

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[press@reading.org](mailto:press@reading.org)

## INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION HONORS OUTSTANDING BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

NEWARK, Del. (July 1, 2026) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) proudly announces the recipients of its 2026 Children’s and Young Adult Book Awards. These awards honor newly published authors who demonstrate exceptional talent in literature for children and young adults, with a focus on authentic stories that connect with readers around the globe.

This year’s selected titles highlight the power of individuals and communities who challenge obstacles, reclaim their voices, and reshape the world around them. Together, these stories encourage readers to see the world through different perspectives.

### Primary Category

#### Fiction Winner:

*Forts* by Katie Venit (Penguin Young Readers)

#### Primary Fiction Honor:

*Giant Steps* by Anaïs Lambert (Blue Dot Kids Press)

#### Primary Nonfiction Winner:

*This Skirt Won’t Work!: How Women Athletes Changed Their Clothes and Changed the Game* by Jennifer Cooper (Sourcebooks Explore)

#### Primary Nonfiction Honor:

*Freedom at Dawn: Robert Smalls’s Voyage Out of Slavery* by Leah Schanke (Albert Whitman & Company)

### Intermediate Category

#### Intermediate Fiction Winner:

*The Boy, the Mountain, and the Serpent Who Ate the Moon* by Caris Avendaño Cruz (Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group)

#### Intermediate Fiction Honor:

*The Freedom Seeker* by Ruchira Gupta (Scholastic Press)

#### Intermediate Nonfiction Winner:

*Whale Eyes: A Memoir About Seeing and Being Seen* by James Robinson (Penguin Workshop)

#### Intermediate Nonfiction Honor:

*Kaho’olawe: The True Story of an Island and Her People* by Kamalani Hurley (Learner Publishing Group)

## **Young Adult Category**

### **Young Adult Fiction Winner:**

*This Is the Year* by Gloria Muñoz (Holiday House)

### **Young Adult Fiction Honor:**

*Raised By Ghosts* by Briana Loewinsohn (Fantagraphics)

### **Young Adult Nonfiction Winner:**

*Can Posters Kill?: Antisemitic Propaganda and World War II* by Jerry Faivish (Second Story Press)

### **Young Adult Nonfiction Honor:**

*Pushing Hope: An Illustrated Memoir of Survival* by Raymond Santana (Astra Books for Young Readers)

For more information and a full list of past winners, visit [literacyworldwide.org/awards](https://literacyworldwide.org/awards).

## **About the International Literacy Association**

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a professional membership organization of literacy educators, researchers, and experts spanning 128 countries. For 70 years, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught, and evaluated, connecting research and practice to improve the quality of literacy learning globally. Through its *Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals*, ILA provides an evidence-based benchmark for developing and evaluating literacy professional preparation programs. ILA collaborates worldwide to produce high-quality resources, including its peer-reviewed journals—*The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, and *Reading Research Quarterly*. Learn more at [literacyworldwide.org](https://literacyworldwide.org).

###