

# CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS JURY HANDBOOK



Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table  
(EMIERT) of the American Library Association (ALA)

Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee



REVISED 2017  
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**Coretta Scott King Book  
Awards Jury Handbook**

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## Preface

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards annually recognize outstanding books for young adults and children, by African American authors and illustrators, which reflect the Black experience. The first Coretta Scott King Award was presented in 1970, two years after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King. The award was designed to commemorate his life and works, and to honor Mrs. Coretta Scott King for her courage and determination to continue the work for peace. The first award, appropriately enough, was given to Lillie Patterson for *Martin Luther King, Jr. Man of Peace* (Garrard, 1969).

In 1974, the first Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award was presented to George Ford for his illustrations for Sharon Bell Mathis' book, *Ray Charles* (Crowell, 1973). The first New Talent Award was presented in 1995. Initially called the Coretta Scott King Genesis Award, it is currently named the Coretta Scott King John Steptoe/New Talent Award. The late John Steptoe was an illustrator whose ground-breaking picture book *Stevie* (Harper, 1969) was published when he was just about to turn nineteen. The award honors the work of an African American author and/or illustrator, at the beginning of his or her career, who has produced an outstanding work.

It was not until 1980 that the Coretta Scott King Award became an official ALA Award, under the auspices of the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT). Currently the Award is under the umbrella of the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT) and its Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee. The Coretta Scott King Book Award Jury is a unit of the CSK Book Awards Committee.

For more than four and a half decades, then, the Coretta Scott King Awards have been calling attention to outstanding works by African American writers and illustrators. Currently the task of the Coretta Scott King Jury is to select award winners in three categories: Coretta Scott King Author Award and Honor Books, Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award and Honor Books, and Coretta Scott King John Steptoe/New Talent Award Books. As the awards and their recipients have gained national visibility and prestige, so has the importance of the jurors' decisions. This handbook is intended to delineate the principles, practices and policies that guide the selection of the winners of the awards. Although it is intended to be as thorough as possible, inevitably questions will arise that have not been specifically addressed in the handbook. Such questions should be directed to the jury chair, who is a member of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee Executive Committee and who is in frequent contact with the Office of Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services of ALA.

Note: Throughout the handbook, the initials CSK are used to stand for Coretta Scott King.

## **I. JUROR RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Each juror is responsible for:**

- Reading all books eligible for CSK awards for the year(s) of his/her term and submitting written nominations of potential award winners to the Jury Chair.
- Seeking out potential titles for consideration. Even though letters are sent to major publishers and small presses, some publishers may not be aware of the awards or do not submit eligible books in a timely fashion.
- Reading published reviews in professional journals of various books being considered.
- Assisting in the writing of the press releases for the newly chosen award books.
- Assisting in the writing of book discussion guides for the newly chosen award books.

### **Membership Requirements**

CSK Jurors must belong to ALA, EMIERT (the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table) and the CSK Book Award Committee. Jurors must also have proven expertise in the evaluation of children's literature as validated by experience on book selection or book award committees and/or documented work with children's literature. Jurors may also be recommended by ALA or CSK Book Award Committee members who can affirm such expertise. CSK jurors must also be sensitive to and committed to the intent of the award—encouraging the artistic expression of the black experience through literary and graphic arts in outstanding works for children and young adults by African American authors and illustrators. Such works may include biographical, social, and historical treatments.

### **Attendance Requirements**

#### **NO PERSON MAY SERVE ON THE JURY IN ABSENTIA**

CSK Jurors are required to attend the Midwinter conferences where the award decisions are made. Jurors must also attend the Annual Conferences when the awards are presented to the winners they have selected.

Each juror must be present and on time for all discussion sessions. Jurors should **make flight arrangements and schedule their other commitments around the CSK meetings.**

### **Membership Policy and Service Expectations**

**Jurors must review the Policy for Membership on the CSK Book Award Jury (Appendix D), and return a signed copy to Amber Hayes, Program Officer, Outreach and Communication, Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services, ALA.**

**Jurors must also review and sign the “Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury Service Expectations Agreement.” (Appendix E). The signed copy must be returned to Amber Hayes.**

## **Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting Responsibilities**

A. Closed Jury meetings will be scheduled for the Annual Conference at the start of a jury member assuming her or his duties. At these meetings Jury Chair will facilitate:

- a) Orientation: the review of the CSK Award Jurors' Handbook and a Question & Answer session.
- b) Discussion of possible award books.

B. At the following Annual Conference, when the CSK Awards are presented, sitting jurors must be available to assist the local arrangements committee with final preparations for the breakfast as well as any other duties assigned by the CSK Book Award Committee Chair.

C. The Jury Chair will present the Award winners and jurors will present the honor winners. Prior to the Annual Conference, jurors will prepare and submit to the chair their written introductions to the honor award winners. Introductions will be assigned by the jury chair.

**Jurors are required to purchase their own tickets to the breakfast.**

D. Closed Jury meetings will be scheduled for Midwinter, when the Jury will discuss and vote on the award winners. Jurors are expected to help write the press releases for ALA's Youth Media Awards Press Conference, and to help write the discussion guides to the new award-winning books.

## **II. TERM OF OFFICE AND JURY MEMBER ROTATION**

Jurors are notified of term appointments by the Chair of the CSK Book Award Committee. A term is from June to June, for two years, unless a one-year term is necessary to preserve rotation. Member rotation is staggered so that each jury will have some veteran jurors.

Sample Term and Calendar for a 2016 Appointee:

- a. Is appointed/elected at Annual Conference in June 2016 to serve on the 2018 and 2019 juries)
- b. Receives books beginning January of the following year (2017), prior to official start of year 1.
- c. Attends Annual Conference orientation and discussion meeting (2017). Official start of year 1.
- d. Attends Midwinter Meeting in January 2018 to vote and announce winners (it's still year 1 of the term, even though it's the next calendar year)
- e. Receives books beginning January 2018 after Midwinter, prior to the official start of year 2.
- f. Attends (with any new jurors) Annual Conference (2018) orientation and discussion meeting. Attends Breakfast to celebrate winners. Official start of term year 2.
- g. Attends Midwinter Meeting (2019) to vote and announce winners (it's still year 2 of the term, even though it's the next calendar year)
- h. Attends Annual Conference (2019) to celebrate winners at Breakfast (end of term year 2; rotates off jury)

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### **III. RULES OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

**The items listed below are confidential matters and should be discussed only during the selection process with current CSK jurors. These matters should not be discussed publicly before, during, or after CSK Award decisions are made, not in writing, nor electronically, nor orally:**

1. The balloting process implemented in the selection of CSK Award books.
2. The titles under consideration for the awards.
3. Reasons a book may be removed during the consideration process.
4. Identifying the winners before the public announcement is made.

Jurors are always encouraged to discuss books with colleagues and to participate actively in various book discussion groups. Each discussion experience sharpens a juror's evaluative skills. Jurors are encouraged to share CSK criteria with others and are expected to seek out eligible publications.

While such interaction is encouraged, confidentiality is vital regarding the CSK process and titles under consideration. The proper response when asked about various titles is to say, **“Any book for children or youth published in the U.S. by an African American author or illustrator during the year prior to the award presentation is eligible. Jurors welcome suggestions and information about such publications. I am not, however, at liberty to discuss how a book is chosen or any deliberation regarding titles that may or may not have transpired.”**

Rules outlined above for confidentiality are important to maintain the suspense and the prestige the CSK Award Announcement deserves, as well as the privacy of those involved in the process. Jurors must be able to speak candidly about books during deliberations, without fear that their words and/or opinions will be repeated outside the room. Jurors are fully expected to adhere to these guidelines.

## **IV. AWARD CRITERIA**

### **Coretta Scott King Book Awards Criteria**

The Award is given to an African American author and an African American illustrator for outstanding contributions that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values. The Award is further designed to commemorate the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and to honor Mrs. Coretta Scott King for her courage and determination to continue the work for peace and world brotherhood.

#### **Purpose:**

To encourage the artistic expression of the Black experience through literary and graphic arts, including biographical, social, historical, and social history treatments by African American authors and illustrators.

#### **The general criteria for the award are as follows:**

1. Must portray some aspect of the Black experience, past, present, or future.
2. Must be written/illustrated by an African American. Generally speaking, "African American" refers to a person of color of African heritage who is a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.

If author or illustrator teams; that is, co-authors or co-illustrators, are not all African Americans, all are eligible for the CSK Book Award. So, for example, *All American Boys* (2015) was co-written by African American author Jason Reynolds AND Brendan Kiely who is not African American. Both co-authors were eligible and both received recognition as authors of a CSK Honor Book.

If the author and illustrators are not both African American and are not listed as co-creators, only the African American author or illustrator is eligible. For example, *How Jelly Roll Morton Invented Jazz* (2015) was written by Jonah Winter, who is not African American, and illustrated by Keith Mallett, who is African American. They are not listed as co-authors or co-illustrators; therefore, only the illustrator was eligible for a CSK Award.

3. Must be published in the U.S. in the year preceding presentation of the Award.
4. Must be an original work.
5. Must be written for children or young adults in one of the following three categories:  
Preschool-grade 4                      Grades 5-8                      Grades 9-12
6. Particular attention will be paid to titles that seek to motivate readers to examine their own attitudes and behaviors as well as to develop an understanding of their personal duties and responsibilities as citizens in a pluralistic society.



## 7. Literary Criteria

Fictional works must meet established standards of quality writing for youth, which include:

A clear, well-constructed, well-developed plot

Well delineated, life-like, multi-dimensional characters

Writing style that is appropriate to the subject and suitable for the intended age group. The story should read aloud smoothly.

In summary, the basic considerations for the evaluation of fiction for children are a well-constructed and well-paced plot, a significant theme, an authentic setting, a credible point of view, convincing characterization, appropriate style, and an attractive format. Not all books achieve excellence in each of these areas. (p. 28)

*Huck, Charlotte, et al. Children's Literature in the Elementary School. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*

## 8. Informational Books must meet established standards, including:

Accuracy and authenticity

Content suited to the comprehension level and interests of the intended age group

Clarity of presentation

Clear and helpful organization

## 9. Illustrations in picture books should reflect established qualitative standards identified in the statement below:

A picture storybook, then, must be a seamless whole conveying meaning in both the art and the text. An illustration for such a book does not merely reflect the action on that page but shares in moving the story forward and in engaging the reader with the narrative on both an intellectual and an emotional level. Throughout the narration the pictures should convey and enhance the meaning behind the story. (p. 199)

*Huck, Charlotte, et al. Children's Literature in the Elementary School. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, 1997. Brown and Benchmark.*

## **Coretta Scott King Steptoe/New Talent Award Criteria**

The Coretta Scott King Steptoe/New Talent Award, given to an African American author and/or an African American illustrator for an outstanding book, is designed to bring visibility to a writer or artist at the beginning of her or his career as a published book creator.

### **Purpose**

The award is established to affirm new talent and to highlight excellence in writing and/or illustration that otherwise might not be formally acknowledged in a given year within the structure of the two awards given annually by the Coretta Scott King Book Award Committee.

### **Criteria**

The recipients of the John Steptoe/New Talent Award must not have published more than three (3) books.

**Otherwise, the criteria for eligibility are the same as those for the CSK Author and Illustrator Awards. (See pp. 5 and 6.)**

An author or illustrator who has already received or has been selected to win one of the Coretta Scott King Awards in the current year is not eligible for the Steptoe/New Talent Award. An author or illustrator may receive this award only once. One award will be presented annually to an author or illustrator, unless the jury decides to select one book for writing and a second book for illustration. The award need not be given if the jury so decides in a particular year.

## **V. THE DECISION PROCESS**

### **Securing Potential Titles**

ODLOS (The Office of Diversity, Literary and Outreach Services) of ALA sends letters to major publishers and small presses requesting that books be sent to all jurors. Each juror has the responsibility to seek eligible titles as well. Should a juror discover an eligible title that he or she has not received, the juror should notify the Jury Chair and ODLOS will approach the publisher.

### **Juror Preparation**

Two professional resources are recommended to assist jurors in evaluating the literary qualities of various titles: *Charlotte Huck's Children's Literature: A Brief Guide* (2nd or most recent edition) by Barbara Kiefer and Cynthia Tyson, and *From Cover to Cover* by Kathleen T. Horning.

As they review titles to nominate, jurors should:

1. Review the CSK criteria for the awards. Jurors must be certain that every book they nominate conforms to the CSK criteria.
2. Use the CSK Book Review Form (Appendix A) to record their thoughts about each book under consideration and to list its strengths and weaknesses. It helps to jot down page numbers to refer to during discussions with the jury.
3. Set aside ample time to read and re-read the books under consideration. Generally speaking, the first reading of the book gives one a feel for the book and the author's style, but a second reading provides an opportunity to re-view the book with a critical eye--to discover inconsistencies in writing and illustrations, to note story and plot strengths, to discover multiple meanings and recurring motifs, etc. It is sometimes surprising what one can miss on a first reading.
3. Be careful and judicious in their deliberations, for once the jury has judged, the entire world will then judge their choices.

### **Using the Book Review Form**

The CSK Book Review Form serves as a guideline for rich discussions of the various titles that will be considered. Taking copious notes while reading will help facilitate those discussions.

1. Each book must first have a CSK correlation to merit discussion. It should then be evaluated based on the standard literary quality for the particular genre of the book.
2. Carefully list the strengths of the book based on various literary qualities of the various genres (consult professional resources noted above).
3. Carefully list any weaknesses that were detected.

### **Nominating Titles**

**(See Appendix B for the Nomination Format)**

Please note that the Nomination Form is different from the *Book Review* Form. The Book Nomination Form is used to submit nominations to the jury chair. The *Book Review* Form is used by each juror for note taking and discussion at the Midwinter Meeting. It does not need to be submitted to the jury chair.

1. The jury chair will solicit nominations of possible award books from jury members two to three times during the consideration year. Jurors are required to submit **typed nominations** of titles they feel are possible contenders and state the reasons for their nominations. (The CSK Book Review Form should be quite helpful in pulling together nominations. **Nominations should include author, title, publisher, illustrator, the reasons for the nomination, the name of the juror and whether the book is being nominated for CSK illustrations or text, and/or Steptoe illustrations or text. When nominating a book for more than one award,**

(e.g. illustrations and text), it is helpful to submit separate forms for each category, e.g. one form nominating the book for an author award and a separate form nominating the same book for the illustrator award. Nominations should focus on the particular element for which the book is being nominated—either text or illustrations. The number of nominations submitted is at the discretion of each juror.

2. The chair will compile nominations and distribute to all jurors. Jurors can then see what evaluations fellow jurors are making. Discussion will evolve from titles nominated by each juror. These nominations are an excellent indicator of titles that are receiving serious consideration amongst the majority of jurors at that point in the process, and which titles deserve additional evaluation time. All books nominated by jurors will be considered. The majority of time, however, will be spent on books nominated by three or more jurors.

### Choosing the Award Books

Award and honor books are chosen at the Midwinter Conference prior to the Annual Conference when awards are presented. **The jury may decide not to select award and honor books if in a particular year published books do not meet award standards.** Books to be discussed will be those that jurors have nominated. After the discussion of each book, jurors will come to a consensus on whether that book is a contender to be left on the table. **To remain on the table, a book must have at least four votes, indicating that at least four jurors feel that the book should continue to be considered. This does not mean that all books left on the table will receive a CSK award.** Once the full discussion is completed for both text and illustration, books that still remain will be arranged in separate piles, one for text and one for illustrations. Jurors will then have an opportunity to vote on books that will be selected for award and honor status. **Only jurors present at the discussion of books will be permitted to vote. Should a juror be absent, the majority consensus vote count will be half of the jurors present plus one.**

There are three categories of awards for both text and illustration: CSK Award, CSK Honor Awards, and CSK Steptoe/New Talent Awards. Only one title will be selected for the CSK Author Award, and one title will be selected for the CSK Illustrator Award. The CSK Honor category may have a minimum of zero to a maximum of three titles for Author Honor and a minimum of zero to a maximum of three titles for Illustrator Honor. The CSK Steptoe/New Talent category may have a single title for **either** author or illustrator **OR** a single title for author **and** a single title for illustrator.

### Balloting Process

- **CSK Book Award Ballot Process:** The balloting for the CSK Author award and the CSK Illustrator award books will be conducted using the following procedures:

There will be one ballot for the CSK Author Award and a second separate ballot for the CSK Illustrator Award.

Each of the seven jurors will be asked to list his or her three top choices for the Coretta Scott King Award under consideration (i.e. the CSK Author Award or the CSK

Illustrator Award).

Those choices should be listed on the ballot in priority order, with #1 receiving 4 points, #2 receiving 3 points, and #3 receiving 2 points.

**Ballots will be cast and votes tabulated by the jury chair or his or her designee.**

**The award-winning books for text and illustration must receive a minimum of four first place votes. The point/first place rating ensures majority consensus. If there is consensus and therefore, a clear winner, the Jury should proceed to the Honor Book ballot process.**

**If no book has four first place votes on the first balloting round, the book with the lowest points having an 11 point or more differential from the book with the highest points will be dropped from the award balloting process. The vote will then continue with the remaining titles until an award title emerges with four first place votes.** Example: On the first round of balloting no book receives four first place votes, but one title falls fourteen points below the top vote getter on the first round. An 11 point or more differential is used because each book has the potential to receive maximum of 28 points (i.e. 7 first place votes). When a book falls 11 points below 24 (highest possible points without being declared the winner on the first round), that means that only a maximum of two out of seven jurors could possibly have given that title award status.)

- **CSK Honor Book Awards Ballot Process:** The balloting for CSK Author Honor and CSK Illustrator Honor books will be conducted using the following procedures:

Once the award winner is chosen, a separate vote will be cast for the honor books.

**There may be a minimum of zero and a maximum of three honor books EACH for Author and illustrator (minimum zero; maximum six honor books TOTAL).**

**The books being considered will be the same titles considered for the CSK awards minus the award-winning books.**

Each of the seven jurors will list the title(s) of up to three books he or she thinks should receive an Honor Award.

Jurors may list none by stating NONE or may list from one to three titles for Author Honor and one to three titles for Illustrator Honor.

Each time a title is listed, said title will receive one point (vote).

**The honor books for text and illustration must receive a minimum of four votes (points) from the seven-member panel.**

Ballots will be cast and votes tabulated by the Jury chair or designee.

If after voting fewer than three titles have received four or more votes, the jury may decide to re-ballot. The books being considered will be the same titles as on the previous ballot minus any titles that did not receive any votes on the previous honor ballot. The jury may re-ballot as often as they deem necessary with the understanding that there may be a maximum of three honor books EACH for Author and Illustrator.

Titles (maximum of three for each award, text and illustration) receiving four or more votes will be named Honor Books.

- **CSK Steptoe/New Talent Award Ballot Process:** The balloting for Steptoe/New talent awards for text and/or illustrations will be conducted using the following procedures:

Once the award and/or Honor winners are chosen, a separate vote will be cast for the Steptoe/New Talent Award (s).

One award will be presented annually to an author or illustrator, unless the committee decides to select one book for text and a second book for illustration.

The award need not be given if the committee so decides in a particular year.

Each of the seven jurors will be asked to list his or her three top choices for consideration of the CSK Steptoe/New Talent Award.

Those choices should be listed on the ballot in priority order, with #1 receiving 4 points, #2 receiving 3 points, and #3 receiving 2 points. **Ballots will be cast and votes tabulated by the jury chair or designee. The award-winning book for text and/or illustration must receive a minimum of four first place votes. The point/first place rating ensures majority consensus.**

**If no book has four first place votes on the first balloting round, the book with the lowest points having an 11 point or more differential from the book with the highest points will be dropped from the Steptoe/New Talent Award balloting process. The vote will then continue with the remaining titles until an award title emerges with four first place votes.**

### **Press Releases & Discussion Guide**

Once the award books are chosen, jurors, under the direction of the jury chair, will compose and type the press releases for ALA Youth Media Awards press conference, and if there is time, prepare the discussion guides for the new award books. See Appendix F for a sample press release.

# APPENDICES



**CSK BOOK REVIEW FORM**

*Use this form to take notes about all the books you read and  
to inform discussions at the Midwinter conference.*

**Author** \_\_\_\_\_ **Illustrator** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Publisher** \_\_\_\_\_ **Publication Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Genre of Book** \_\_\_\_\_

**CSK Criteria Correlations**

Author African American? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Illustrator African American? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Portray an aspect of Black Experience? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Explain:

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**Audience** (Pre-K –Gr. 4) Gr. 5-8 Gr. 9-12

\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

**Strengths of book** \_\_\_\_\_

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**CSK BOOK AWARDS NOMINATION FORM**

*Use this form to submit written nominations to the Jury Chair.*

Considered for \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g.  
CSK Illustrations, CSK Author, Steptoe Author, Steptoe Illustrator)

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Illustrator \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for nomination:

Name of Juror \_\_\_\_\_

**CSK Award Juror Information Form**

**Return to:** Amber Hayes  
(ahayes@ala.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell)

Home Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

All CSK Jury members are required to attend both the ALA Midwinter Meeting in January/February and the Annual Conference in late June/early July. No person may serve on this jury in absentia.

I have read the attached **Policy for Membership on the CSK Awards Jury** of the American Library Association and can comply with the membership requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Jury member)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**POLICY FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS JURY**

**I. Location and Reading of Eligible Materials**

- A. Members of the Award Jury will seek to identify eligible materials and will communicate this information to the Chair.
- B. From time to time the Chair will circulate among members a list of materials under consideration.
- C. Members are expected to read and prepare to discuss all materials under consideration, and to submit written comments as requested by the Chair.
- D. Members must notify the Chair if they are unable to locate materials under consideration so that the Chair can make arrangements for members to have access to these materials.

**II. Meeting Attendance**

- A. All CSK Jurors are required to attend both the ALA Midwinter Meetings and Annual Conferences during their term on the Jury.
- B. No person may serve on the Jury in absentia.

**III. Conflict of Interest**

- A. No one may accept nomination or appointment to the Jury who is employed by a publishing house or company that produces materials eligible for consideration by the Jury; nor may anyone accept nomination or appointment who is the author or illustrator of a book to be published during his or her term of service.
- B. All candidates for nomination or appointment have an affirmative duty to notify the nominating committee or the appointing officer of any circumstances or event which would disqualify him/her under this policy or which would otherwise affect, or give the appearance of tending to affect, his/her ability to carry out assigned responsibilities fairly and without self-interest of any kind. A jury member must resign immediately upon the development of any circumstance or event which disqualifies him/her from jury service under this policy or which would otherwise affect or give the appearance of tending to affect his/her ability to carry out assigned responsibilities fairly and without self-interest of any kind. The Chair of the CSK Book Award Committee will accept the resignation and duly appoint a new juror to fill out the term.

**Will you be able to attend all required meetings in person at Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no**

**I have read the above policy and have no conflict in carrying out my responsibilities as a member of the Award Jury.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Award Jury Member**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**(Jurors should copy this form and return original to Amber Hayes, American Library Assoc., Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611)**

**CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS JURY SERVICE EXPECTATIONS  
AGREEMENT- JULY 2015**

*Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury Service Expectations Agreement*

As a member of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury, I understand I am expected to:

- Maintain membership in the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table of the American Library Association.
- Familiarize myself with the history and mission of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards and the range of awards within each category, including all basic and specific criteria as outlined in this Agreement and the Coretta Scott King Awards Jury Handbook.
- Adhere to all attendance expectations as outlined in this Agreement.
  - Follow all procedures as directed by the Jury Chair and outlined in the Jury Handbook
  - Submit reviews that reflect critical analysis of the titles and insightful knowledge of children’s literature.
  - Contribute upon request to additional service expectations such as the Discussion Guide and Award Breakfast Introductions as outlined in this Agreement and the Jury Handbook
  - Understand and report any conflicts of interest as outlined in this Agreement.
  - Adhere to all confidentiality expectations as outlined in this Agreement.

Please indicate your agreement to the expectations for service on the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury as outlined herein by completing the statement below. Additionally, by completing the statement below you agree to adhere to such other guidelines as handed down by the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee, and the ALA Ethnic & Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT).

**Service Expectations Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), have reviewed and hereby

affirm my understanding of and my commitment to adherence to the expectations for service on the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury as outlined herein. I understand that failure to meet these expectations will result in a written request for adherence to this agreement and, should I fail to respond, I will be removed from the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please retain a copy of this form for your files and return signed copy to the ALA Office for

**NEWS**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**January 10, 2011**

**Contact: Jennifer Petersen**

***Rita Williams-Garcia, Bryan Collier win 2011 Coretta Scott King Book Awards***

SAN DIEGO – Rita Williams-Garcia, author of “One Crazy Summer,” and Bryan Collier, illustrator of “Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave,” are the winners of the 2011 Coretta Scott King Book Awards honoring African American authors and illustrators of outstanding books for children and young adults. Victoria Bond and T. R. Simon, authors of “Zora and Me,” and Sonia Lynn Sadler, illustrator of “Seeds of Change,” are the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award winners. The awards were announced today at the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting, held January 7 – 11 in San Diego, and will be presented in New Orleans at the ALA Annual Conference in June.

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards are presented annually by the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee of the ALA’s Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT) to encourage the artistic expression of the African American experience via literature and the graphic arts.

“One Crazy Summer,” published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, tells the story of 11-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters as they travel to Oakland, Calif. in 1968 to face the emotional challenge of reaching out to a distant mother and learn about a different side of the Civil Rights Movement. Themes of friendship, family and identity intertwine with broader social issues in this compelling historical novel.

Rita Williams-Garcia is the author of several award-winning books for young people, including “Like Sisters on the Homefront,” a Coretta Scott King Honor Book. She lives in Jamaica, N.Y. and is on the faculty at the Vermont College of Fine Arts in the Writing for Children and Young Adults Program.

“The winning title for text was selected because it is thought-provoking and features complex, well developed characters,” said Jonda C. McNair, award jury chair.

In “Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave,” written by Laban Carrick Hill and published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc. Dave, a slave in 19th century South Carolina, demonstrated extraordinary talent and skill to achieve creative success. At a time when it was illegal for slaves to read and write, the eloquent poetry on Dave’s remarkable pots provided inspiration and hope to those who had none.

“Bryan Collier has crafted a stunning visual tribute to the life of an unsung American artist,” said McNair.

Bryan Collier is the illustrator of more than twenty-five picture books, including Coretta Scott King Award Winner “Rosa,” and Coretta Scott King Honor Book “Martin’s Big Words” (both also Caldecott

Honor Books). He lives in Harlem, where he directs mural programs for children throughout New York City.

Occasionally awarded, the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award affirms new talent and offers visibility to excellence in writing and/or illustrations at the beginning of a career as a published children's book creator. This year's winners are Victoria Bond and T. R. Simon, authors of "Zora and Me," published by Candlewick Press; and Sonia Lynn Sadler, illustrator of "Seeds of Change," written by Jen Cullerton Johnson and published by Lee & Low Books, Inc.

"Zora and Me" is a fictionalized account of one childhood summer of the legendary author and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston. Young Zora's storytelling talents are on display as she and her friends cope with racial tensions, a mysterious death and a rumored half-man, half-alligator in small-town Florida.

"Seeds of Change" is an inspiring biography of Wangari Maathai (known as "Mama Miti"), the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner whose motto "Plant a tree" changed the face of Kenya. Her deceptively simple words motivated the rest of the world to be more conscious of the environment.

Three Coretta Scott King Author Honor Books were selected:

"Lockdown" by Walter Dean Myers, published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers;

"Ninth Ward" by Jewell Parker Rhodes, published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.; and

"Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty" by G. Neri, illustrated by Randy DuBurke and published by Lee & Low Books, Inc.

One Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book was selected:

"Jimi: Sounds Like a Rainbow: A Story of the Young Jimi Hendrix," illustrated by Javaka Steptoe, written by Gary Golio and published by Clarion Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

Members of the 2011 Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury are: Chair Jonda C. McNair, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C.; Lesley Colabucci, Millersville University, Millersville, Pa.; Eboni Curry, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Washington, D.C.; Cora P. Dunkley, University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla.; Diane Foote, Chicago; Debra S. Gold, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Parma Heights, Ohio; and Karen Lemmons, Detroit School of Arts, Detroit.

The American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the world with approximately 63,000 members. Its mission is to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

For information on the Coretta Scott King Book Awards and other ALA Youth Media Awards, please visit [www.ala.org/yma](http://www.ala.org/yma).

**Sample Introduction from CSK Book Award Breakfast**

**The Negro Speaks of Rivers**

Illustrated by E. B. Lewis

The Negro Speaks of Rivers, written by Langston Hughes, illustrated by E. B. Lewis, edited by Arianne Lewin, and published by Disney – Jump at the Sun Books, an imprint of Disney Book Group.

The brilliant double-page watercolors created by E. B. Lewis, introduce one of Langston Hughes’s most well known works to a new generations of readers. From Africa to America, black people have historical connections with rivers like the Congo, Euphrates, Nile, and Mississippi, and through award worthy artistry, E. B. Lewis visually interprets the significance of these mighty rivers and captures the emotions Langston Hughes expressed in the powerful poem he composed 90 years ago.

Those of you familiar with Mr. Lewis’s works know that most of his illustrations portray African American experiences. This is not by chance. In a 1993 newspaper interview<sup>1</sup>, Mr. Lewis expressed his desire to create works that would allow African American children to pick up a book and see themselves reflected in stories. Seventeen years later, he is still creating amazing works portraying the strength and courage of black people all over the world.

Mr. E. B. Lewis, on behalf of the Coretta Scott King jury, please come forward and accept the two thousand ten, Illustrator Honor Award for The Negro Speaks of Rivers.

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Notes:

1. Interview with Greg Johnson of the Philadelphia Tribune

--Written by Alan R. Bailey



# APPENDIX H

# REVIEWING



## **TIPS ON REVIEWING**

Literary quality is noted by some standard factors, such as plot, content, theme, characterization, style and form. Below are some particular considerations for various genres, to be applied in combination with the standard factors listed above.

### **Fiction**

Plot, Characterization and Style

1. Is the story absorbing, convincing, and carefully worked out to be honest in conclusion?
2. Is it entertaining without being moralistic?
3. Will the readers meet realistic, multidimensional characters?
4. Is the story appealing, told smoothly, with freshness and originality?
5. Identify the sub-category --- humorous story, mystery, animal story, historical fiction, adventure tale, or realistic fiction
6. Is the complexity and development of the plot appropriate for the intended readers?
7. Is there a theme worth imparting to children? Is the theme revealed without moralizing?

### **Picture Books**

A picture book in its best form is a union of the text and illustrations. The illustrations extend and interpret the story. They should supply what paragraphs of words do for an adult story.

1. Do the text and the illustrations form an integrated whole?
2. Will children find the book appealing?
3. Do the mood and style of the pictures match those of the text?
4. Evaluate the picture book on design, originality, artfulness, and appeal.

### **Poetry**

Poetry should represent a fresh perspective with an economy of well-chosen words

1. Does the poetry speak to children, not at or about them?
2. Evaluate the poetry on its uniqueness and its use of language.
3. Check for effective use of:
  - meter- the number of feet in a line, or the combination of the number and the kind of feet
  - rhyme- the repetition of a sound at the ends of two or more lines, or within lines
  - scheme- pattern of rhyme within the poem
  - figurative language

#### **Some types/voices of poems**

**Lyric**- short poems, usually with a song like quality

**Narrative-poems** that tell a story

**Dramatic**- poems in which the poet tells the story through the speech of one or more of the characters in the story

4. With an anthology, check the availability of the selections elsewhere. Does this anthology

make a unique or important contribution to the field? What is its purpose?

### **Folklore Collections or Anthologies**

1. Does the book contain good stories?
2. How does the book compare with others of the same kind?
3. Are the stories available in other collections? If so, what is the unique contribution of this collection?
4. Is it a book for children, or a book for folklorists?
5. Does the style reflect an oral tradition or is this a literary treatment?
6. As far as you can tell, do the stories and telling-style truly represent the culture from which they came?
7. Do the stories convey an authentic cultural perspective, or a bias imposed from our country?
8. Are sources, parallels, or other additional information provided?

### **Biography**

Since biography for children is frequently fictionalized to some extent, it is most important to check the author's credentials.

1. Can you determine if the subject was the author's own choice, or was the book commissioned by the publisher?
2. Does the author "know" the person and the field?
3. Does the biographical subject come through as a human being, or as a colorless paragon?
4. Is dialogue based on imagination or on diaries, letters, or other primary source material?
5. Have the incidents included in the biography been wisely chosen to give a true portrayal of character and personality?

### **Informational Books**

1. Does the book aim toward high standards of literary quality?
2. Is it accurate and current?
3. Will it appeal to the audience for which it is intended?
4. Do the illustrations clarify the text?
5. Note the presence or absence of
  - a. Tables
  - b. Maps
  - c. Appendices
  - d. Picture credits
  - e. Index
  - f. Glossary
  - g. Bibliographies
  - h. Table of contents
  - i. Suggestions for further reading

## **History**

1. Does the book make past eras come alive for the reader?
2. Check the author's credentials or sources.
3. Do the author's biases show?
4. Does the author attempt to present the "facts" from more than one point of view?

## **Science**

Some concerns mentioned under "Informational Books" are particularly applicable for science books. Also consider:

1. Readability - Is the language accessible to the audience?
2. Accuracy - It is essential to compare books/authorities for authenticity of information.
3. Currency - In fields where knowledge is rapidly changing, will the book soon be obsolete? Is it already?
4. Illustrations - Drawings and photographs should be sharp, clear, detailed, positioned, and captioned to aid understanding.
5. Index and bibliography - A thorough, usable index is a must.
6. Beware of:
  - a. Oversimplification - concepts should not be confused with facts.
  - b. Anthropomorphism - Treating things or animals as though they have human characteristics.
  - c. Teleology - Ascribing purpose to anything in the natural environment, e.g., "The rain falls so that the flowers will grow."
  - d. Animism - Attributing conscious life and spirit to material forms such as rocks and plants.

## **SOME TIPS RELATING TO THE EVALUATION OF PICTURE BOOKS**

### **Look at the illustrations in three ways:**

1. THE WHOLE PICTURE BOOK- How does the overall look of the picture book affect the story?
2. THE STORY IN THE PICTURE- How do pictures tell the story? How do they express meaning and emotion? Can you tell the story through the pictures? If there were no text, could the pictures tell the story?
3. THE PICTURE AS ART- How did the artist draw the pictures? What Technique was used?

### **Look at the whole picture book as an object:**

Evaluate from the outside in....

**SIZE** - The size of the book is related to its theme and style. It also relates to its uses (Is it for group sharing or for tiny fingers?)

**COVER AND BOOK JACKET** - The cover or book jacket is the enticer; it offers the first impression.

**END PAPERS** - The first view inside the cover can be elegant or symbolic or can be the first view of the story.

**TITLE PAGE** - Contains copyright info (author, title, publisher, and copyright date)

**TYPEFACE** -Text print can be in a number of styles/fonts from plain to ornate, and in a variety of colors, although black and brown are the most popular.

**PAPER STOCK** - The paper stock will make a difference in reproduction and presentation of art and text. Paper can be white, ivory, brightly colored, shiny, matte, smooth or textured.

**LAYOUT** - The proper alignment of text and illustration provides a cohesive flow of images. The sequencing of pictures and text can add the excitement of mystery, etc.

### **Some questions to consider:**

How much care has been taken to make the book? Is it made well?

How do the end papers and book cover contribute to the book?

Is this book unique?

How do the illustrations contribute to the story? Are they substantial or just taking up space?

Are the illustrations inept or do they appear to have been created by a skilled artist?

How well does the typeface match the story?

Would the story be powerful without the illustrations?

### **Consider the artistic elements in the pictures:**

**COMPOSITION** - The organization of picture elements and the relationship of all the parts to the whole (note if balanced asymmetrical or other).

**FOCAL POINT** - The center of interest, where the eye is drawn.

**PERSPECTIVE** - A method which creates the appearance of depth on a flat surface; also painting's point of view.

**TEXTURE** - The changing characteristics of the paint surface or the representation of specific surfaces like fur or bricks.

**VALUE** - The relationship of one part of the picture to another with respect to lightness or darkness (Note the light source and how it creates value.)

**PROPORTION** - Relationship of size of one part to another or to the whole.

**MOVEMENT** - The sense of motion in the picture, which causes the eye to move from one part to another (Note how movement is achieved.)

**COLOR OR HUE** - a color's basic identity or name such as red. Tint-variation of a color made by adding white. Shade-variation of a color made by adding black. Tone-variation of a color made by adding gray. Chromo-measure of color concentration. (Note how color is used in the artwork to reproduce reality, to create mood, to define shapes.)

**Consider the “story” in the pictures:**

Pictures can tell the story through revealing:

**SETTING** - Reveals time, place, and culture of the story.

**MOOD** - The expression of feelings or emotions or state-of-being (happy, sad, objective) or the kind of story (quiet, humorous)

**CHARACTERS OR SUBJECTS** - Representations of people in a story by humans, animals, or objects. Also features—physical appearance, mannerisms, etc.—which distinguish the individual.

**PLOT** - The events recounted in the story and how the author/artist arranges these events.

**STYLE** - How the story is written or the pictures drawn. The expression of the creator’s attitude.

**DETAILS** - Text and picture details add nuances to the setting, mood, and characters. They further enhance the reality of time and place.

**THEME** - The main idea of the story and pictures. The overall message

**UNITY** - The ordering of the elements in a work of art to produce an aesthetic whole. Is there harmony between words and pictures? Do you like the book?

**Some questions to consider:**

Were you wowed by the book?

Does it need interpretation?

How do the illustrations extend the story?

Are the illustrations accurate?

Do the mood and style of the pictures match the text?

Is it just a good book or is it distinguished?

**The pictures as art: Examine the techniques and media of the picture book. Do they seem appropriate for the content or mood of the story?**

“**TECHNIQUE**” refers to how the pictures were made. The following **terms also refer to various eras and styles of art:**

**EXPRESSIONISM**

**REALISM**

**CARTOON**

**SURREALISM**

**GRAPHIC**

**MODERN PRIMITIVISM**

**ROMANTIC**

**IMPRESSIONISM**

“**MEDIA**” refers to the materials used, such as **WATERCOLOR, TEMPERA, ACRYLICS, CHARCOAL, INK, OIL PAINT, WOOD CUTS, COLLAGE, OR MIXED MEDIA**

## EVALUATING PICTURE BOOKS WITHOUT AN ART DEGREE

From a Handout Created by  
Vicky Smith, Children's and Teen Editor, *Kirkus*  
CSK Jury Orientation- June 2015

*Included with permission, March 2016*

### **Some Basic Principles:**

1. Squiggly lines give a picture energy; straight lines give it calm.
2. Diagonals give a picture drama; verticals and horizontals give it stability; circles and ovals give it warmth and comfort.
3. Characters on the left side of the page or spread are in a place of safety; characters on the right side are in a place of peril or adventure.
4. Similar shapes and colors create connections between characters and objects.
5. Dark-and cold-hued colors create somber or threatening moods; bright-and warm-hued colors lift spirits.
6. Highly saturated colors add drama; light colors bring calm.
7. A character who appears in a picture multiple times has probably lost control.
8. Relative size and page position give clues about which characters have power and authority.
9. Panels and repetition are often used to denote passage of time or movement.
10. Frames attract viewer's attention, but they also confine characters.
11. The materials used to make a picture book are often as important as the pictures they create.
12. The gap between text and image is where the excitement lies in a picture book.

### **Some questions to ask yourselves as you are reading:**

1. What mood or moods do the pictures evoke, and do they suit the book's content?
2. Do the pictures relate to one another with harmony? If not, is that for a reason?
3. Are the text and page-turns paced in such a way that I hurry when I'm supposed to and stop when I should?
4. How do details enrich each picture and convey information?
5. What makes me return to some pictures and move past others?

**Remember: with very few exceptions, every element of an illustration is the product of calculation and consideration. We owe it to the books we are evaluating to get beyond personal tastes and understand how each book works for a potential child audience.**