

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1. The entry shall be the author's/authors' first or second book in the category of Primary (ages preschool–8), Intermediate (ages 9–13), or Young Adult (ages 14–17).
2. Books from all countries and published in English for the first time during the 2020 calendar year will be considered.
3. This award is intended for newly published authors who show unusual promise in the children's and young adults' book fields.
4. Both fiction and nonfiction books are eligible; each will be rated according to characteristics that are specifically appropriate to the genre.
5. The awarded book should serve as a reading and literary standard by which readers can measure other books.
6. If appropriate to the genre, the awarded book should provide believable and intriguing characters growing naturally out of the events and actions in the text. Nonfiction books should exhibit excellence in the areas of authority and accuracy, organization, design, and writing style.
7. The awarded book should be truthful and authentic in its presentation of information and attitudes as they exist(ed) at the time and place in which the story reflects.
8. The awarded book should encourage young readers to read by providing them with something they will delight in and/or profit from by reading.
9. If the award-winning picture book (Primary category) is the first or second book of the illustrator, then the author and illustrator share the award. In all other cases, the author will receive the full award.
10. A book may be entered into the award competition by either its publisher or author (submission deadline **January 8, 2021**). One copy of each book submitted must be sent to each of the designated ILA Children's and Young Adults' Book Awards subcommittee members by **January 19, 2021**.
11. If the committee recommends finalists, their names will be published on *Literacy Now*, ILA's blog, and in *Literacy Today*, ILA's member magazine, in May.

Submission Timeline

- **Week of November 15, 2020:** Submissions open
- **January 8, 2021:** Submission deadline (must be submitted electronically)
- **April 2021:** Applicants notified of the results via email

How to Apply

All submissions must be completed through [our online application process](#).

Submission Directions

Note: Please be sure to review all the requirements on the form.

1. Complete applicant/nominator information.
2. Enter the book title. Up to six (6) titles can be submitted per form. Enter the book author(s) email address. The author will then be notified that their book has been nominated. Some fields are required, so please complete each section carefully. For additional titles, please complete another form.
3. Select the category (Fiction or Nonfiction) and age level of learners (Primary, Intermediate, or Young Adult).
4. Enter author's name and illustrator's name.
5. Upload the book cover image (front only; 300 dpi or higher).
6. No cover letter is required.
7. Review and submit.
8. Once submitted, the respective shipping list will be sent in a separate email.

Please direct any questions to ILAAwards@reading.org.