Newbery Medal

Favorite Medal Winners and Honor Books

The Newbery Medal is the American Library Association's annual award for the most distinguished children's book of the preceding year. Many of the winners are written for middle-school age and older.

In addition to the Medalist, one or more Honor books are chosen as runners-up each year. Here is a selection of favorite Newbery Medal winners and Honor Books.

See the booklist, "The Newbery Medal" for a complete list of Newbery winners, or go to the American Library Association website: www.wla.org.

PICTURE BOOKS

E MILES — **ANNIE AND THE OLD ONE**
by Miska Miles (1972 Honor Book)
Every day, a Navaho grandmother works on weaving a beautiful rug. Every night, her granddaughter unravels the day's weaving. She's afraid that when the rug is finished, her grandmother will die.

J FICTION

J ALEXAND — **THE BLACK CAULDRON**
by Lloyd Alexander (1966 Honor Book)
In a race against the evil Horned King, a young assistant pig keeper named Taran must be the first to find the Black Cauldron. If he fails, Horned King will unleash the cauldron's power and take over the world. This is the first book of the Chronicles of Prydain.

J ALEXAND — **THE HIGH KING**
by Lloyd Alexander
(1969 Medalist) In this fifth and final chronicle of Prydain the forces of good and evil meet in ultimate confrontation.

J ARMSTRO — **SOUNDER**
by William Howard Armstrong
(1970 Medalist)
Angry and humiliated when his sharecropper father is jailed for stealing food for his family, a young black boy grows in courage and understanding with the help of the devoted dog, Sounder.

J
BRINK

CADDIE WOODLAWN
by Carol Ryrie Brink (1936 Medalist)
Caddie Woodlawn is an eleven-year-old tomboy growing up on the Wisconsin frontier.

J
BRITTAI

THE WISH GIVER: THREE TALES OF COVEN TREE
by Bill Brittain (1984 Honor Book)
When a strange little man comes to the Coven Tree Church Social promising he can give people exactly what they ask for, three young believers-in-magic each make a wish. Their wishes come true. But they should have been a lot more careful what they wished for.

J
BYARS

THE SUMMER OF THE SWANS
by Betsy Cromer Byars
(1971 Medalist)
One summer, a teen-age girl is bored with caring for her mentally retarded brother. Then her brother gets lost.

J
CLEARY

RAMONA AND HER FATHER
by Beverly Cleary (1978 Honor Book)
Ramona the Pest is in second grade, and life is more uncertain. Her father has lost his job.

J
COOPER

THE DARK IS RISING
by Susan Cooper (1974 Honor Book)
On his eleventh birthday Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to take part in a magical quest against the evil forces of the Dark.

J
CURTIS

THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM,1963
by Christopher Paul Curtis
(1996 Honor Book)
Enter the hilarious world of ten-year old Kenny and his family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. There's Momma, Dad, Little sister Joetta, and Byron, who's thirteen and an official "juvenile delinquent." It's 1963, and this African American family is heading South to Birmingham Alabama to visit Grandma.

J
CURTIS

BUD, NOT BUDDY
by Christopher Paul Curtis
(2000 Medalist)
Ten-year-old Bud is a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression. He escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids. Bud firmly believes that Calloway is his father.

J
FENNER

YOLONDA'S GENIUS
by Carol Fenner (1996 Honor Book)
After moving from Chicago to Grand River, Michigan, fifth grader Yolonda, will go to any lengths to prove that her littler brother is not just a slow learner, but a true musical genius.

J
FLEISCH

THE WHIPPING BOY
by Sid Fleischman (1987 Medalist)
When Prince Brat catches his whipping boy escaping from the palace, he demands to go with. Soon they're captured by dangerous outlaws, who think the prince is the whipping boy, and the whipping boy is the prince.

J
FOX

THE SLAVE DANCER
by Paula Fox (1974 Medalist)
Kidnapped by the crew of an Africa-bound ship, a thirteen-year-old boy discovers to his horror that he is on a slaver and his job is to play music for the exercise periods of the human cargo.

J
GIPSON

OLD YELLER
by Frederick Benjamin Gipson
(1957 Honor Book)
Travis thought his life was so full, he didn't need the dirty yellow hound that attached itself to him. Especially one that howled like a banshee and stole food from the neighbors. But life on the frontier is hard, and Old Yeller turned out to be an unexpected hero.

J
HENRY

KING OF THE WIND
by Marguerite Henry (1949 Medalist)
The adventures of the Arabian stallion brought to England to become one of the founding sires of the Thoroughbred breed, and the mute Arab stable boy who tended him with loyalty and devotion all his life.

J
HENRY

MISTY OF CHINCOTEAGUE
by Marguerite Henry (1948 Honor Book)
Among the wild ponies of Assateague Island live a strangely beautiful mare called Phantom and her little colt, Misty. No one thinks these two can be captured, but Paul and his sister Maureen have their hearts set on taming them.

J
KONIGSB

FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER
by E. L. Konigsburg (1968 Medalist)
Twelve year old Claudia runs way with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

J
LAWSON

RABBIT HILL
by Robert Lawson (1945 Medalist)
New folks are coming to live in the Big House. The animals of Rabbit Hill wonder if they will plant a garden and thus be good providers.

J
LISLE

AFTERNOON OF THE ELVES
by Janet Taylor Lisle (1990 Honor Book)
As Hillary works in the miniature village, allegedly built by elves, in Sara-Kate's backyard, she becomes more and more curious about Sara-Kate's real life inside her big, gloomy house with her mysterious, silent mother.

J
LOWRY

NUMBER THE STARS
by Lois Lowry (1990 Medalist)
In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie finds the courage to help shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

J MACLACH **SARAH, PLAIN AND TALL**
by Patricia MacLachlan (1986 Medalist)
When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay.

J MCGRAW **THE MOORCHILD**
by Eloise Jarvis McGraw
(1997 Honor Book)
Feeling that she is neither fully human nor "Folk," a changeling learns her true identity and attempts to find the human child whose place she had been given.

J OBRIEN **MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH**
by Robert C. O'Brien (1972 Medalist)
Having no one to help her with her problems, a widowed mouse visits the rats whose former imprisonment in a laboratory made them wise and long lived.

J PATERSO **THE GREAT GILLY HOPKINS**
by Katherine Paterson (1979 Honor Book)
An eleven-year-old foster child tries to cope with her longings and fears as she schemes against everyone who tries to be friendly.

J RASKIN **THE WESTING GAME**
by Ellen Raskin (1979 Medalist)
The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

J RYLANT **MISSING MAY**
by Cynthia Rylant (1993 Medalist)
After the death of the beloved aunt who has raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.

J SELDEN **THE CRICKET IN TIMES SQUARE**
by George Selden (1961 Honor Book)
The adventures of a country cricket who unintentionally arrives in New York and is befriended by Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat.

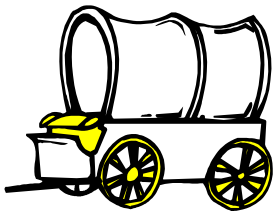
J SPEARE **THE SIGN OF THE BEAVER**
by Elizabeth George Speare (1984 Honor Book)
Left alone to guard the family's wilderness home in eighteenth-century Maine, a boy is barely able to survive until local Indians begin to teach him their skills.

Y TURNER **THE THIEF**
by Megan Turner (1997 Honor Book)
Gen flaunts his ingenuity as a thief and relishes the adventure which takes him to a remote temple of the gods where he will attempt to steal a precious stone.

J WHITE **CHARLOTTE'S WEB**
by E. B. White (1953 Honor Book)
Charlotte the spider is "a good writer and a good friend" to Wilbur the pig.

J WILDER **BY THE SHORES OF SILVER LAKE**
by Laura Ingalls Wilder (1940 Honor Book)
Ma and the girls follow Pa west by train where they make their home at a rough railroad camp and plan for their own homestead.

J WILDER **LITTLE TOWN ON THE PRAIRIE**
by Laura Ingalls Wilder (1942 Honor Book)
Laura Ingalls and her family journey west by covered wagon, only to find they are in Indian territory and must move on.

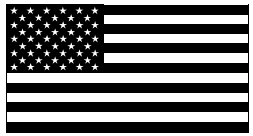


J WILDER **THE LONG WINTER**
by Laura Ingalls Wilder (1941 Honor Book)
After an October blizzard, Laura's family moves from the claim shanty into town for the winter, a winter that an Indian has predicted will be seven months of bad weather.

J WILDER **THESE HAPPY GOLDEN YEARS**
by Laura Ingalls Wilder (1944 Honor Book)
Laura has her first experiences as a teacher, and is courted by Almanzo Wilder.

Y FICTION

Y AVI **NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH: A DOCUMENTARY NOVEL**
by Avi (1992 Honor Book)
A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story. Everybody has an opinion about it; what is the truth?



Y AVI **THE TRUE CONFESSIONS OF CHARLOTTE DOYLE**
by Avi (1991 Honor Book)
Charlotte is the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, on a ship with a murderous captain and a rebellious crew.

Y BROOKS **THE MOVES MAKE THE MAN**
by Bruce Brooks (1985 Honor Book)
A black boy and an emotionally troubled white boy in North Carolina form a precarious friendship.

Y CUSHMAN **THE MIDWIFE'S APPRENTICE**
by Karen Cushman (1996 Medalist)
In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.

Y FARMER

THE EAR, THE EYE, AND THE ARM
by Nancy Farmer (1995 Honor Book)
In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.

Y FORBES

JOHNNY TREMAIN
by Esther Forbes (1944 Medalist)
After an accident which renders Johnny Tremain's hand useless, he becomes a dispatch rider for the Committee of Public Safety. There he comes meets John Hancock, John & Samuel Adams, and others involved in events leading up to the Boston Tea Party and the Battle of Lexington.

Y GEORGE

JULIE OF THE WOLVES
by Jean Craighead George
(1973 Medalist)
While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack.

Y GEORGE

MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN
by Jean Craighead George
(1960 Honor Book)
The adventures of a young boy who runs away to live alone in the Catskill Mountains.

Y HUNT

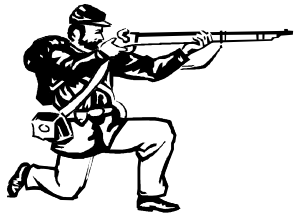
ACROSS FIVE APRILS
by Irene Hunt (1965 Honor Book)
Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in Illinois during the difficult years of the Civil War.

Y HUNT

UP A ROAD SLOWLY
by Irene Hunt (1967 Medalist)
Julia Trelling is only seven years old when her mother dies and her life is totally disrupted. Sent to the country to live with her Aunt Cordelia, Julie struggles to maturity over the next ten years. What makes this coming-of-age story compelling are details like Julie's unusual insight, and her wonderfully crazy uncle, who shows her where to look for her real aspirations. One 6th grade reviewer called this historical novel a “must read.”

Y KEITH

RIFLES FOR WATIE
by Harold Keith (1958 Medalist)
A young farmer named Jeff Bussey, joins the Union volunteers and becomes a scout and soldier in the West. He sees the Civil War from both sides and lives to tell about it.



Y KELLY

THE TRUMPETER OF KRAKOW
by Eric Philbrook Kelly (1929 Medalist)
A Polish family in the Middle Ages guards a great secret treasure. This is a tale of exciting adventure, set against an authentic 15th Century background.

Y
LE GUIN

THE TOMBS OF ATUAN
by Ursula K. Le Guin (1972 Honor Book)
Arha's isolated existence as high priestess in the tombs of Atuan is jarred by a thief who seeks a special treasure.

Y
LOWRY

THE GIVER
by Lois Lowry (1994 Medalist)
Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

Y
MCKINLE

THE BLUE SWORD
by Robin McKinley (1983 Honor Book)
Harry discovers magic in herself and is kidnapped by a king with mysterious powers.

Y
MCKINLE

THE HERO AND THE CROWN
by Robin McKinley (1985 Medalist)
Aerin, with the guidance of the wizard Luthe and the help of the blue sword, wins the birthright due her as the daughter of the Damarian king and a witch-woman of the mysterious, demon-haunted North.

Y
ODELL

THE BLACK PEARL
by Scott O'Dell (1968 Honor Book)
In claiming as his own the magnificent black pearl he finds, a sixteen-year-old youth enrages the sea devil who legend says is its owner.

Y
ODELL

ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS
by Scott O'Dell (1961 Medalist)
Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, somehow finding the courage and self-reliance to survive.

Y
ODELL

SING DOWN THE MOON
by Scott O'Dell (1971 Honor Book)
A young Navajo girl recounts the events of 1864 when her tribe was forced to march to Fort Sumner as prisoners of the white soldiers.

Y
PATERSO

JACOB HAVE I LOVED
by Katherine Paterson (1981 Medalist)
Feeling deprived all her life of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to find her identity.

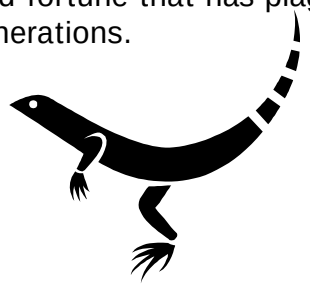
Y
PAULSEN

DOGSONG
by Gary Paulsen (1986 Honor Book)
A fourteen-year-old Eskimo boy takes a 1400-mile journey by dog sled across ice, tundra, and mountains seeking his own "song" of himself.

Y
PAULSEN

HATCHET
by Gary Paulsen (1988 Honor Book)
After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet.

Y SACHAR **HOLES**
by Louis Sachar (1999 Medalist)
Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert for a crime he didn't commit. There, he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and an end to the bad fortune that has plagued his family for generations.



Y SPEARE **THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND**
by Elizabeth George Speare
(1959 Medalist)
When her grandfather dies in 1687, Kit Tyler is forced to leave a carefree life on Barbados to go and live with her Puritan aunt in Connecticut Colony. As she tries to escape the oppressive surroundings of her new home, Kit becomes friends with the Widow Tupper, a Quaker known to all as the Witch of Blackbird Pond.

Y STAPLES **SHABANU: DAUGHTER OF THE WIND**
by Suzanne Fisher Staples
(1990 Honor Book)
Eleven-year old Shabanu, the daughter of a nomad in the Cholistan Desert of present-day Pakistan, is pledged in marriage to an older man whose money will bring prestige to the family. Shabanu must either accept the decision, as is the custom, or risk the consequences of defying her father's wishes.

Y TAYLOR **ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY**
by Mildred D. Taylor (1977 Medalist)
A black family living in the South during the 1930's is faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand.

Y VOIGT **DICEY'S SONG**
by Cynthia Voigt (1983 Medalist)
Now that the four abandoned Tillerman children are settled in with their grandmother, Dicey finds that their new beginnings require love, trust, humor, and courage.

J BIOGRAPHIES

J B LINCOLN FREEDMA **LINCOLN: A PHOTOBIOGRAPHY**
by Russell Freedman (1988 Medalist)
Photographs and text trace the life of the Civil War President.

J B KHERDIA KHERDIA **THE ROAD FROM HOME: THE STORY OF AN ARMENIAN GIRL**
by David Kherdian (1980 Honor Book)
A portrait of the youth of the author's mother, an Armenian girl who suffered many hardships and finally arrived in America as a mail-order bride.

J B REISS REISS **THE UPSTAIRS ROOM**
by Johanna Reiss (1973 Honor Book)
A Dutch Jewish girl describes the two-and-one-half years she spent in hiding in the upstairs bedroom of a farmer's house during World War II.

J B
SIEGAL
SIEGAL

UPON THE HEAD OF THE GOAT: A CHILDHOOD IN HUNGARY
by Aranka Siegal (1982 Honor Book)
Nine-year-old Piri describes the bewilderment of being a Jewish child during the 1939-1944 German occupation of her hometown (then in Hungary and now in the Ukraine) and relates the ordeal of trying to survive in the ghetto.

J NON-FICTION

J
291.24
HAMILTO

IN THE BEGINNING: CREATION STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD
by Virginia Hamilton (1989 Honor Book)
An illustrated collection of twenty-five myths from various parts of the world explaining the creation of the world.

J
551.2109
LAUBER

VOLCANO: THE ERUPTION AND HEALING OF MOUNT ST. HELENS
by Patricia Lauber (1987 Honor Book)
A very readable account of how and why Mount St. Helens erupted in May 1980.

J
599.7444
NORTH

RASCAL
by Sterling North (1964 Honor Book)
The author's carefree life in a small mid-western town at the close of World War I, and his adventures with his pet raccoon, Rascal.

J
973.917
FREEDMA

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: A LIFE OF DISCOVERY
by Russell Freedman (1994 Honor Book)
A photo-biography of the first wife of a president to have a public life and career of her own.

J
977.311
MURPHY

THE GREAT FIRE
by Jim Murphy (1996 Honor Book)
Author Jim Murphy whisks you back in time to witness the disastrous 1871 Chicago Fire.

ADULT NON-FICTION

301.452
LESTER

TO BE A SLAVE
by Julius B. Lester (1969 Honor Book)
The true experiences of slaves and ex-slaves from leaving Africa through the Civil War and into the early twentieth century.