



Focus: Teen Zone, *part 6*

This feature will focus on learning and reading development for different age groups, beginning with birth to five and eventually going through age 19.

This last in the Teen Zone series—research on learning and reading development for children ages 13–18 and how libraries can best serve them and their parents—will explore Colorado and national young adult (YA) book and media awards and annual lists.

Young Adult Annual Book Awards and Lists

There are many book awards and lists that recognize excellent book titles and media for teens published in the last year, including several here in Colorado. They can be very useful for readers advisory, collection development, book talk prep, and more; you can also compile winning titles on handouts for teens, teachers, and parents for handy reference.

While many of these will be familiar, there may be a few new to you; also hopefully this will be a useful compilation.

Did I miss your favorite awards or lists? Please let me know!

Too many adults wish to 'protect' teenagers when they should be stimulating them to read of life as it is lived.

— author Margaret A. Edwards

Colorado YA Book Awards

[Colorado Blue Spruce Award](#)



The Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award recognizes the most popular books among middle and high school students in Colorado. Teens (grades 6–12) nominate their favorite titles and select the winner – adults do not vote. All the materials needed to participate in the Blue Spruce Award can be found on its website and may be freely printed and distributed.

Tools on the website include a very useful booktalk video to help you talk about the award nominees with your teens, traveling sets of the nominated titles free for you to borrow, and much more!

And act fast—teens have until January 15 to vote for this year's award winners, so there's still time for you to [promote the voting](#) to your teens! Learn about the [voting process here](#).

Welcome to YS News!

This newsletter will feature articles on learning development, summer reading updates, timely tidbits, children's and teen literature news, and an exchange of what's happening in CO libraries.

Would you like to see a topic covered in the newsletter? Want to share info about your programs? Or perhaps contribute an article? Let me know!

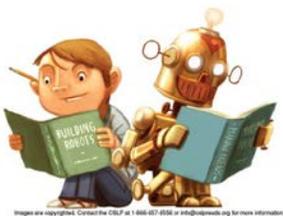
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SRP 2014: News & Ideas

2014 SRP Mini-Grant Guidelines

[The 2014 Mini-Grant Guidelines](#) are now available. The online application will be available from January 2–31 for eligible Colorado public libraries; individual branches are encouraged to apply! The focus of the 2014 mini-grant cycle is STEM (Science,



Technology, Engineering, Math), with no age group focus. Grants are for \$250 each, with a required \$60 match in local funds. Please review the guidelines and Outcomes-Based Evaluation (OBE) info at the above website, including types of purchases eligible for the mini-grants, and watch for the link to the online application on CYS-Lib on January 2.

Fall Workshop Materials Online

The presentation slides and all the handouts from the Fall Youth Services Workshops are now [available online](#). Learn all about the fun and benefits of blowing bubbles for all ages (who knew they could teach so much about STEM?!), catch some good STEM books and resources, find some excellent tips from your CO colleagues for planning and running SRPs, and more.

More 2014 SRP Resources

Check out these great resources from the [Iowa summer reading program website](#). A few of the resources are specific to Iowa but most are general. It's a great website, full of fun and useful SRP ideas!

2014 Colorado Teen Video Contest

The [2014 Teen Video Contest](#) is on! Teens, 13–18, individually or in teams, can create a 30–90 second



public service announcement video promoting the 2014 summer reading program and theme, "Spark a Reaction," to other teens. There are great prizes for both the teen winner and his/her library! Video submissions and forms are due February 21, 2014.

Book Nook

CLEL Bells—Vote Now!

The [CLEL Bells](#) selection committee has whittled the nominations down to a shortlist of 25 titles – 5 for each practice (READ, TALK, SING, WRITE, PLAY) – and wants to hear what you think of them! While the selection committee will make the final award choices, your thoughts and experience are vital components of the consideration process. Please VOTE NOW on the titles, and, most importantly, tell us WHY you are choosing a particular title for that practice. We need to hear all unique perspectives, so make your voice heard! [Vote here by January 10!](#) The 2014 CLEL Bell Award winners will be announced on February 5, 2014.



In support of the Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy's (CLEL) mission, the annual Bell Awards will recognize picture books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children; serve as a collection development, program planning, and early literacy information resource for librarians, educators, and caregivers; and provide recognition to authors, illustrators, and publishers. Want to learn more about CLEL Bells? [Watch this recent webinar](#) featuring Melissa Depper!

YALSA's Morris and Nonfiction Award Finalists Announced

YALSA announced [5 finalists](#) for the 2014 Morris Award, which honors a book written for young

adults by a previously unpublished author. YALSA also revealed its [5 finalists](#) for its 2014 Nonfiction Award, which honors the best nonfiction books written for young adults. Stay tuned for the winners of these and the other YALSA awards to be announced Jan. 27.

ALSC announces Graphic Novels Reading List and Tween Reads

ALSC (Association for Library Service to Children) recently announced its latest Graphic Novel Reading Lists, intended for children from kindergarten through 8th grade. [Download a free copy today!](#) ALSC also compiled this list of recommended books for tweens, available in [full color](#) and [black and white](#) to download and print.

One Book 4 Colorado

Save the Dates: Webinars are Coming!

Save one of these dates to attend a webinar all about 2014 One Book 4 Colorado:

- Tuesday, February 25, noon to 1:00 pm
- Thursday, February 27, 8:00 to 9:00 am



Both sessions will cover the same topics; watch for the full description soon.

Timely Tidbits

CATS Conference & Resources

It is with great excitement that the Children and Teen Services (CATS) Division of the Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) invites children and teen services staff from Colorado libraries to STREAM into the New Year at the first annual CATS Division Winter Workshop! Join us as we explore Science, Technology,



Reading, Engineering, Art and Mathematics related programming in your library.

Continental breakfast will be provided along with a variety of boxed lunches. And, find out the winners of the CATS Mock Caldecott and Mock Printz Award winners! (Find out more about the contests and [be reading the finalists now!](#))

When: Wednesday, Jan. 23rd, 8:30 am–3:00 pm

Where: Sam Gary Branch, Denver Public Library

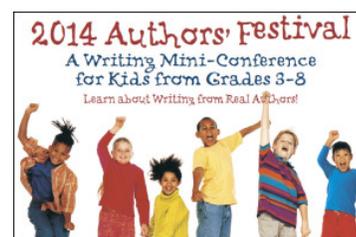
Cost: CAL Members \$30.00

Non-Members \$45.00

Register: [online](#)

CCIRA: Authors' Festival for Kids and Conference

Registration is now open for the [CCIRA \(CO Chapter of the International Reading Association\) Authors' Festival](#) (Feb. 8, 2014 in Denver), which is a 1/2 day writing workshop for kids grades 3–8, featuring great authors! And for the adults, CCIRA is offering its [2014 Conference on Literacy](#) February 5–8 in Denver. Registration is now open!



Americans say they still love their libraries

According to new survey results released this month from the Pew Internet and American Life Project, Americans strongly value the role of public libraries in their communities, both for providing access to materials and resources and for promoting literacy and improving the overall quality of life. Most Americans say they have only had positive experiences at public libraries, and value a range of library resources and services. Just a few highlights from the results:

- 95% of respondents say public libraries are important because they promote literacy and a love of reading
- 69% say programs for youth are very or

somewhat important to them and their families

- Among parents with minor children living at home, 70% say that a child in the house has visited a public library or bookmobile in the past 12 months

[Check out the Pew website](#) for the full report.

And take a look at [this article](#) from *The Atlantic*, which gives public libraries an even greater spin by comparing these survey results with those of other American bastions, concluding that they are more popular than baseball and even apple pie!



PowerMyLearning

[PowerMyLearning](#) is a completely free digital learning platform for K–12 students, educators, and parents that offers thousands of free Common Core–aligned learning activities from across the web. A team of educators carefully vets the best games, videos, and interactive simulations from publishers like PBS, Discovery, National Geographic, Khan Academy, Scholastic, and more. Then they tag them by subject, grade, Common Core standards, Spanish–language support, and other criteria. The platform offers tools for personalizing instruction and supporting student–driven learning. Also, it lets families reinforce important academic concepts at home and spark new areas of interest.

New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award Application Available

The annual New York Life Excellence in Summer



- Learning Award recognizes outstanding summer programs that demonstrate excellence in accelerating academic achievement and promoting healthy development for young people between kindergarten and 12th grade.

Applicants are reviewed by National Summer Learning Association staff in addition to peer organizations in the field. Deadline: February 14. [Apply today](#) to show off what great summer programs Colorado libraries offer!

Can We Disrupt Poverty by Changing How Poor Parents Talk to Their Kids?

Through a \$5 million grant, [this groundbreaking project](#) in Providence, RI, brings training to parents, as well as an innovative device to measure how many words young children hear each day, all started by the city government.

CLEL Blog

Catch the [CLEL Blog](#) for some really

useful recent entries, including:

- When a book isn't working
- Winter snow stories
- Singing when you're not a singer
- Engaging with kids outside of storytime
- All ages storytimes

...and much more!



Digital Natives or Digital Naives? The Role of Skill in Internet Use

Check out this [archived talk](#), based on original data, that considers disparities in people's Web use skills and how skills relate to what people do online. Analyses suggest that skills are not randomly distributed among users; rather, they depend on demographic and socioeconomic factors as well as user context even when controlling for access differences.

TEDYouth 2013

[TEDYouth 2013](#) was a day–long event for students, with more than 20 speakers, including scientists, explorers, artists and more—and some teens—sharing short lessons on what they do best. Share the archived sessions with your teens for inspiration.

STEM Corner

[Math at the Core: Middle School](#)

This free resource from PBS LearningMedia will gather over 420 digital resources that focus on critical middle school math concepts. These resources are designed for middle school students of diverse learning styles and backgrounds and are aligned with the Common Core Standards in Mathematics for grades 5–8. Watch for this growing collection of innovative and engaging media, like videos and real-world problems, that makes math fun and inviting.

And sign up for your free account to check out all of [PBS LearningMedia](#)'s STEM-related resources for pre-k through college students and educators.

[STEM Sprouts](#)

Boston Children's Museum offers this great teaching guide to assist preschool educators in focusing and refining the naturally inquisitive behaviors of three to five-year-olds in STEM areas. It provides many fun, developmentally-appropriate STEM activities for preschoolers, along with info on brain development and why each activity is effective.

Best Science Picture Books of 2013

Slate published [this list](#) of its recommended science picture books published in 2013.

Steve Spangler, Guest Pinner

Steve Spangler, a science teacher, science toy designer, speaker, author—and Coloradoan!—was the guest Pinner recently for the National AfterSchool Association's Pinterest page. [Check out what he pinned!](#)

The Importance of Playdough

This is [an older article](#), but a fantastic, detailed exploration of the importance that Playdough can play in healthy early childhood

development, from early literacy skills to STEM to physical development. Includes great tips!

Webinar: Ignite Girls' Interest in STEM through Role Models

Role models and mentors can truly make a difference in a girl's life, especially when it comes to inspiring her to pursue STEM. This free webinar will feature the National Girls Collaborative Project's (NGCP) FabFems Role Model Directory, a national database of women who are inspiring role models for young women. Participants will learn how to effectively provide role models and mentors for girls, including strategies for recruiting, retaining and recognizing professional volunteers.

When: Thursday, Jan. 9, 1:00 to 2:00 pm MT

Register: [online](#) (free)

Digital Learning Day: February 5, 2014

SAVE THE DATE
DIGITAL LEARNING DAY

FEBRUARY 5, 2014

Digital Learning Day is a nationwide celebration of innovative educators and common-sense, effective applications of digital learning for students to achieve at their highest potential. Digital Learning Day materials and resources support educators at all levels as they navigate the shift to more robust digital learning environments to achieve higher standards for students. Check out the [event's official website](#) for activities, graphics and PR materials, toolkits, and much more. And be the first from CO to [register your Digital Learning Day event!](#)

Library 2.013 Presentations: Recordings Freely Available

Library 2.013 is a free, professional development learning experience for information professionals. The Library 2.013

conference featured 10 keynote addresses and more than 140 conference sessions. Presenters shared information, research, and opinions at the online conference, which attracted more than 5,000 participants from 169 countries. All of the presentations from the Library 2.013 conference are [freely available to access online](#).

Register Your 2014 Día Program

Are you celebrating El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day) in 2014? Submit your program to the [Día National Program Registry](#) to receive stickers, buttons, and bookmarks!



News from YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association):

- Check out this [YALSA blog post](#) for some great examples of teen programming 'round the country in 2013.
- YALSA has produced [this short advocacy video](#) promoting the importance of public libraries for teens.
- During ALA's 2013 Annual Conference, YALSA held an advocacy booth and asked those who stopped by to give their definition of advocacy. Check out the resulting [Vine videos here](#).
- And for more advocacy tools, YALSA produced [this brochure](#) about public libraries as afterschool program providers.
- Learn all about Teen Tech Week 2014 (March 9–15) at the event's [Ning site](#) to be ready to celebrate in your library!
- On January 21 at noon MT, YALSA will kick off its 3–webinar series leading up to Teen Tech Week™! To register for this free webinar, “Createch: Take it and Make it Big,” join the [Teen Tech Week Ning](#) site. Once you've joined, you'll receive a link to register for the webinar via email.
- YALSA is joining with WWE and We Give

Books to launch a new and improved WrestleMania Reading Challenge for 2014. [Pre-register now](#) to receive a notification as soon as the Challenge launches in mid-January so you can alert your kid, tween and teen library patrons to start reading for a chance to win great prizes. Kids, tweens and teens can check back on the site in January 2014 to read with their favorite Reading Tag Team Partner.

CO Libraries in the Press

Jeffco Public Library offers workshop for reading to deaf, hard of hearing children

[This workshop](#) earlier this month focused on the effective book sharing techniques outlined in [The 15 Principles of Reading to Deaf Children](#), which is based on book sharing strategies deaf adults use when reading to deaf and hard of hearing children. Topics covered included why reading is important, how to use sign language to share stories, reading while not knowing all the signs, and keeping American Sign Language and English visible while reading.

Colorado Libraries Assist Communities in Natural Disasters

[This recent article](#) in the County Lines newsletter highlights the excellent services that so many Colorado libraries have provided their communities during recent forest fires and flooding.

Douglas County Libraries ends fines on picture books

Beginning January 1, 2014, Douglas County Libraries will [no longer charge overdue fines on picture books](#). These books will still have due dates, and, if not returned after six weeks, be categorized as “lost” (and subject to replacement cost if never returned). However, no fines will be assessed on picture books returned at any time

after the due date. Library staff will track this project through 2014 to determine whether the policy achieves the desired goal of increasing picture book circulation. At the end of the year, staff will recommend continuing or discontinuing the practice, based on initial results.

Kids winter reading program runs through Jan. 12 at Broomfield library

The [Cool Kids Winter Reading Program](#) at Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library in Broomfield runs through Jan. 12. The program for kids ages newborn to 12 allows kids to read three books to be entered into a prize drawing.

Eagle Scout builds storytime cart for Aurora Public Library

Eagle Scout Jay McBeth [built a storytime cart](#) for the Mission Viejo Library, a branch of the Aurora Public Library. The cart features an adjustable stand for books that also doubles as a dry-erase board and has 9 cubbies for storing all sorts of puppets and treats and a flannel board.

Cortez Book donation program serves 610

[A county-wide book donation program](#) in Montezuma County has ballooned beyond expectations in its first year and now serves 610 children. The Imagination Library, brought to the community by the Cortez Rotary Club, sends children 5 years old and younger a free book every month. The Cortez Public Library staff stays actively involved by promoting the program and signing kids up for it.

Colorado School Librarians Hopeful, Yet Wary, After Education Tax Bill's Defeat

School Library Journal recently [featured an article](#) on the impact of the defeat of Colorado's Amendment 66, a statewide tax bill seeking to raise \$950 million for education reform, on the state's school libraries. The article outlines a holding pattern for now for school library funding, with continued efforts to advocate for the critical

importance of teacher librarians and to demonstrate their excellent work throughout the state.

Upcoming Grant Opportunity

[Coretta Scott King Book Awards Donation Grant](#)

Deadline: January 31, 2014

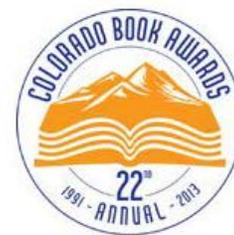
Every year, in the process of choosing the Coretta Scott King Book Award winners and honor books, ALA receives multiple copies of about 100 titles by African American authors and illustrators, including a full set of the year's winning and honor titles. Libraries (either school or public) or other child-serving agencies may apply for this grant to receive a set of these books. Applicants must demonstrate need and accessibility, and explain how the collection will help them better serve the children and youth of their community.

Teen Zone *cont.*

[Colorado Book Awards](#)

Since 1991, Colorado Humanities (and now in conjunction with the Colorado Center for the Book) has recognized talented authors, editors, photographers, and illustrators in the state through the Colorado Book Awards. Young Adult literature, added in 1993, is amongst the 13 categories of awards this year. Current Colorado residents are eligible for the award, as are individuals engaged in ongoing literary work in the state and authors whose personal history, identity, or literary work reflect a strong Colorado influence.

Authors and publishers may nominate titles. Individuals may apply to be selectors to narrow



down the titles to the finalists, and to be judges who choose the winners from the finalists. Titles published in 2013 are eligible for the 2014 award; winners will be announced in June 2014.

[YALSA Book and Media Lists](#)

Check these links for the current and past lists!

[Amazing Audiobooks List](#)

Each year, YALSA's Amazing Audiobooks committee selects and annotates an annual list of notable audio recordings significant to young adults from those released in the past two years. The list was previously known as Selected Audiobooks for Young



Adults. [You may suggest titles for the list online.](#)

[Best Fiction for Young Adults](#)

This awards committee presents fiction titles published for young adults in the past 16 months that are recommended reading for ages 12 to 18. The purpose of the annual list is to provide library staff with a resource to use for collection development and reader's advisory.

[You may suggest titles for this list online.](#)

[Fabulous Films for Young Adults](#)

Each year, the Fabulous Films for Young Adults committee selects a list of films around a theme that will appeal to young adults in a variety of library settings (the list was previously called Selected DVD & Videos). Titles will be selected to appeal to young adults with varied tastes and interests. The 2014 theme is Schools' Out Forever! 2014 will be the last year for this list, but check out the archived lists from years past going back to 1997. You're welcome to [suggest films for the list online.](#)

[Great Graphic Novels](#)

Great Graphic Novels for Teens is a list of recommended graphic novels and illustrated nonfiction for those ages 12–18, prepared yearly by YALSA. Though the committee does welcome nominations to the list each year, they are closed for the 2014 list.

[Outstanding Books for the College Bound](#)

The books on this list offer opportunities to discover new ideas, and provide an introduction to the fascinating variety of subjects within an

academic discipline. Readers will gain an understanding of our diverse world and build a foundation to deepen their response to that world. A YALSA committee of public, secondary school, and academic librarians selects the list. Revised every five years as a tool for several audiences (students preparing for college, educators, librarians, and parents), it offers opportunities for independent reading and lifelong learning. The committee is [currently accepting nominations](#) for the 2014 list!

[Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults](#)

Each year, the Popular Paperbacks committee creates lists of books to encourage young adults to read for pleasure. The lists of popular or topical titles are widely available in paperback and represent a broad variety of accessible themes and genres. Though the committee does welcome nominations to the list, they are closed for the 2014 list.

[Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers](#)

This list identifies titles aimed at encouraging reading among teens that dislike reading for whatever reason. The list selects both fiction and nonfiction. You may [suggest titles for this list online now.](#)

[Readers' Choice](#)

This list seeks to engage a wide audience of librarians, educators, teens and young adult literature enthusiasts in choosing the most popular teen titles in a given year, as organized by broad genres. It will also provide librarians with a timely means of identifying popular teen titles on an ongoing basis. Nominations are posted monthly, with a final vote each November. Any individual, provided he/she is not the author or an employee of the publisher, may nominate a title via an online form, while only YALSA members are eligible to vote for the final ballot in November.

[Teens' Top Ten](#)

The Teens' Top Ten is a "teen choice" list, where teens nominate and choose their favorite books of the previous year. Nominators are members of teen book groups in school and public libraries around the country. Nominations are posted on Celebrate Teen Literature Day, the Thursday of National Library Week, and teens ages 12–18 across the country [vote online](#) between August 15 and Teen Read Week; the winners are announced the week after Teen Read Week.



[Best of the Best](#)

Find the best books and media for youth each year through YALSA's Best of the Best! YALSA also offers downloadable spine labels, customizable bookmarks, and more tools for librarians to use to promote the very best in teen books to teens in their communities.

[YALSA Book Awards](#)

YALSA's annual national book awards are highly competitive and coveted. They are announced each year at the ALA Midwinter Conference in January.

[Alex Awards](#)

The Alex Awards are given to ten books written for adults that have special appeal to young adults, ages 12 – 18. The winning titles are selected from the previous year's publishing. The Alex Awards were first given annually beginning in 1998 and became an official ALA award in 2002. You may [suggest titles for this award online](#).

[Edwards Award](#)

This award honors an author, as well as a specific body of his or her work, for significant and lasting contribution to YA literature. The annual award is administered by YALSA and sponsored by *School Library Journal* magazine. It recognizes an author's work in helping adolescents become aware of themselves and addressing questions about their role and importance in relationships, society, and in the world. The Edwards award celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2013. You may [suggest authors for this award online](#).

[Morris Award](#)

The William C. Morris YA Debut Award, first awarded in 2009, honors a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens and celebrating impressive new voices in young adult literature. You may [suggest titles for this award online](#).

[Odyssey Award](#)

This annual award will be given to the producer of the best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults, available in English in the

United States. The selection committee may also select honor titles. The Odyssey Award is jointly given and administered by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and YALSA and is sponsored by *Booklist*. You are welcome to [suggest titles for this award online](#).

[Nonfiction Award](#)

The YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction honors the best nonfiction book published for young adults (ages 12–18) during a Nov. 1 – Oct. 31 publishing year. You may [suggest titles for this award online](#) (though nominations are closed for the 2013 award).

[Printz Award](#)

The Michael L. Printz Award is an award for a book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature. The award is sponsored by *Booklist*. You are welcome to [suggest titles for this award online](#).

Note: Use and Reproduction of YALSA's Awards and Lists: YALSA's lists of recommended reading may be reproduced under "fair use" standards.

Other YA Book Awards and Lists

[National Book Award](#)

Established in 1950, the National Book Award is an American literary prize administered by the National Book Foundation, a nonprofit organization. Each year, the Foundation selects 5 judges in each of the 4 Award categories: Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, and Young People's Literature. In order to be eligible, a book must be written by an American citizen and published by an American publisher between December 1 of the previous year and November 30 of the current year; publishers nominate the titles.

The Young People's Literature Award was added in 1969. Check out the [online exhibit](#) featuring all 229 titles that have won or been nominated for the National Book Award in this category since then.

[Américas Book Award](#)

CLASP—the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs—founded the Américas Award in 1993 to encourage and commend authors, illustrators and publishers who produce quality children's and young adult books that portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the U.S., and to provide educators with recommendations. Up to 2 awards (for primary and secondary reading levels), together with a recommended list of titles, are given in recognition of U.S. published works of fiction, poetry, folklore, or selected non-fiction (from picture books to works for young adults) that authentically and engagingly portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States. Publishers nominate titles. Awards and the recommended list are announced each spring.

[The Cybils](#)

The Cybils—which stands for Children's and

Young Adult Bloggers Literary Awards—are given each year since 2006 by bloggers for the year's best children's and



young adult titles. Any English or bilingual books published in the U.S. or Canada between the end of one contest and start of another (mid-October is the contest start). Anyone may nominate one book per genre during the public nomination period, October 1–15 each year. Finalists are posted January 1st; winners are announced February 14th.

[International Reading Association's Children's and Young Adults' Book Awards](#)

This award is intended for newly published authors who show unusual promise in the children's and young adults' book field. Awards are given for fiction and nonfiction in each of three categories: primary, intermediate, and young adult. Books from all countries and published in English for the first time during the 2013 calendar year will be considered. Titles are submitted by authors and publishers.

[Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards](#)

First presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards have 3 categories: Picture Book, Fiction and Poetry, and Nonfiction (the latter 2 categories may be children's or YA books). Two Honor Books may be named in each category. The winning titles must be published in the U.S. but may be written or illustrated by citizens of any country. The awards are chosen by an independent panel of three judges appointed by the Editor of the *Horn Book*.

[AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prizes for Excellence in Science Books](#)

The AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science)/Subaru SB&F Prizes for Excellence in Science Books celebrate outstanding science writing and illustration for children and young adults. The prizes are

meant to encourage the writing and publishing of high-quality science books for all age groups. Prizes are awarded in 3 age-group categories, including books for high school students. First awarded in 2005, the prizes encourage children and young adults to turn to science books, not only for information, but for enjoyment too!

[Walden Award](#)

The Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award, presented annually by ALAN (Assembly on Literature for Adolescents), is an award for a book that exemplifies literary excellence, widespread appeal, and a positive approach to life in young adult literature. Honor and winning titles must be a work of fiction; be published within one year prior to the call for titles; be published in the U.S. but may have been published elsewhere prior; and possess a positive approach to life, widespread teen appeal, and literary merit.

[The Edgars](#)

Each spring, Mystery Writers of America present the Edgar® Awards honoring the best in mystery fiction, non-fiction and television, published or produced in the last calendar year. The awards include a Best Young Adult category annually. Publishers and producers submit nominations.

As a child, I read because books—violent and not, blasphemous and not, terrifying and not—were the most loving and trustworthy things in my life. I read widely, and loved plenty of the classics so, yes, I recognized the domestic terrors faced by Louisa May Alcott's March sisters. But I became the kid chased by werewolves, vampires, and evil clowns in Stephen King's books. I read books about monsters and monstrous things, often written with monstrous language, because they taught me how to battle the real monsters in my life.

And now I write books for teenagers because I vividly remember what it felt like to be a teen facing everyday and epic dangers. I don't write to protect them. It's far too late for that. I write to give them weapons—in the form of words and ideas—that will help them fight their monsters. I write in blood because I remember what it felt like to bleed.
— Sherman Alexie