

Newbery Contenders

As predicted by Safranit Molly

(With the help of some excellent Children's Lit. commentators)

The Newbery Committee strives to identify the most “distinguished” contribution to Children’s Literature. Children’s literature is defined as ages 0-14. The criteria used by the committee are printed on the back of this list. Here are the books on my short list. Remember this list is not scientific and the winner may not (most likely not) be on this list! Picking the Newbery Winner is a lot like betting on a horse race, but the race itself is exhilarating!

Bomb by Steve Sheinkin

Crow by Barbara Wright

The Great Unexpected by Sharon Creech

Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead

The Mighty Miss Malone by Christopher Paul Curtis

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

Twelve Kinds of Ice by Ellen Bryan Obed

Splendors and Glooms by Laura Amy Schlitz

Starry River of the Sky by Grace Lin

Summer of the Gypsy Moths by Sara Pennypacker

The Unfortunate Son by Constance Leeds

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

The announcements will be made at a spine-tingling press conference on January 28, 2013 starting at 8:00 am (PST) from the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting (in Seattle this year). All the youth media awards (including the Caldecott, the Coretta Scott King, the Printz etc.) will be announced at this time. You can follow the results in real time at the ALA website: www.ala.org.

Here are the criteria the Newbery Committee will use to select this year's winner and honor books. Try to apply these standards to the books you read to select your winner!

Criteria

1. In identifying "distinguished contribution to American literature," defined as text, in a book for children,

a. Committee members need to consider the following:

- Interpretation of the theme or concept
- Presentation of information including accuracy, clarity, and organization
- Development of a plot
- Delineation of characters
- Delineation of a setting
- Appropriateness of style.

Note: Because the literary qualities to be considered will vary depending on content, the committee need not expect to find excellence in each of the named elements. The book should, however, have distinguished qualities in all of the elements pertinent to it.

b. Committee members must consider excellence of presentation for a child audience.

2. Each book is to be considered as a contribution to American literature. The committee is to make its decision primarily on the text. Other components of a book, such as illustrations, overall design of the book, etc., may be considered when they make the book less effective.

3. The book must be a self-contained entity, not dependent on other media (i.e., sound or film equipment) for its enjoyment.

Note: The committee should keep in mind that the award is for literary quality and quality presentation for children. The award is not for didactic content or popularity.