Recent Awards Roundup

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Yeeew-hawww! From the Newbery Medal to the Canadian Library Associations Book Awards it has been a rip-roaring year for children’s literature. Here is a short annotated roundup of some of those bronco-busting awards from the 1998-99 awards year.

**Newbery Medal**

The Newbery Medal, named for eighteenth-century British bookseller John Newbery, is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

**1999 Newbery Medal**

Louis Sachar, *Holes* (Frances Foster/Farrar Straus Giroux)

As further evidence of his family’s bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

**1999 Newbery Honor Book**

Richard Peck, *A Long Way from Chicago* (Dial)

A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother.

**Caldecott Medal**

The Caldecott Medal, named in honor of nineteenth-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott, is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

**1999 Caldecott Medal**

Mary Azarian, *Snowflake Bentley*, written by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (Houghton Mifflin)

The biography of a self-taught scientist who photographed thousands of individual snowflakes in order to study their unique formations.

**1999 Caldecott Honor Books**

Brian Pinkney, *Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra*, written by Andrea Davis Pinkney (Hyperion)

A brief recounting of the career of the jazz musician and composer who, along with his orchestra, created music that was beyond category.

David Shannon, *No David!* (Blue Sky/Scholastic)

A young boy does a variety of naughty things for which he is repeatedly admonished, but finally he gets a hug.

Uri Shulevitz, *Snow* (Farrar Straus Giroux)

As snowflakes slowly come down, one by one, people in the city ignore them, but a boy and his dog still hope that the snowfall will amount to something.

Peter Sis, *Tibet Through the Red Box* (Frances Foster/Farrar Straus Giroux)

In the red box, Peter Sis finds his father’s diary, kept when he was lost in Tibet in the mid-1950s. Reading the diary, Sis becomes the accidental traveler in Tibet. He remembers his father’s stories from childhood and his own longing for his father’s return.
Coretta Scott King Author and Illustrator Award
The Coretta Scott King Award honors African-American authors and illustrators for outstanding contributions to children’s and young adult literature which promote understanding and appreciation of the culture and the realization of the American Dream for all people.

1999 Coretta Scott King Author Award
Angela Johnson, *Heaven* (Simon & Schuster)
Fourteen-year-old Marley’s seemingly perfect life in the small town of Heaven is disrupted when she discovers that her father and mother are not her real parents.

1999 Coretta Scott King Author Honor Books
Nikki Grimes, *Jazmin’s Notebook* (Dial)
Jazmin, an African-American teenager who lives with her older sister in a small Harlem apartment in the 1960s, finds strength in writing poetry and keeping a record of the events in her sometimes difficult life.

Describes the discovery and study of the African burial site found in Manhattan in 1991, during excavation for a new building, and what it reveals about the lives of black people in Colonial times.

Angela Johnson, *The Other Side: Shorter Poems* (Orchard)
A collection of poems reminiscent of growing up as an African-American girl in Shorter, Alabama.

1999 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award
Michele Wood, *i see the rhythm*, text by Toyomi Igus (Children’s Book Press)
Chronicles poetically the history, mood, and movement of African American music.

Floyd Cooper, *I Have Heard of a Land*, written by Joyce Carol Thomas (Joanna Cotler/HarperCollins)
Describes the joys and hardships experienced by an African-American pioneer woman who staked a claim for free land in the Oklahoma territory.

E.B. Lewis, *The Bat Boy & His Violin*, written by Gavin Curtis (Simon & Schuster)
Reginald is more interested in practicing his violin than in his father’s job managing the worst team in the Negro Leagues, but when Papa makes him the bat boy and his music begins to lead the team to victory, Papa realizes the value of his son’s passion.

Brian Pinkney, *Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra*, written by Andrea Davis Pinkney (Hyperion)
A brief recounting of the career of this jazz musician and composer who, along with his orchestra, created music that was beyond category.

Mildred L. Batchelder Award
The Mildred L. Batchelder award, established in 1966, is a citation awarded to an American publisher for a children’s book considered to be the most outstanding of those books originally published in a foreign language in a foreign country, and subsequently translated into English and published in the United States.

1999 Mildred L. Batchelder Award
Schoschana Rabinovici, *Thanks to My Mother*, edited by Cindy Kane, translated from the Hebrew by James Skofield (Dial)
After struggling to survive in Nazi-occupied Lithuania, a young Jewish girl and her mother endure much suffering in Kaiserwald, Stutthof, and Tauentzien concentration camps and on an eleven-day death march before being liberated by the Russian army.
1999 Mildren L. Batchelder Honor Books
Susie Morgenstern, Secret Letters from 0 to 10, edited by Jill Davis, translated from the French by Gill Rosner (Viking)
Ten-year-old Ernest lives a boring existence in Paris with his grandmother until a lively girl named Victory enters his class at school.

Margaret A. Edwards Award
The Margaret A. Edwards Award for Outstanding Literature For Young Adults honors an author’s lifetime contribution in writing books for teenagers.

1999 Margaret A. Edwards Award
Anne McCaffrey
McCaffrey is the author of over 50 novels for young adults and adults. The first woman recipient of the Hugo Award, McCaffrey has also received the Nebula Award and ALA notable Book Award Citations. McCaffrey was cited for the following books: Dragonflight, Dragonquest, and the White Dragon, which comprise the series known as Dragonriders of Pern, published by Del Rey.

The National Book Award for Young People’s Literature
Presented each year in November to recognize the outstanding contributions to children’s literature.

1998 National Book Award
Louis Sachar, Holes (Frances Foster/Farrar Straus Giroux)
As further evidence of his family’s bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert, where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Other Nominees for the 1998 National Book Award
Ann Cameron, The Secret Life of Amanda K. Woods (Frances Foster Books)

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Living in a rural community in Wisconsin during the 1950s, eleven-year-old Amanda gradually and painfully learns a lot about herself, her parents, and her older sister.

Jack Gantos, Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

Anita Lobel, No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War (Greenwillow Books)
The author, known as an illustrator of children’s books, describes her experiences as a Polish Jew during World War II and for years in Sweden afterwards.

Richard Peck, A Long Way from Chicago (Dial)
A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother.

The Carnegie Medal
Established in 1937 by the British Library Association’s Youth Libraries Group, the Carnegie Medal is presented annually to an outstanding book published in the United Kingdom. Initially the medal was limited to English writers whose books were published in England, but since 1969 any book written in English and published first, or concurrently, in the United Kingdom has been eligible. The dates reflect the date the book was published. The award is presented during the summer of the following year.

1997 Carnegie Medal
Tim Bowler, River Boy (Oxford University Press)
The story of Jess’s relationship with her dying grandfather, a deeply loved but difficult artist who returns with his family to his childhood home, driven to finish his last painting. Although she is puzzled by his
work, Jess helps her grandfather to paint and finally comes to realize how closely he is connected to his paintings.

1997 Carnegie highly commended book
Henrietta Branford, *Fire, Bed and Bone* (Walker Books)
In 1381 in England, a hunting dog recounts what happens to his beloved master Rufus and his family when they are arrested on suspicion of being part of the peasants' rebellion led by Wat Tyler and the preacher John Ball.

1997 Carnegie commended book
J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* (Bloomsbury)
Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches.

Kate Greenaway Medal
Established in 1956 by the British Library Associations Youth Libraries Group, the Kate Greenaway Medal is presented annually for the most distinguished work in the illustration of children's books published in the United Kingdom. The dates reflects when the book was published. The award is presented during the summer of the following year.

1997 Kate Greenaway Medal
P. J. Lynch, *When Jessie Came Across the Sea*, written by Amy Hest (Macdonald Young Books)
A thirteen-year-old Jewish orphan reluctantly leaves her grandmother and immigrates to New York City, where she works for three years sewing lace and earning money to bring Grandmother to the United States.

1997 Kate Greenaway highly commended books
Charlotte Voake, *Ginger* (Walker Books)
When Ginger the cat gets fed up with dealing with her owner's new kitten, it takes drastic measures to make the two of them friends.

Bob Graham, *Queenie the Bantam* (Walker Books)
Caitlin and her parents rescue a hen from a lake, name her, and take her home with them, but even after they return her to the farm where she lives, her presence is still felt in Caitlin's family.

Guardian Award for Children's Fiction
Given annually by *The Guardian* for an outstanding work of fiction by a British or Comonwealth author, which was first published in the United Kingdom during the preceding year. Picture books and books by previous winners are excluded from consideration.

1998 Guardian Award
Henrietta Branford, *Fire, Bed and Bone* (Walker Books)
In 1381 in England, a hunting dog recounts what happens to his beloved master Rufus and his family when they are arrested on suspicion of being part of the peasants' rebellion led by Wat Tyler and the preacher John Ball.

1998 Guardian Award shortlisted titles
Jamila Gavin, *The Track of the Wind* (Mammoth)
This is the third and final book in Jamila Gavin's Wheel Of Surya trilogy, continuing the story of Jaspal and Marvinder as they are reunited with their mother in India.

J. A. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone* (Bloomsbury)
Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches.

Jane Stemp, *Secret Songs* (Hodder Children’s Books)
Enthralling story about a near-deaf girl's rites of passage.
Canadian Library Association
Book of the Year for Children
Established 1947 by the Canadian Library Association, the Book of the Year for Children medal is presented annually to the author of the best children's book published in Canada. The author must be a citizen or resident of Canada.

1997 Canadian Library Association Book of the Year for Children
Brian Doyle, Uncle Ronald (Groundwood)
In 1895, to escape his violent father, Mickey is sent to stay with his Uncle Ronald and his twin aunts in the hills north of Ottawa and learns to feel safe for the first time in his life.

1999 Canadian Library Association honour book
Joseph Romain, The Wagner Whacker (Vanwell)
Young Matt is heart sick about moving to the small Canadian town of Fergis, where baseball has lost its luster. A severe blow to the head from a rusted machine sends Matt into a 1928 dream in which Butts Wagner is about to revolutionize baseball with his new bat-making invention.

Canadian Library Association
Young Adult Book Award
Established in 1980 by the Canadian Library Associations Young Adult Special Interest Group, the Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book Award is presented annually for a work of creative literature. The work must be written by a Canadian and published in Canada.

1997 Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book Award
R. P. MacIntyre, editor, Takes: Stories for Young Adults (Thistledown)
In this collection of short stories for young adults, “The world is made of a billion ‘takes.’ Unlike pictures, they are never locked in space—only in time, from which they have to be snatched. Even then, ‘takes’ do not remain still. They move. They shift. Ultimately, they live. Here are fourteen of them—a ssembled moments of realization, seen from the keen-eyed edge of youth” (Forward of Takes).

1997 Canadian Library Association Young Adult Honour Books
O. R. Melling, My Blue Country (Viking/Penguin)
Annotation not available.
Janet McNaughton, To Dance at the Palais Royale (Tuckamore)
In 1928, seventeen-year-old Aggie Maxwell leaves her home and family in Scotland to begin a new life as a domestic servant in Canada. As she adapts to city life in Toronto, she discovers worlds she never dreamed of.