

## Coast to Coast Exploring State Book Awards

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All fifty states have at least one children's book award

States give a total of 68 awards with some states having multiple categories in one award.

### Research Question

What does it mean when a book receives a state book award?

- How is this information relevant to the school librarian?
- What does it mean for the reader or potential reader?
- How does winning an award impact the author and/or illustrator?
- How does winning an award impact the publisher?

**To answer these questions the authors looked at:**

### Selection

- For most awards, children select the award winner from lists of nominees provided by panels of adults or panels of adults and children
- Of the 68 awards examined, 7 were chosen exclusively by adults; 7 exclusively by children; 27 were selected by children from lists nominated by children & adults; 25 were selected by children from lists nominated by adults\*

\*authors were unable to determine the process for two awards

### Sponsorship

State library associations and reading associations sponsor the majority of state book awards. Many awards are sponsored by more than one organization.

- State library associations and/or their divisions – 49
- State reading associations – 16
- State English Teachers' associations – 3
- State Departments of Education – 6
- Other – 9

### State Book Award Facts

- Pacific Northwest Young Reader's Award is the oldest – first given in 1940. Five states participate in this award; Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Washington, & Oregon
- The Kansas William Allen White Award is the oldest given by a single state – first awarded in 1952.
- *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate Decamillo has won the most state awards - 16
- Other books with multiple awards:
  - Skeleton Man* by Joseph Bruchac - 8
  - Loser* by Jerry Spinelli – 8
  - Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson – 6
  - Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* by Ann Brashares – 5
  - Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* by Mo Willems – 5
  - Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli – 5
  - Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis – 4
  - Epossumondas* by Colleen Salley – 4
  - Flipped* by Wendelin VanDraanen – 4
  - Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz – 4
  - The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate Decamillo - 4