8)
Matched by Ally Condie (YA)

2012-2013

Memoirs of a Goldfish by Devin Scillian (K-3)
Belly Up by Stuart Gibbs (3-6)
Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper (6-8)
The Fault in Our Stars by John Green (YA)

2013-2014

Creepy Carrots by Aaron Reynolds (K-3)
The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate (3-6)
Chomp by Carl Hiaasen (6-8)
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs (YA)

2014-2015

Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin (K-3)
Jake and Lily by Jerry Spinelli (3-6)
Prisoner B-3087 by Alan Gratz (6-8)
Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell (YA)

2015-2016

The Monkey Goes Bananas by C. P. Bloom (K-3)
El Deafo by Cece Bell (3-6)
The Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer L. Holm (6-8)
Those Who Wish Me Dead by Michael Koryta (YA)

2016-2017

A Friend for Lakota: The Incredible True Story of a Wolf Who Braved Bullying by Jim Dutcher & Jamie Dutcher (K-3)
Sunny Side Up by Jennifer L. Holm & Matther Holm (3-6)
Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullay Hunt (6-8)
Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon (YA)

2017-2018

Mother Goose Bruce by Ryan T. Higgins (K-3)
Ghosts by Raina Telgemeier (3-6)
Awkward by Svetlana Chmakova (6-8)
The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon (YA)

2018-2019

Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea by Ben Clanton (K-3)
The Wild Robot by Peter Brown (3-6)
Refugee by Alan Gratz (6-8)
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (YA)

2019-2020

We Don't Eat Our Classmates! by Ryan T. Higgins (K-3)
Saving Winslow by Sharon Creech (3-6)
Float by Laura Martin (6-8)
Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson (YA)

**PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA YOUNG READER'S CHOICE
AWARDS**

1991-1992

My Teacher Is an Alien by Bruce Coville (3-5)
Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli (6-8)

1992-1993

Fudge-A-Mania by Judy Blume (3-5)
Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (6-8)

1993-1994

The Stinky Cheese Man & Other Fairly Stupid Tales by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith (3-8)

1994-1995

Martha Speaks by Susan Meddaugh (K-3)
The Giver by Lois Lowry (3-8)

1995-1996

The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig by Eugene Trivizas (K-3)
The Sweetest Fig by Chris Van Allsburg (3-8)

1996-1997

Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathmann (K-3)
Swamp Angel by Anne Isaacs (3-6)
Heart of a Champion by Carl Deuker (6-8)

1997-1998

Buz by Richard Egielski (K-3)
The Best School Year Ever by Barbara Robinson (3-6)
Spying on Miss Müller by Eve Bunting (6-8)

1998-1999

No More Water in the Tub by Ted Arnold (K-3)
Shiloh Season by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (3-6)
Crash by Jerry Spinelli (6-8)

1999-2000

The Adventures of Captain Underpants by Dav Pilkey (K-3)
Frindle by Andrew Clements (3-6)
Holes by Louis Sachar (6-8)

2000-2001

No David! by David Shannon (K-3)
The Scrambled States of America by Laurie Keller (3-6)
Bud, not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis (6-8)

2001-2002

A Bad Case of Stripes by David Shannon (K-3)
So You Want to Be President by Judith St. George (3-6)
Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix (6-8)

2002-2003

Humpty-Dumpty Egg-Splodes by Kevin O'Malley (K-3)
The Butterfly by Patricia Polacco (3-6)
The Two Princesses of Bamarre by Gail Carson Levine (6-8)

2003-2004

Widget by Lyn Rossiter McFarland (K-3)
Lewis and Clark and Me by Laurie Myers (3-6)
Hoot by Carl Hiaasen (6-8)

2004-2005

Substitute Teacher Plans by Doug Johnson (K-3)
Double Fudge by Judy Blume (3-6)
Eragon by Christopher Paolini (6-8)

2005-2006

Super Dog: The Heart of a Hero by Caralyn Buehner (K-3)
Scarnimals by Jack Prelutsky (3-6)
Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins (6-8)
The Second Summer of the Sisterhood by Ann Brashares (YA)

2006-2007

Skippyjon Jones by Judith Schachner (K-3)
Hachiko by Pamela Turner (3-6)
Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson (6-8)
My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult (YA)

Ideas for Promoting The Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award

General Activities

- * Create a bulletin board or display promoting our state award.
- * Link book trailers for PYRCA books to your online catalog.
- * Send information home about the program through the parent newsletter, and be sure to post the appropriate grade level lists on the library or classroom webpages.
- * Suggest these books as presents for birthdays, the holidays or any time.
- * Include these titles on your library or classroom wish list.
- * Use masters included on the PYRCA website to make bookmarks with PYRCA titles.
- * Write a mini-grant to help fund the PYRCA program at your school.
- * Create a display by copying/scanning the book jackets. Include a QR code that links to a website about the book or the author next to the jackets.
- * Consider shelving the books in a special area and/or marking the spines with colored stickers.

*Visit the program website for even more ideas at
<https://pyrcapsla.wixsite.com/pyrca>*

*Check out the PYRCA Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/pyrca>*

Follow us on twitter: @PA_YRCA



**PENNSYLVANIA YOUNG READER'S CHOICE AWARDS PROGRAM
MASTER LIST
2020-2021**

Kindergarten – Grade 3

Charles, Tami; illustrated by Jacqueline Alcántara	<i>Freedom Soup</i>	Candlewick Press
Dyckman, Ame; illustrated by Charles Santoso	<i>Dandy</i>	Little, Brown and Co. Books for Young Readers
Ferry, Beth; illustrated by Gergely Dudás	<i>Fox & Rabbit</i>	Abrams Books for Young Readers
Gomez, Rebecca J.; illustrated by Elisa Chavarri	<i>Federico and the Wolf</i>	Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers
Hopkinson, Deborah; illustrated by Don Tate	<i>Carter Reads the Newspaper</i>	Peachtree Publishing Company
Lê, Minh; illustrated by Dan Santat	<i>Lift</i>	Little, Brown and Co. Books for Young Readers
Levis, Caron; illustrated by Charles Santosa	<i>This Way, Charlie</i>	Abrams Books for Young Readers
Lord, Cynthia; photography by John Bald; illustrated by Hazel Mitchell	<i>Borrowing Bunnies: A Surprising True Tale of Fostering Rabbits</i>	Farrar Straus Giroux / Macmillan Publishers
Maillard, Kevin Noble; illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal	<i>Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story</i>	Roaring Brook Press / Macmillan Publishers
Morris, Richard T.; illustrated by LeUyen Pham	<i>Bear Came Along</i>	Little, Brown and Co. Books for Young Readers
Muhammad, Ibtihaj with S. K. Ali; illustrated by Hatem Aly	<i>The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family</i>	Little, Brown and Co. Books for Young Readers
Renaud, Anne; illustrated by Milan Pavlović	<i>The Boy Who Invented the Popsicle: The Cool Science Behind Frank Epperson's Famous Frozen Treat</i>	Kids Can Press
Singer, Marilyn; illustrated by Jana Christy	<i>I'm the Big One Now! Poems about Growing Up</i>	Astra Publishing House / Boyds Mills & Kane
Sotomayor, Sonia; illustrated by Rafael López	<i>Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You</i>	Philomel Books / Penguin Books USA
Zuill, Andrea	<i>Sweetie</i>	Schwartz & Wade / Random House Children's Books

Grades 3-6

Andrus, Aubre	<i>Nubby's Story</i>	Scholastic, Inc.
Barrows, Annie	<i>The Best of Iggy</i>	G. P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers / Penguin Young Readers Group
Bulion, Leslie	<i>Superlative Birds</i>	Peachtree Publishing Co.
Carter, Ally	<i>Winterborne Home for Vengeance and Valor</i>	Houghton Mifflin Books for Young Readers
Fleming, Candace	<i>Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera</i>	Holiday House
Ford, Gilbert	<i>How the Cookie Crumbled: The True (and Not-So-True) Stories of the Invention of the Chocolate Chip Cookie</i>	Atheneum Books for Young Readers / Simon & Schuster
Kapit, Sarah	<i>Get a Grip, Vivvy Cohen!</i>	Dial Books for Young Readers / Penguin Random House
Marks, Janae	<i>From the Desk of Zoe Washington</i>	Katherin Tegan Books / HarperCollins Publishers
Morris, Chad and Shelly Brown	<i>Willa and the Whale</i>	Shadow Mountain
Paul, Miranda	<i>Little Libraries, Big Heroes</i>	Houghton Mifflin Books for Young Readers
Pyron, Bobbie	<i>Stay</i>	HarperCollins
Souders, Taryn	<i>Coop Knows the Scoop</i>	Sourcebooks
Stoddard, Lindsey	<i>Brave Like That</i>	HarperCollins
Tate, Don	<i>William Still and His Freedom Stories: The Father of the Underground Railroad</i>	Peachtree Publishing Co.
Watson, Renée	<i>Ways to Make Sunshine</i>	Bloomsbury Children's Books

Grades 6-8

Bajaj, Varsha	<i>Count Me In</i>	Nancy Paulsen Books / Penguin Random House
Bildner, Phil	<i>A High Five for Glenn Burke</i>	Farar Straus Giroux/Macmillan Publishers
Brown, India Hill	<i>The Forgotten Girl</i>	Scholastic Press
Esplin, J. L.	<i>96 Miles</i>	Starscape / A Tom Doherty Associates Book / Macmillan
Gibbs, Stuart	<i>Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation</i>	Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
Hernandez, Carlos	<i>Sal & Gabi Break the Universe</i>	Disney Hyperion
Jamieson, Victoria and Omar Mohamed	<i>When Stars Are Scattered</i>	Dial Books for Young Readers / Penguin Random House
Jarrow, Gail	<i>Spooked! How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America</i>	Calkins Creek / Boyds Mills & Kane
Kim, Jessica	<i>Stand Up, Yumi Chung!</i>	Kokila Books / Penguin Random House
Messner, Kate	<i>Chirp</i>	Bloomsbury Children's Books
Panteleakos, Nicole	<i>Planet Earth Is Blue</i>	Wendy Lamb Books / Penguin Random House
Robinson, Sharon	<i>Child of the Dream: A Memoir of 1963</i>	Scholastic Press
Smith, Ronald L.	<i>Gloom Town</i>	Clarion Books / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers
Stone, Nic	<i>Clean Getaway</i>	Crown Books for Young Readers / Penguin Random House
Valentine, Nicole	<i>A Time Traveler's Theory of Relativity</i>	Carolrhoda Books / Lerner Publishing Group

Young Adult

Acevedo, Elizabeth	<i>Clap When You Land</i>	HarperTeen / HarperCollins
Barnes, Jennifer Lynn	<i>The Inheritance Games</i>	Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
Deonn, Tracy	<i>Legendborn</i>	Margaret K. McElderry Books / Simon & Schuster
Deuker, Carl	<i>Golden Arm</i>	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Gilbert, Kelly Loy	<i>Picture Us in the Light</i>	Little, Brown Books for Young Readers / Disney Books
Grimes, Nikki	<i>Ordinary Hazards</i>	Wordsong / Boyds Mills & Kane
Ha, Robin	<i>Almost American Girl</i>	HarperAlley / HarperCollins Publishers
Hesse, Monica	<i>They Went Left</i>	Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
Johnson, Leah	<i>You Should See Me in a Crown</i>	Scholastic Press
McManus, Karen M.	<i>The Cousins</i>	Delacorte Press / Penguin Random House
Morris, Brittney	<i>Slay</i>	Simon Pulse / Simon & Schuster
Philippe, Ben	<i>Charming as a Verb</i>	Balzer + Bray / HarperCollins Publishers
Reynolds, Jason and Ibram X. Kendi	<i>Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You</i>	Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
Wiles, Deborah	<i>Kent State</i>	Scholastic Press
Yang, Gene Luen	<i>Dragon Hoops</i>	First Second / Macmillan Publishers