

Association for Library Service to Children

**RANDOLPH CALDECOTT
COMMITTEE MANUAL**

March 2005

FOREWORD

Randolph Caldecott

The Caldecott Award is named for Randolph Caldecott (1846-1886), a British illustrator best known for his nursery storybooks, including *The Babes in the Wood*, *The Hey Diddle Diddle Picture Book*, *Sing a Song of Sixpence*. Many of the scenes illustrated in these works depict the English Countryside and the people who lived there. Although Caldecott began sketching as a child, his parents saw no future for him in art and sent him to work at a bank in the city. He still found time to sketch, though, and in addition to the farmlands of his youth, Caldecott began to draw urban scenes and people, including caricatures of some bank customers. When his drawings were accepted for publication in the *Illustrated London News* and other papers, Caldecott quit his bank job to become a freelance illustrator. In his thirties, shortly after gaining recognition as a book illustrator, Caldecott began working with Edmund Evans, an engraver and printer who experimented with color. Together they created the nursery storybooks for which Caldecott became famous. It is believed by some that Caldecott's illustrations were the reason many nursery stories became popular. Caldecott traveled to the United States in December, 1885, with his wife, but the stormy sea voyage to New York and long train ride to Florida sapped his already frail health. He died in February, 1886 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in St. Augustine, Florida. His gravesite is maintained by the Randolph Caldecott Society of North America.

CALDECOTT AWARD COMMITTEE MANUAL
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PART I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

HISTORY OF THE NEWBERY/CALDECOTT AWARDS

On June 21, 1921, Frederic G. Melcher proposed to the Children's Librarians' Section at the annual meeting of the American Library Association that a medal be given for the most distinguished children's book of the year. He suggested that it be named for the eighteenth-century English bookseller John Newbery. The idea was enthusiastically accepted by the children's librarians, and Melcher's official proposal was approved by the ALA Executive Board in 1922. In Melcher's formal agreement with the board, the purpose of the Newbery Medal was stated as follows: "To encourage original and creative work in the field of books for children. To emphasize to the public that contributions to literature for children deserve similar recognition for poetry, plays, or novels. To give those librarians, who make it their life work to serve children's reading interests, an opportunity to encourage good writing in this field."

Originally, the ALA Executive Board voted that the Newbery medal be awarded to a book selected by vote of the members of the Children's Librarians' Section. In 1924 the Executive Board approved a new plan that "the designation of the most distinguished contribution to children's literature for each year shall be determined by a special committee of the Children's Librarians' Section . . ." When the Caldecott Medal was initiated in 1937, a twenty-three-member award committee was formed to select medal and honor books for both awards, with the Chair of the School Libraries Section and four school librarians designated by that Section added to the Committee. Written nominations were requested from CLS members and considered by the committee.

The 1958 reorganization of ALA led to the establishment of the Children's Services Division, which had both public library children's librarians and school librarians among its members. Since 1958 all members of the committees selecting the Newbery and Caldecott award books have been members of the Children's Services Division; in 1977 the division received its current name, the Association for Library Service to Children. In 1979 the Newbery/Caldecott committee was divided into two - one for the Newbery award and one for the Caldecott. Since then each committee has been composed of fifteen ALSC members: seven elected by the ALSC membership, seven appointed by the ALSC President, and one elected chair. New committees are chosen every year.

Frederic Melcher donated and presented the medals until his death in 1963. Since then the Melcher family has continued to donate the medals, which are presented at the banquet by the chair of each committee. Honor Book recipients receive certificates. Sculptor René Paul Chambellan designed both the Newbery and Caldecott medals. The medals are inscribed with the names of both the Children's

and School Librarians' Sections of the American Library Association. In 1977 when the Association for Library Service to Children received its current title, the board of directors decided not to change the inscriptions on the awards. Gold facsimiles of the medals are placed on copies of winning books. Silver facsimiles are placed on copies of honor books.

Committee Function Statement

To select the most distinguished American picture book for children, in English, from among those published during the preceding year—within the terms, definitions, and criteria for governing the award.

The Committee

ALSC Bylaws, Article VII: Section 2:

- a. The Newbery Award Committee shall consist of the following fifteen (15) members: Seven (7) members to be elected annually from a slate of no fewer than fourteen (14), a chairperson elected annually from a slate of two (2), and seven (7) members appointed by the vice president (president-elect).
- b. The Caldecott Award Committee shall consist of the following fifteen (15) members: Seven (7) members to be elected annually from a slate of no fewer than fourteen (14), a chairperson elected annually from a slate of two (2), and seven (7) members appointed by the vice president (president-elect).

Adopted by the ALSC Board, January 1978. Revised, Midwinter 1987.

Resolution voted by the ALSC board in June 2002:

“Voted, that no individual may serve on either Caldecott, Newbery, or Sibert Award Committees more often than once every five years. These guidelines will apply to Caldecott, Newbery, and Sibert Award Committees only, as these are where members are elected and books eligible are numerous. These guidelines will not apply to the selection of nominees for chair. These guidelines will not apply to other ALSC prestigious award committees.”

Terms, Definitions, and Criteria

TERMS

1. The Medal shall be awarded annually to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children published in the United States during the

preceding year. There are no limitations as to the character of the picture book except that the illustrations be original work. Honor books may be named. These shall be books that are also truly distinguished.

2. The Award is restricted to artists who are citizens or residents of the United States.
3. The committee in its deliberations is to consider only books eligible for the award, as specified in the terms.

DEFINITIONS

1. A “picture book for children” as distinguished from other books with illustrations, is one that essentially provides the child with a visual experience. A picture book has a collective unity of story-line, theme, or concept, developed through the series of pictures of which the book is comprised.
2. A “picture book for children” is one for which children are a potential audience. The book displays respect for children’s understandings, abilities, and appreciations. Children are defined as persons of ages up to and including fourteen and picture books for this entire age range are to be considered.
3. “Distinguished” is defined as:
 - marked by eminence and distinction; noted for significant achievement.
 - marked by excellence in quality.
 - marked by conspicuous excellence or eminence.
 - individually distinct.
4. The artist is the illustrator or co-illustrators. The artist may be awarded the medal posthumously.
5. “Original work” means that illustrations reprinted or compiled from other sources are not eligible.
6. “American picture book in the United States” means that books originally published in other countries are not eligible.
7. “In English” means that the committee considers only books published in English. This requirement DOES NOT limit the use of words or phrases in another language where appropriate in context.

8. "Published...in the preceding year" means that the book has a publication date in that year, was available for purchase in that year, and has a copyright date no later than that year. A book might have a copyright date prior to the year under consideration but, for various reasons, was not published until the year under consideration. If a book is published prior to its year of copyright as stated in the book, it shall be considered in its year of copyright as stated in the book. The intent of the definition is that every book be eligible for consideration, but that no book be considered in more than one year.
9. "Resident" specifies that author has established and maintained residence in the United States as distinct from being a casual or occasional visitor.
10. The term, "only the books eligible for the Award," specifies that the committee is not to consider the entire body of the work by an artist or whether the artist has previously won the award. The committee's decision is to be made following deliberation about books of the specified calendar year.

CRITERIA

1. In identifying a distinguished picture book for children, committee members need to consider:
 - Excellence of execution in the artistic technique employed;
 - Excellence of pictorial interpretation of story, theme, or concept;
 - Appropriateness of style of illustration to the story, theme or concept;
 - Delineation of plot, theme, characters, setting, mood or information through the pictures;
 - Excellence of presentation in recognition of a child audience.
2. The only limitation to graphic form is that the form must be one which may be used in a picture book. The book must be a self-contained entity, not dependent on other media (i.e., sound, film or computer program) for its enjoyment.
3. Each book is to be considered as a picture book. The committee is to make its decision primarily on the illustration, but other components of a book are to be considered especially when they make a book less effective as a children's picture book. Such other components might include the written text, the overall design of the book, etc.

Note: The committee should keep in mind that the award is for distinguished illustrations in a picture book and for excellence of pictorial presentation for children. The award is not for didactic intent or for popularity.

[Adopted by the ALSC board, January 1978. Revised, Midwinter 1987.]

ALSC Policies

MEMBERSHIP ON AWARDS AND MEDIA EVALUATION COMMITTEES

Conflict of Interest

ALSC affirms its confidence in the integrity of members who are invited to be nominated or appointed to serve on award and media evaluation committees, and in the integrity of the officers or nominating committees responsible for selecting candidates. However, because of the nature of the work of such committees, those who serve on them must be especially sensitive to conflict of interest situations and the appearance of impropriety. The purpose of this policy is to clarify the eligibility and responsibility of candidates asked to serve on such committees.

- I. The following situations disqualify a candidate:
 - A. Persons may not accept nomination or appointment who are employed by or advisor to any trade publishing house or any company that produces children's films, filmstrips, recordings, software, and/or other types of non-print media to be evaluated by a committee; or are the author or illustrator of a children's book or creator of other materials to be published or evaluated in the year of committee service.
 - B. A member may not serve simultaneously on an ALSC award or media evaluation committee and a Division Board or ALA Council.
- II. All other persons are eligible for nomination or appointment. The following situations do not normally disqualify a candidate:
 - A. Serving as a professional reviewer of children's books or of non-print materials.
 - B. Involvement in the selection of materials for professional tools, such as *Children's Catalog*.
 - C. Serving as a writer or editor of professional books in the field of children's literature.

*Revised by the ALSC Board Summer, 1986.

All candidates for nomination or appointment have an affirmative duty to notify the nominating committee or the appointing officer of any circumstance 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 committee member must resign immediately upon the development of any circumstance or event which disqualifies him/her from committee 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 president of ALSC shall immediately accept such resignations when tendered. In the event a committee member violates this policy, the Executive Committee shall request the committee member to tender his/her resignation. If a committee member refuses, the Executive Committee shall remove the member and inform the Board of its action. The President shall then appoint a new committee member. The final decision rests with the Executive Committee.

COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

All members of the Association for Library Service to Children are eligible to serve on the Newbery and Caldecott awards committees. The only restrictions are that a person must agree to be present at the summer and midwinter meetings at which discussion takes place and at which the selections are made, and that the person must have ready access to the major part of the children's books published during the year under consideration. In addition, a committee member must not have any personal or business involvement that may lead to a conflict of interest. Finally, ALSC members cannot serve on either the Newbery, Caldecott, or Sibert Committees more often than once every five years (with the exception of the chairs). Committee members are chosen for their experience and represent a broad range of geographical areas as well as sizes and types of libraries. Members may include school and public librarians, university educators and professional reviewers.

Although the decisions are made at the ALA Midwinter Meeting, much work is done prior to the meeting. Each member reads as many of the eligible books as possible. In addition, each member is responsible for reading the books nominated and suggested by other committee members and by ALSC members.

Wise selection of award winners requires complete participation of all members of the committee. Persons elected or appointed to an award or media evaluation committee should:

1. Have ready access to the major part of the current output of children's materials under consideration. It is recognized that there will be an occasional item under consideration which a committee member is unable to obtain. In such an instance, arrangements for review copies may be made as prescribed in the committee's guidelines.
2. Be able to attend all required discussion and decision meetings scheduled for the Annual and Midwinter meetings of ALA and follow procedures established by the committee.
3. If a committee member cannot attend the required meetings, especially the selection meetings, it is necessary to resign immediately so that the selection of a replacement may be made as soon as possible. Resignations, in writing, are addressed to the ALSC President with copies to the committee chair, the Priority Group Consultant, and the ALSC executive director.
4. Although attendance at the first Midwinter Meeting of the committee's term of office is not required, it is in fact strongly encouraged. The Chair will then introduce committee members, go over procedures, and discuss criteria. Often the Chair will invite experts in the field and past committee chairs to talk about evaluation techniques and logistical issues. The agenda is limited to discussion of the contents of the committee manual and to establishing operating procedures such as calendar, methods of obtaining books, and communication procedures. No books are discussed. This is an open meeting. All other meetings of the committee will be closed meetings (closed to all but committee members).
5. Each member has the responsibility to read eligible materials and to take full part in corresponding with the committee through the Chair. A committee member who finds it impossible to do this should resign as soon as possible. If the Chair does not hear from a committee member, the Chair is responsible for contacting the committee member to ascertain if there is a potential or an on-going problem that prevents the member from full participation. If there is such a continuing problem, the Chair, after consultation with the Priority Group Consultant, must request that the member resign for the good of the committee. The president of ALSC shall immediately accept such resignations

when tendered. If the Chair cannot contact the committee member or feels that the lack of participation will continue, and the member has not resigned, the Executive Committee shall request that the committee member tender his/her resignation. If a committee member refuses, the Executive Committee shall remove the member and inform the board of its action. The president shall then appoint a new committee member. The final decision rests with the Executive Committee.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF DISCUSSION AND SELECTION

Committee members need to maintain a high degree of confidentiality regarding the committee's discussions, both oral and written. All committee members need to feel free to speak frankly in a closed session, knowing that their comments will not be repeated outside that room, and that they preserve the right to speak for themselves outside of that closed session.

Committee members are urged to discuss books under consideration with others throughout the year to obtain a variety of critical opinions. However, it is important to remember that, in these discussions, committee members may express only their own opinions, and may not quote the opinions of other committee members or indicate in any way which books are under consideration. It is understood that all eligible books are being considered up until the selection of the winner is made.

It is also important to preserve secrecy between the time the winner is selected and the time the announcement is made to the winning author, the publisher, and the public at large. This secrecy ensures adequate publicity for the awards, avoids the dissemination of misinformation, and avoids the possibility that any business might profit from receiving information earlier than the general public.

Committee members should be aware that employees of the winning books' publishing companies are informed of the medallist and honor books at the same time the author and illustrators are informed. They, and the Children's Book Council Offices in New York, work with ALSC's executive director and the ALA Public Information Office to assure that all press releases, wire releases, web releases, and TV/radio announcements are made simultaneously. While we all understand that some "leakage" is possible because so many people are involved, as long as the committee members and publishing company personnel avoid unnecessary discussion of the winners prior to the announcement, the integrity of the announcement is assured insofar as possible.

Please remember, then, that the following items are not for public discussion at any time prior to, during, or following the selection of the awards:

- 1. Reasons (other than your own) given by individual committee members for nominating, supporting, or removing a book from consideration. The committee's reasons for selection of the medallist and honor books will be given by the committee chair or a designate who prepares the press release or the announcement articles.**
- 2. Specific titles or lists of titles under consideration. Remember that all eligible books are under consideration prior to the Midwinter Selection meeting.**
- 3. The number of ballots necessary for any decision or the vote in any balloting.**

RELATIONSHIP TO PUBLISHERS

Members of the award committees should not solicit publishers for free, personal copies of books. Members accept appointment to this committee with the understanding that they have access to new books and may borrow additional books from the ALSC office. Committee members will find that some publishers are eager to ensure that members have access to their books. If a member receives unsolicited books from a publisher, the member may accept the books.

If certain titles have been difficult to obtain, the chair may contact publishers directly to inform them of books the committee needs to see, especially towards the end of the year when time is so important. Individual committee members should not contact publishers.

If committee members receive invitations to publishers' events, they should use their own discretion in accepting. Publishers understand that acceptance of invitations and unsolicited books in no way influences the committee members' actions or the final choices made by the committee.

SELF-PUBLISHED /SMALL PRESS TITLES

If an author or representative of an author of book published by a small, independent press submits his or her Caldecott- eligible book to the Caldecott Committee for consideration, and that book is republished later by another publisher, then the book will not be reconsidered upon its commercial publication. The chair of the Caldecott Committee will keep and pass on a current –year list of

Caldecott- eligible books received directly from authors or from small, independent presses. (Adopted by ALSC Board of Directors, June 2004).

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Electronic communication facilitates the distribution of information from the Chair to committee members, the regular discussion of procedural issues, and at the discretion of the Chair, the open discussion among committee members of matters of concern. The Committee adheres to the “Guidelines for Electronic Communication for ALSC Committees” as adapted by the ALSC Board and as posted on the ALSC web page.

The Chair will establish ground rules for electronic communication by the committee at the beginning of his/her term. At times, the Chair may invite open discussion on a matter of concern. The Chair facilitates such open discussion.

As a practical matter, e-mail is not to be used for substantive discussion. It is not a substitute for face-to-face book discussion. During the year, committee members may wish to discuss matters of concern having to do with eligibility or factual errors in a book. Questions on such matters are directed to the Chair who decides whether or not to bring a particular question to the full committee.

Since the committee’s electronic communication is generally confidential, there are several ways to better ensure confidentiality. For e-mail, include the word “confidential” on the subject line or as part of the transmission options. For FAX communications, include the word “confidential” on a cover sheet.

PART II: COMMITTEE WORK

Although the decisions are made at the Midwinter Meeting, much work is done prior to the meeting. Each member reads as many of the eligible books as possible. In addition, each member is responsible for reading the books nominated and suggested by other committee members and by the ALSC membership. Committee members will often reread those books that appear to be top contenders. Throughout the year, committee member exchange lists of books as suggestions to other committee members and receive suggestions from the ALSC membership.

In the latter half of the year, each committee member nominates a total of six books for the award and gives supporting reasons for each nomination. Through distribution of this information to all committee members, a written exchange of ideas takes place before the committee meets to make its decisions.

The Newbery and Caldecott awards committees are among the ALA committees that hold closed meetings in line with ALA policy on open and closed meetings. The procedures of each committee are public information, but committee members must maintain confidentiality about the books that are nominated by committee members, the number of ballots, the tallies on ballots, and any discussion of the books among committee members.

Several blocks of time are scheduled for the committee to meet during the Midwinter Meeting at which the selections are made. The committee will meet for as long as necessary, and meetings may be extended beyond the scheduled times if additional time for discussion and balloting is needed. The first item of business is to make procedural decisions, such as the order in which books will be discussed and when to move to a vote.

The committee then proceeds to discussion. The Chair repeats the terms of the Award. The merits of each nominated book are discussed. Committee members are reminded that they are comparing books of the year with each other and are not to consider earlier works of any author. Some books may be eliminated from the list during the discussion. No books may be added that were not submitted for consideration by the committee members or by an ALSC member prior to the Midwinter Meeting. Although the award is not a popularity award, there is sure to be discussion of whether certain books are indeed children's books. There is often reference to the terms, definitions, and criteria for the award as the committee discussion proceeds.

When the books under consideration for the award have been fully discussed, the committee moves to its first ballot. Each member votes for three books, and the ballots are counted according to a point system: first choice books receive four

points; second choice books, three points; third choice books, two points. To win, a book has to receive at least 8 first-place votes and have an 8 point lead over the book with the second highest number of points. If there is no winner on the first ballot, discussion is reopened and continued until there is consensus to proceed to another ballot. This procedure of further discussion and balloting continues until a medal winner is selected.

The committee then addresses the question of whether to name Honor Books. The committee may name as many or as few as it chooses, or none, keeping in mind that the books should be truly distinguished, not merely general contenders. Honor Books may only be chosen from among those that appeared on the final medal-winning ballot. When Honor Books are announced to the public, they are announced in alphabetical order, by author, so as to accord equal honor to all books.

Calendar

June to December

June. Elected committee members and Chair notified of election results.

November. Additional committee members appointed.

Receive manual from executive director and procedural instructions from committee chairperson.

Study manual.

Prepare for committee membership.

January

First Midwinter. This is an optional committee meeting, but members are urged to attend if at all possible. The chair will introduce committee members, go over procedures, and discuss criteria. Often the chair will invite experts in the field and past committee chairs to talk about evaluation techniques and logistical issues.

January to January-Ongoing

Read background material on book evaluation (see bibliography).

Create a system for keeping a record of your reading and your critiques of the books.

Read and evaluate eligible books.

Send suggestions to committee chair according to schedule and procedures established by the chair.

Read all correspondence from committee chair.

Read and evaluate all books suggested or nominated by other committee members.

Promote interest in the award by involving colleagues and young readers in informal discussion.

June/July

Annual Conference committee meeting.

September/October

First committee ballot due to chair.

December

Second committee ballot due to chair.

January

Midwinter selection meetings.

January to June

Publicize award selections.

June/July

Presentation of medals at Annual Conference.

Welcome

Once the committee is complete, it is recommended that the Chair send a letter of welcome to the membership. The letter might include an outline of the year's work and upcoming issues. It is usually accompanied by relevant enclosures (e.g., the year's calendar, the roster, guidelines for book discussion, etc.)

Background Preparation

From the terms and criteria for the Medals, it is obvious that the focus of the Awards Committees is distinct from the usual selection concerns in a library, which may include: current holdings in a collection, children's interests, needs for special materials, curriculum guidelines, contemporary interests, and local community

concerns. In your year of committee work, you will need to begin to focus on the terms, criteria, and definitions of the Award. Here are some suggestions:

1. It is important to refresh your understanding of the specific criteria for evaluation as you embark on your committee year. Spend the early months reading background material. Start with the appropriate chapters in a standard textbook on children's literature. A good list of choices is included in this section. Familiarize yourself with the language of evaluation and criticism so that you can articulate your own perspectives and ideas as the year unfolds. It is especially important to practice using this language throughout the year, so you can feel completely prepared for the committee's final deliberations.
2. Take part in book discussions of several kinds. These might be regular selection meetings, workshops, classes, or professional association meetings. It helps to put together discussion sessions with other professionals in your community, people who are interested in the process. Caldecott committee members may want to discuss picture books with art teachers. These coalitions will help to publicize the awards, involve others in the process, and help you develop discussion skills. You will also be engaging in an activity similar to your first meeting with your award committee, where you will need to present your ideas more clearly and succinctly and listen more carefully than ever before. **Always keep in mind the Confidentiality issues listed in the previous section.**
3. Speak to community groups, faculty meetings, PTAs and individuals about currently published books and about the history of these widely publicized awards. School districts in your area may appreciate a workshop for teachers on the past award winners and current pool of books from which you will be choosing this year's winner. Planning such a presentation will help you develop your background on the awards as well. **Again, always keep in mind the importance of Confidentiality in referring to your own committee's discussions and books currently under consideration.**
4. You may wish to try to write down your own critical viewpoint. If you do this, examine it in light of the terms and criteria for the award. Have you taken account of the factors to be considered?
5. If most of the writing you do about children's books in your professional work has a focus different from the terms and criteria of the award, try writing some critical analyses of children's books structured around the Medal terms and criteria. For example, review and read the Medal and Honor Books of a previous year and write critical analyses of each in relation to the terms and criteria.

6. Promote discussion of eligible books in your local community by organizing and taking part in mock Newbery-Caldecott discussions and sending the results to the committee members.

Reading List (revised, 2003)

Spend time early in the year, before you have many books to consider, reading selections from this list.

- I. Read the appropriate chapters in one or more of the textbooks on Children's Literature to help you review the criteria for evaluation of picture books and understand various aspects of artistic merit.

Children & Books, 9th edition, by Zena Sutherland. Addison-Wesley, 1996;
ISBN: 0673997332

Chapter 4: Books for the Very Young, Chapter 5: Artists and Children's Books

Children's Literature in the Elementary School, by Charlotte S. Huck, Susan Hepler, Janet Hickman, Barbara Z. Kiefer. 7th edition. McGraw Hill, 2000;
ISBN: 0072423919

Chapter 4: Books to Begin On, Chapter 5: Picture Books

From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children's Books, by Kathleen T. Horning. HarperCollins, 1997; ISBN: 0060245190 (Hardcover); HarperTrophy, 1997; ISBN: 006446167X (Paper)

Chapter 5: Picture Books

Only Connect: Readings on Children's Literature, by Sheila A. Egoff, et. al. 3rd edition. Oxford University Press, 1996; ISBN: 0195410246 (Paper)

See section on "Picture Books and Illustration"

- II. Read books about Picture Book Art.

Art and Design in Children's Picture Books: An Analysis of Caldecott Award-Winning Illustrations, by Lyn Ellen Lacy. American Library Association, 1986.

Caldecott Celebration: Six Artists Share Their Paths to the Caldecott Medal, by Leonard S. Marcus. Walker & Co., 1998; ISBN: 0802786561

Looking at Picture Books, by John Warren Stewig. Highsmith, 1995; ISBN: 091784629X

Lotus Seeds: Children, Pictures, and Books, by Marcia Brown. Atheneum, 1986; ISBN: 0684184907

Potential of Children's Books: From Visual Literacy to Aesthetic Understanding, by Barbara Z. Kiefer. Merrill/Prentice Hall, 1995; ISBN: 0013635355

Writing with Pictures: How to Write and Illustrate Children's Books, by Uri Shulevitz. Watson-Guptill, 1997; ISBN: 0823059359

Picture This: How Pictures Work, by Molly Garrett Bang. Seastar Books, 2000; ISBN: 1587170299 (Hardcover); ISBN: 1587170302 (Paper)

Ways of Telling: Conversations on the Art of the Picture Book, by Leonard S. Marcus. Dutton, 2002; ISBN: 0525464905

III. Read background information about the awards.

Newbery and Caldecott Awards: A Guide to the Medal and Honor Books. American Library Association Editions, 2002; ISBN: 0838935281 (or current edition)

The Newbery and Caldecott Medal Books, 1986-2000: A Comprehensive Guide to the Winners, by Maria Salvadore (Editor), Roger Sutton (Editor), Kathleen Horning (Editor). American Library Association Editions, 2001; ISBN: 0838935052

Reading Eligible Picture Books

Committee members will begin to receive books for consideration by early spring. Eligible books will also be announced in catalogs and reviews and may appear in libraries and bookstores. Begin immediately to read and evaluate eligible books. The pace of publication increases throughout the year. It is important to keep up with the eligible books at all times.

Develop a convenient system for taking notes about each book read—a system that works for you. Some will keep complete bibliographic information on each book, a short summary, and a critical statement, noting both strengths and weaknesses with some specificity. Notes about books that do not seem to be serious contenders will probably become briefer as the year progresses. It is a mistake, however, not to make notes about each book as you evaluate. A book that at first reading does not seem a

serious contender may prove to be a good possibility on further consideration. Committee members will need to re-read many books, especially those recommended by fellow committee members. Personal notes will help in the recollection of first impressions and further thinking about the book.

The chair will establish procedures for informing members of books being read and considered by others. You will be asked to send the chair a list of selected titles at various times throughout the year. Providing information to other committee members is every member's responsibility, and your chair will set up procedures for your committee. The books to be considered at the selection meeting at Midwinter must have been recommended or suggested prior to the selection meeting.

Eligibility

If you read a book that you think should be considered, but are unsure about its eligibility, contact the committee chair with the bibliographic citation and your question. The chair and the priority consultant will check on the eligibility and inform the committee.

Note-taking

From the outset, committee members need to develop some convenient system for taking notes about each book that is read. Some prefer a file card system; others keep a binder with notes, sometimes organized with tabs.

Succinct and specific notes clarify thinking and aid in the Midwinter Selection Meeting discussion. In addition, some committee members keep complete bibliographic information on each book, a short summary, and a critical statement, noting both strengths and weaknesses based on the award criteria. As the year's work begins, the Chair sometimes asks committee members to share ideas on taking notes with the whole committee. It is recommended that notes be taken on each book that is read. Notes about books not thought to be serious contenders may shorten as the year progresses. It is important to remember that a book not impressive on first reading may prove more interesting later on. Re-reading is frequently required. Notes record first impressions and measure changes in thinking.

Committee members do not usually bring a personal copy of every book under consideration to the Midwinter Selection Meeting. Therefore, notes need to include references to specific page numbers and/or quoted passages to justify specific points made during the discussion.

Many committee members collect professional reviews of titles under consideration. Although reviews are not to be quoted during discussion, they raise questions and clarify opinion.

Notetaking

Sample Notes Form:

Author:				Illus:	
Title:				Genre:	
Publisher:					
Reviews: BCCB	Booklist	Horn Book	PW	SLJ	Other:
<hr/>					

Summary:
Characters:

Pros:

Cons/Concerns:

Other Comments:

Criteria: Excellence of execution in the artistic technique employed;
Excellence of pictorial interpretation of story, theme, or concept;
Appropriateness of style of illustration to the story, theme of concept;
Delineation of plot, theme, characters, setting mood or information through pictures;
Excellence of presentation in recognition of a child audience.

Suggestion Process

The Chair solicits suggestions of eligible titles from committee members, usually on a monthly basis. Each time, committee members are asked to suggest books deemed to be strong contenders based on the award criteria.

The suggestion process serves several important functions. Of course, it encourages committee members to identify strong contenders. It also alerts committee members as to which books merit consideration by the group. Then too, the suggestion process helps committee members begin to weigh relative strengths and weaknesses of books based on the award criteria.

Committee members often recommend a book previously suggested. This practice allows the committee to develop an early gauge of support for titles—a gauge that becomes useful in identifying titles to consider in the nomination process.

Suggestion deadlines are listed on the calendar established at the beginning of the year. Suggestions are submitted to the Chair by e-mail to meet designated deadlines. The Chair needs to receive notification should a committee member have no suggestions to add. Suggestions sent by U.S. mail or FAX must be **received** by the designated deadlines.

After each suggestion deadline, the Chair compiles a list of suggested titles, indicates the number of suggestions for each title, and distributes the list to committee members. After the second round of suggestions, the Chair distributes a cumulative suggestion list along with a monthly list. (These two kinds of lists may be combined). Suggestions remain anonymous.

The Chair works as quickly as possible to get the suggestion lists distributed to committee members. Turn around time is a week or less. At the same time, suggestion lists are also forwarded to the ALSC staff.

Serious consideration is to be given to all suggested titles including those with minimal support. Sometimes only one committee member has seen a particular book. Sometimes support grows after re-readings or in comparison to other books under consideration.

As the suggestion list grows, it becomes easier for the committee to make comparisons among suggested titles and to begin weighing relative strengths and weaknesses with regard to the award criteria.

It is possible to make further suggestions once the nomination process is complete. Such suggestions appear on the Midwinter discussion list. These further suggestions allow committee members to move forward books published late in the year, and in rare instances, a strong title previously overlooked.

Committee members are urged to suggest all strong titles for consideration, and they are also urged not to overload the suggestion list. Overloading the list undermines its function to focus attention on strong contenders. Committee members need to consider each title with regard to the award criteria and suggest only those titles deemed to be strong contenders.

There are no set parameters as to the number of suggestions a committee member may make. Some members suggest more titles than others. In the suggestion process, it is important for committee members to move forward only those titles deemed strong enough to merit careful consideration by the whole committee.

The suggestion process focuses attention on particular titles. It does not limit the committee's reading. Committee members are expected to identify, obtain, read, and consider other eligible titles as a matter of routine. Committee members are expected to suggest strong titles as a matter of routine.

In summary, it is the responsibility of committee members to make suggestions by the designated deadlines and to consider carefully all suggested titles.

Nomination Process

Twice in the months leading up to Midwinter the chair will request nominations from committee members. Each time committee members will be asked to nominate three books (for a total of six distinct nominations) and to provide justification for each book. The chair will distribute the results and the justifications. You must nominate three different books on your second preliminary ballot, but you may nominate titles that were nominated by others on the first ballot.

These nominations serve several functions.

- ❖ They serve as a focus for all suggestions made during the year.
- ❖ The written discussions serve as preparation for oral discussion at Midwinter and provide practice in stating clearly and succinctly your ideas about books that seem distinguished.
- ❖ Finally, they make each committee member aware of which books require their closest scrutiny and which you will need to re-read.

To avoid making commitments prior to the Midwinter discussions, ranked preferences are not given on the nominating ballots. Although books nominated on these two ballots will probably be the ones the committee will discuss most fully, all the books suggested by committee members and others will be discussed at Midwinter.

Please submit your nominations on time, according to the schedule set by the chair of your committee. Preliminary nominations should include:

- ❖ Three titles that you feel are worthy of consideration for the Medal;
- ❖ Complete bibliographic information;
- ❖ Written statements that give your reasons for nominating each title.

The chair will set up guidelines and dates for submitting your nominations. Recent committees have found that submitting this information through email significantly reduces the time it takes to redistribute the complete list to committee members. Each committee chair will decide the best way of distributing the compiled list of preliminary nominations. Read each packet of nominations and justifications thoroughly when you receive them.

Participation of the ALSC Membership

Suggestions from the ALSC membership-at-large are an important source of titles.

It may not be apparent to ALSC members that their suggestions are given careful consideration by the Award Committees. The chair will place a notice in the ALSC Newsletter, on the ALSC listserv and in *Children and Libraries: The Journal of the Association for Library Service to Children* asking for membership suggestions. As a member of an award committee, part of your responsibility is to encourage other ALSC members to select books for consideration. This is important because only books nominated or suggested by the committee or other ALSC members are discussed at the Midwinter selection meeting.

While encouraging others to submit suggestions, remember that the nominations made by committee members are confidential information. You may talk in general about the books that you as an individual are reading, but all information about the opinions of other committee members, and the list of committee nominations is strictly confidential, as are the deliberations at Midwinter.

Annual Conference Committee Meeting (prior to the Midwinter Selection Meeting)

The committee meets during the ALA Annual Conference in the summer of the year during which the books under consideration are being published. This is not a selection meeting; it is for information sharing, problem-solving, and preparation for the selection meetings at Midwinter Meeting. The summer meeting agenda includes the following:

- ❖ Opportunity for committee members to become better acquainted.
- ❖ Projected time line for the remainder of the year, including a review of the preliminary nominations process and writing supporting. Each committee needs to discuss ways in which the members are most comfortable communication and how they plan to use e-mail with regard to confidentiality issues throughout the year.
- ❖ Review of the procedures set forth in the committee manual and discussion of problems or concerns that committee members or the chair have, e.g. obtaining books, eligibility issues, etc.
- ❖ Discussion of terms, criteria, and definitions for the medal and honor books. Such discussion will help focus the committee's critical thinking so that at the Midwinter selection meeting members will be familiar with critical standards of each committee member.
- ❖ Review of the obligations of each member to take an active role in the work of the committee and the expectation that members unable to do so will resign from the committee. Review of procedures for the selection meetings at the Midwinter Conference.

Please Note: Formal discussion of books under consideration does not take place at the Annual Conference; all formal discussion leading to choice of award books takes place at Midwinter. However, there *will* be time for committee members to discuss and review *informally* the books that have been suggested so far and to add additional books. Books may be removed from the discussion list at this meeting but only on request of the person who suggested them. Books deleted at this time may be re-added prior to the Midwinter Meeting.

Committee Member Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of committee members to:

- Obtain, read, and consider all books on the practice discussion list prior to Annual.
- Bring

	Caldecott Award Committee Manual.
	Pertinent committee communications.
	Personal notes about all books to be discussed.
	Reviews of books to be discussed (optional).
	Notes on books to be introduced formally into practice discussion. (In advance of Annual, the Chair assigns committee members to introduce books into discussion. Usually committee members are assigned books that they themselves suggested).
	Copies of books to be introduced for practice discussion.

Chair Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Chair to:

- Notify

	The ALSC staff about which books have been suggested on an on-going basis and as soon as possible. The committee members about time and locations of meetings.
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- Establish

	A short list of suggested titles for practice book discussion.
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- Check on

	Meeting schedule as soon as possible. Work with the ALSC staff on scheduling concerns.
	Meeting room arrangement as soon as possible. Work with ALSC on a comfortable arrangement with a table conducive to discussion.
	Books under consideration. Work with the ALSC staff. One copy of each book on the practice discussion list is to be sent to Annual by ALSC. Sometimes books are missing in which case the Chair specifically arranges for them to be on hand. It is necessary to have a book in hand for practice discussion of that book to take place.

- Arrange for

	Access to the meeting room. Work with the ALSC staff to obtain key.
	Secretary to take minutes on procedural matters, but not practice book discussion.
	A second set of books under consideration. Work with the committee. The Chair asks committee members to bring books that they are introducing formally into discussion.

- Provide

	A proposed agenda (distributed prior to Annual).
	A short list for the practice book discussion (distributed prior to Annual).

	Information packet for committee with a final agenda, discussion list, discussion guidelines, etc.
	Name labels for discussion table.

Agenda

The agenda at Annual Conference includes:

- An opportunity for committee members to become re-acquainted.
- Discussion of terms, criteria, and definitions for award and Honor Books.
- Discussion of procedures to be used by the committee during the remainder of the year and at the Midwinter Selection Meeting.
- Review of responsibilities for committee members and the Chair.
- Discussion of the importance of full participation by committee members and the Chair.
- Discussion of what steps to take should full participation be impossible (e.g., how to tender a resignation).
- Review role of the Priority Group Consultant. At the discretion of the Chair, the Priority Group Consultant is invited to address the committee.
- Discussion of criteria for evaluating books in general. At the discretion of the Chair, an expert is invited to address the committee.
- Practice book discussion using a short list of suggested titles.

The secretary takes minutes on the order of business and on procedural matters. No notes are taken on the practice book discussion. After Annual, the secretary prepares the minutes and sends them to the Chair. The Chair reviews the minutes and distributes them to committee members.

Book Discussion

It is important to remember that only the book discussion at Midwinter leads to final selection. Book discussion at Annual is for practice only. Therefore, it is not necessary to discuss a long list of books at Annual. The Chair establishes a short list well before Annual to allow committee members time to prepare. This exercise serves several functions. It allows the committee to practice meaningful book discussion based on the award criteria, to raise and clarify procedural questions, and to become comfortable working together as a group.

Report

After the Annual Conference (prior to the Midwinter Selection Meeting), the Chair prepares and submits a report about the committee's work for the Board on the Post-Annual Conference Meeting Report form (see the Division Leadership Manual and the ALSC website) and by the designated deadline.

Midwinter Selection Meeting

The meeting room will be used only by the award committee and will be locked between meetings. The ALSC office will provide the committee with at least one copy of each book nominated by the committee members or by ALSC members-at-large.

Books to Be Considered

It is important for committee members to remember that ONLY books previously nominated or suggested by committee members or ALSC members may be considered at the Midwinter selection meeting. No books may be added to the list once the Midwinter meeting begins. For this reason it is important to return nominating ballots promptly, suggest books for committee consideration, and urge ALSC members to send suggestions in to the committee.

During committee meetings at Midwinter, once a book has been dropped from consideration for the award, that book may NOT be placed back on the list of books under consideration. Therefore, when committee members begin to delete titles, such deletions must be made with care.

Committee Member Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of committee members to:

- Obtain, read, and consider all books on the Midwinter discussion list prior to the Midwinter Selection Meeting.
- Bring

	Caldecott Award Committee Manual.
	Pertinent committee communications.
	Personal notes about all books under consideration.
	Reviews of books under consideration (optional).
	Justification statements for all books under consideration.
	Notes on books to be introduced formally into discussion. (In advance of Midwinter, the Chair assigns committee members to introduce books into discussion. Usually committee members are assigned books that they themselves nominated).
	Copies of books to be introduced for discussion.
	Copies of any other books under consideration that may require re-reading (optional).
	Biographical information on authors represented on discussion list. Committee members are sometimes asked to bring such information for the authors of books that they formally introduce into discussion (at request of the Chair).

Chair Responsibilities
It is the responsibility of the Chair to:

- **Notify**

	The ALSC staff about which books have been suggested and nominated on an on-going basis and as soon as possible.
	The committee members about the times and locations of meetings.

- **Establish**

	A Midwinter book discussion list.
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- **Check on**

	Meeting schedule as soon as possible. Work with the ALSC staff on scheduling concerns.
	Meeting room arrangement as soon as possible. Work with the ALSC staff on a comfortable arrangement with a table conducive to discussion.
	Books under consideration. Work with the ALSC staff. One copy of each book under consideration is to be sent to Midwinter by the ALSC staff; however sometimes books may be missing, in which case the Chair specifically arranges for them to be on hand. It is necessary to have a book in hand for discussion of that book to take place.

- **Arrange for**

	Access to the meeting room. Work with the ALSC staff to obtain key.
	Biographical information on authors represented on the discussion list. Work with the committee. The Chair may ask committee members to bring such information for the authors of books that they formally introduce into discussion.
	A second set of books under consideration. Work with the committee. The Chair asks committee members to bring books that they are introducing into discussion. The result is having two sets of books which is helpful for purposes of re-reading and for writing the press release.
	Secretary and tellers (2).

- **Provide**

	Information packet for committee with agendas, discussion list, discussion guidelines, etc.
	An established agenda (distributed to committee prior to Midwinter).
	Name labels for discussion table.
	Office supplies/equipment (computer, calculator, camera, thesaurus, etc).
	Tally sheets and selection ballots for voting.

Order of Business

1. Reintroduction of committee members.

2. Appointment by the Chair of a secretary and of three tellers.

Secretary: Takes minutes of all procedural decisions. No minutes are kept of discussion or ballots. The ballots and number tally sheets are collected by the Chair who turns them in to the ALSC executive director. The ballots are destroyed and the tally sheet and minutes are placed in the ALSC archives as the record of the committee's actions. The secretary turns in the minutes to the committee Chair prior to the end of the final committee meeting.

Tellers: Tabulate and double-check all ballots and turn them over to the committee chair.

3. Procedural decisions:

- How voting is to be handled. (There is a set procedure for the balloting for the Medal books, but there are other matters that may require votes.)
- Order in which books will be discussed.
- How books will be eliminated from consideration prior to the first ballot and after balloting has begun.
- Reminder of the procedures for naming Honor Books, if any.

4. Review of the terms, criteria, and definitions of the award.

5. Discussion:

Each book nominated or suggested will be considered. Many committees have found it helpful to go through the list once, usually starting with books that committee members have suggested but not nominated. Any book that does not seem a serious contender may be eliminated at this time by some agreed upon procedure. Once this is completed, full discussion of each book remaining on the list takes place. Other committees find that starting with nominated books while the committee is fresh, and then proceeding through the complete list, is more productive.

Committee members must always keep in mind that once a book has been eliminated it cannot be reintroduced. When any book is eliminated from consideration, it is removed from the table so that only the books still under consideration remain.

Some tips to keep in mind:

- Use good critical analysis, no vague words (cute, nice, good, etc.).
- Be cooperative—listen to each other, no side conversations.
- Refer back to the criteria to keep the discussion focused.
- Make comparisons only to books that were published in the year under consideration.
- Clarity—be clear in what you say, think through the point you are making, and speak loudly enough to be heard by everyone.
- Be concise—be sure that what you have to say adds to the discussion; try not to repeat what others have said.
- Do not book talk or summarize the plot.
- Refrain from relating personal anecdotes.

6. Balloting:

When there is consensus that all the books on the discussion list are fully discussed, the committee proceeds to a selection ballot. Certain procedures apply:

- Committee members list first, second, and third place votes for the award on a selection ballot.
- In tabulating ballot results, the tellers assign four points to each first place vote, three points to each second place vote, and two points to each third place vote.
- There is a formula to determine the winner. A book must receive at least 8 first choices at four points per vote for a total of at least 32 points, and it must have an 8 point lead over the book receiving the next highest number of points.

Tally

Once balloting is complete, the tellers tabulate the results. The tabulations are double-checked, and the Chair reads the results aloud to the committee.

Depending on the results, certain steps are taken:

- If there is a winner, the committee proceeds to considering whether or not to select Honor Books.
- If the first ballot does not produce a winner, the committee follows procedures for re-balloting.

Re-Balloting

The committee may not proceed to another ballot without a second round of book discussion. At this point, certain choices present themselves, and certain procedures apply:

- By consensus the committee may choose to withdraw from the discussion list all titles that receive no votes on the first ballot.

- By consensus the committee may choose to withdraw additional titles that received minimal support on the first ballot.
- Once withdrawn from the discussion list, a book is permanently eliminated from consideration for the award.
- Once a second round is complete, the committee proceeds to a second ballot.
- On a second ballot (and, if necessary, all subsequent ballots), votes are tabulated by the tellers who use the same point system and formula as in the first round to determine a winner.
- If after a second ballot, there is still no winner, the committee is required to re-open discussion and then re-ballot, alternating between discussion and re-balloting until a winner is selected.

Selection of Honor Books

Immediately following determination of the winner of the Medal, and following appropriate discussion, the committee will entertain the following:

- Whether Honor Books will be named.
- Whether the committee wishes to choose as Honor Books the next highest books on the original winning ballot or to ballot again.
- If the committee votes to use the award-winning ballot, they must then determine how many Honor Books to name.
- If the committee chooses to ballot for Honor Books, only books that received points on the award winning ballot may be included. The same voting procedure is followed as for the award winner.
- If the committee has chosen to ballot for Honor Books, following that ballot, the committee will vote how many books of those receiving the highest number of points are to be named Honor Books.

Midwinter: After Selection

Writing the Press Release and Informing the Winners

After the award winner and Honor Books have been chosen, the committee is responsible for providing the ALA Public Information Office (PIO) with bibliographic information, annotations, and biographical information about the winners and Honor Books. Annotations that committee members wrote to justify their early nominations, as well as copies of any professional reviews they have kept, are very useful at this point. Sometimes, the Chair provides the text. At other times, the Chair designates a committee member (selected prior to the meeting) to do the writing. The biographical essay must be completed within hours of the final selection meeting of the committee. The official ALA news release is written directly

from this information, so it is imperative that the biographical information be legible and accurate. Check, check, and check again.

Once the press release is completed, it should be delivered to PIO, along with copies of the winner and Honor Books. The morning of the Newbery/Caldecott press conference, the ALSC executive director notifies the publishers of the winners and honor book recipients and obtains their phone numbers. The committee chair then notifies the winners by phone from the ALA conference center office before the press conference. Committee members are also invited to be present for this contact, which is often the culminating event of the committee experience.

At the press conference the medallists and Honor Books are announced along with other award recipients (Batchelder, Wilder, Sibert, Carnegie, etc.) The PIO prepares the press release based on information provided by the committee, and it is made available to those attending the press conference immediately after the announcements are made.

At the press conference the Medal Winner and Honor Book recipients are announced along with other award recipients (Batchelder, Wilder, Sibert, Carnegie, etc.) The PIO prepares the press release based on information provided by the committee, and it is made available to those attending the press conference.

After Midwinter Selection Meeting

Members of the committee should work with their local news media in publicizing the Newbery, Caldecott, Batchelder, and Carnegie Medals, and, in appropriate years, the Wilder and Belpré Awards. Be sure that local newspapers and radio stations receive copies of the press release. On occasion, local newspapers and television and radio stations have given extra coverage to the awards when a local person was involved in the selection process.

If you are interviewed, please emphasize the importance of good books for children, the terms of the award, and the committee's reasons for the choices made (keeping in mind the need for confidentiality about the deliberations.) Other promotional activities might include developing programs and displays in libraries, schools, and other agencies about the medallist and Honor Books, speaking to local organizations, and sharing your experience with local professional organizations.

Presentation of the Medals

During the Annual Conference the medals will be presented to the winners and certificates to the Honor Book recipients. Although committee members are not required to be present, most find a special satisfaction in being part of this very

exciting occasion. Committee members will be invited to a special reception for the award winners, ALSC staff, and ALSC Board Members that is held before the banquet. Publishers may also plan special events for committee members to meet the award recipients, although they are not obligated to do so.

PART III: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE AWARD PROCESS

Responsibility for selection of the medal winner and Honor Books rests with the Caldecott Award Committee. This manual describes these responsibilities. However, there are others who have responsibilities for the awards. The next several pages give you an overview of the responsibilities ascribed to others, beginning with an overview of the responsibilities of your committee chair.

Responsibilities of Others

Committee Chair:

The committee chair is a voting member of the committee with all the rights and responsibilities of other committee members. There is a delicate balance that the chair must maintain between being the chair and being a committee member. Many chairpersons find it helpful to the free flow of the discussion if they limit their discussion to books they feel strongly about, speak later in the discussion of any book, and speak only to make a point that has not already been made.

The chair is responsible for setting the tone for committee discussion. This can be done by accepting all statements relative to the discussion, by firm leadership leading the discussion on pertinent issues, and by the ability to provide opportunity for all committee members to speak, without allowing any member to dominate. In addition, the chair does the following:

- Establishes calendar and mailing procedures for the committee. Sends committee roster to all members early in the year, including mailing addresses (home and work), phone numbers and e-mail addresses.
- Conducts all committee meetings (Midwinter, Annual Conference).
- Prepares agendas for all committee meeting.
- Corresponds with committee members immediately after election or appointment. Establishes guidelines for use of email and other correspondence.
- Receives suggestions from committee members according to a schedule established early in the year; compiles lists of all books suggested and sends them to committee members promptly.
- Prepares ballots for nominations in October and December. Distributes results to committee members as soon as possible after receiving nominations.
- Checks eligibility of books suggested or nominated, with assistance of priority group consultant.

- Answers all correspondence promptly, referring correspondence to the ALSC president or executive director for reply when appropriate. Copies all correspondence to committee members, to the ALSC executive director, the ALSC president and vice-president, and to the priority group consultant.
- Works with the ALSC staff to arrange committee meeting schedule so that it fits with the other award committees and the Notable Books Committee.
- Submits budget request for next committee.
- Maintains financial records of committee's expenses and requests a reimbursement from ALSC.
- Prepares committee reports at conferences and between conferences for ALSC Board.
- Contacts non-participating committee members and, if necessary, after consultation with Priority Group Consultant, suggests their resignation from the committee.
- Represents the committee at committee chairs' orientations and meetings of Priority Group VI.
- Presents problems to Priority Group Consultant as needed.

Midwinter Selection Meeting

- Prepares and distributes to committee members and ALSC Executive Director the final list of books nominated and suggested, at least three weeks prior to the beginning of the Midwinter Meeting.
- Informs the committee members and the ALSC office immediately of late additions to the list of books under consideration so that the books may be read by committee members and the ALSC office may check the books for eligibility and bring them to the Midwinter Meeting (no later than one week prior to the beginning of the conference).
- Appoints committee secretary and tellers.
- Arranges in advance of the first committee meeting for all materials (books, ballots, name cards, tally sheets) to be available in the meeting room.
- Prepares or arranges for committee members to prepare the press release information for the Public Information Office.
- Notifies winners and their publishers just prior to the Press Conference.
- Submits copies of the medal and Honor Books, committee tally sheets, committee ballots, and committee minutes to ALSC executive director immediately on conclusion of the committees' meetings at Midwinter.

Between Midwinter and Annual Conference

- Sends letters of congratulations to award winner and honor book recipients.
- Sends all committee files to ALSC office.
- Sends “Thank You” letters to members and members’ employers.
- Prepares and sends suggestions to the chair of the next year’s committee with copies to president, vice-president, executive director, and priority group consultant. This includes sending the next chair titles of any books with next year’s copyright date that the committee has identified in its reading, and friendly suggestions about procedural matters.
- Prepares remarks for Newbery/Caldecott Banquet to introduce award winner and honor book recipients. Sends remarks to ALSC office prior to the Annual Conference to coordinate with preparation of power point display at the Banquet.

Annual Conference

- Presents the medal to the author of the award winning book and certificates to Honor Book authors at the Newbery/Caldecott Banquet.

Priority Group Consultant

- On request, assists the committee and chair with procedural and personnel problems.
- Assists chairperson in deciding eligibility of books suggested or nominated.

ALSC Staff

- Checks eligibility for membership of those nominated or appointed.
- Notifies persons elected to the committee (May).
- On the president-elect’s instructions, sends letters of invitation to persons invited to serve on the committee (November).
- Distributes manuals to committee members immediately after election or appointment (June-November).
- Maintains a collection of all books suggested and nominated for the award. Loans these books, on request to committee members (all year).
- Informs Children’s Book Council of the names and addresses of committee members (when roster is completed). Supplies committee roster to publishers upon request.
- Works with committee chair in establishing meeting schedule (all year).

For Midwinter Selection Meeting

- Provides one copy of each book to be considered (dependent on publisher's willingness to respond to request). Informs chair of books that cannot be provided.
- Provides ballots and tally sheets (upon request).
- Requests that ALA Conference Services provide for a secured room for the committee meetings and key for chair.
- Provides telephone assistance for the chair for notifying the winners.
- Notifies publishers and the Public Information Office and coordinates press announcements.
- With the ALSC president, arranges announcement of the winners.
- Makes sure press announcements are available. Assists ALA/PIO in preparing information packets for distribution to members of the press.

After Midwinter Meeting

- Works with winners and their publishers regarding the acceptance speeches.
- Works with Weston Woods regarding the taping of the speeches and with *Children and Libraries: The Journal of the Association for Library Service to Children* and *Horn Book Magazine* regarding publication of the speeches.
- Works with president and Local Arrangements Committee on arrangements for the medal presentation and other related events.
- Sends letters of congratulation to winning authors with details about banquet arrangements.
- Continues aiding PIO in publicizing the awards.
- Updates brochures on the awards—including editing, design, and arrangements for publication. Updates awards list in new committee manuals.
- Handles all ALSC office correspondence related to the awards—general and specific to this year.
- Arranges for engraving of medal and preparation of Honor Book Certificates.

Annual Conference

- Brings medals and certificates to conference.
- Carries out responsibilities related to awards ceremony and other events.
- Handles last minute problems related to award ceremony and other events.

ALSC Nominating Committee

- Nominates two persons for chairperson.
- Nominates fourteen persons to run for seven committee memberships.

ALSC Membership

- Elects seven members and the chairperson of the committee.
- Suggests books for consideration.
- Promotes information and publicity regarding the award.

ALSC Board

- Regularly, or on request, reviews and reaffirms or changes the terms and procedures for award selection.
- Authorizes events for announcement of the award and for medal presentation.
- Authorizes related social events.

ALSC President

- Appoints seven members of the committee.
- If necessary, makes appointments to fill vacancies on the committee.
- If necessary, deals with conflict of interest or non-participation of committee members, in consultation with the Executive Committee and Priority Group Consultant.
- Determines announcement time and location and type of celebration for the awards presentation, following ALSC Board guidelines (Summer 1982 and 1986).
- Presides at announcement and presentation ceremonies.

PART IV: SAMPLES AND DOCUMENTS

ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY SERVICE TO CHILDREN
CALDECOTT AWARD
Sample Preliminary Nomination

I recommend to the committee for consideration for the Caldecott Award the following three titles
(not in preferential order):

Author

Illustrator

Title

Publisher

Annotation

Author

Illustrator

Title

Publisher

Annotation

Author

Illustrator

Title

Publisher

Caldecott Manual

Annotation

Signature

Please state your reasons for nominating these books, including references to artistic technique mentioned in the criteria for the award.

Please return this ballot by October __, 20__ to:
(Chair's Name and Address)

ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY SERVICE TO CHILDREN
CALDECOTT AWARD
Sample Second Nomination

I recommend to the committee for consideration for the Caldecott Award the following three titles
(not in preferential order):

Author

Illustrator

Title

Publisher

Annotation

Author

Illustrator

Title

Publisher

Annotation

Author

Illustrator

Title

Publisher

Annotation

Signature

Please state your reasons for nominating these books, including references to artistic technique mentioned in the criteria for the award.

Please return this ballot by October __, 20__ to:

(Chair's Name and Address)

Note: You may nominate books that others nominated on the first ballot, but do not re-nominate your own first ballot choices.

RANDOLPH CALDECOTT AWARD
Selection Ballot: Sample

SELECTION BALLOT

Ballot, Number _____

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

RANDOLPH CALDECOTT MEDAL

Employer/Supervisor Information: sample

Please supply the employer/supervisor information to a letter can be sent to your employer/supervisor regarding your participation on the Caldecott Award Committee. You may list as many names as you like.

Your name

Supervisor's Name:

Supervisor's Title:

Name of Institution:

Mailing Address:

Supervisor's Name:

Supervisor's Title:

Name of Institution:

Mailing Address:

RANDOLPH CALDECOTT MEDAL

Letter to Employer/Supervisor #1: Sample

April 1, 2000

Dear _____,

Please accept our congratulations and gratitude for your support of _____ during her term on the Association for Library Service to Children's Caldecott Medal Committee.

This is an especially exciting assignment. The Caldecott Medal is widely considered to be one of the most prestigious awards in children's literature, and books selected by the committee will become part of the canon of distinguished children's books for years to come. As part of this committee, _____ will help to select the most distinguished American picture book, and perhaps additional Honor Books.

Well over 5000 trade books are published for children each year. In accepting an appointment, each committee member has made a professional commitment to be involved in an intense and time-consuming process: reading, evaluating, discussing, and ultimately selecting the year's most distinguished book for children. Needless to say, already well-practiced reviewing and evaluative skills will be further honed and heightened.

In July our committee will meet during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. We will meet to make our selections in January 2001 in Washington, D.C. The award presentation will be at the Newbery/Caldecott/Wilder Banquet in San Francisco in June 2001.

Thank you again for your support during this selection process.

Sincerely,

Chair, 2001 Caldecott Medal Committee

RANDOLPH CALDECOTT MEDAL

Letter to Employer/Supervisor #2: Sample

March 3, 2001

Dear _____,

Please accept our congratulations and gratitude for your support of _____ during her term on the 2001 Caldecott Award Committee. As you probably know, the award is administered by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association.

For your information, the winners, announced in January, are as follows:

Winner:

SO YOU WANT TO BE PRESIDENT? Illustrated by David Small, written by Judith St. George (Philomel Books.)

In addition, there are four Honor Books.

CASEY AT THE BAT Illustrated by Christopher Bing, written by Ernest Lawrence Thayer (Handprint Books)

CLICK, CLACK, MOO: COWS THAT TYPE Illustrated by Betsy Lewin, written by Doreen Cronin (Simon & Schuster)

OLIVIA Illustrated and written by Ian Falconer.

This was an exciting assignment. Well over 5000 trade books are published for children each year. It is an enormous professional commitment to be involved in the intense and time-consuming selection process: reading, evaluating, discussing, and selecting the year's most distinguished picture books.

The Caldecott Committee met in July at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. We met in Washington, D.C. in January to make our selections. The awards will be presented at the Newbery/Caldecott/Wilder Banquet in San Francisco in June 2001.

On behalf of ALSC I thank you for your support during this exciting year.

_____ was instrumental in maintaining the distinguished traditions of the Caldecott Award.

Thank you again for your support of _____ and the Randolph Caldecott Medal.

Sincerely,

Chair, 2001 Caldecott Award Committee

RANDOLPH CALDECOTT MEDAL

News Release Form: Sample

Committee members sometimes notify employers/supervisors about their work on the Caldecott Committee independently. Also, they often notify local newspapers, professional organizations, and/or their own alumni organizations independently or through library public relations departments. The resulting notice underscores individual participation as well as the work of ALSC and ALA. Below is a sample news release form:

From: _____

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(your name and position) is named to position in National Library Group

(Your name) will serve as (position—member or chair) on the Randolph Caldecott Award Committee. The committee is charged with selecting annually the most distinguished American picture book. Honor Books may be named. The Caldecott Committee operates under the direction of the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association.

Include a brief statement of your professional responsibilities/activities:

The American Library Association serves as a voice of America's libraries and the people who depend on them. ALA promotes the highest quality library and information services and protects public access to information. There are nearly 64,000 members worldwide. It is the oldest and largest library association in the world with members and academic, public, school, government, and special libraries.

The Association for Library Service to Children is concerned with:

- the evaluation of library materials for children;
- improving and expanding library services for children and those who work with them in all library settings;
- advocating the rights of children within and beyond libraries;
- supporting the professional development of members;
- supporting research and study in these areas.

RANDOLPH CALDECOTT MEDAL

Award Announcement/Call for Suggestions: Sample

The Chair calls on ALSC members to submit titles for consideration by the committee. The Chair posts an announcement on the ALSC listserv several times during the year and arranges for an announcement in the ALSC Newsletter. The Chair may also solicit suggestions from other listservs having to do with children's literature.

Input Wanted: The ALSC/Randolph Caldecott Medal

The 2001 Caldecott Award Committee is asking the ALSC membership to submit titles for consideration. The Caldecott Award is presented annually to the illustrator of the most distinguished American picture book for children published during the preceding year. Honor Books may be named.

"Distinguished" is defined as:

- marked by eminence and distinction: noted for significant achievement
- marked by excellence in quality
- marked by conspicuous excellence or eminence
- individually distinct

The award will be announced at the press conference during the ALA Midwinter Conference to be held in Washington, D.C. in January, 2001. The award will be presented at the Newbery/Caldecott/Wilder Banquet during the ALA Annual Conference to be held in San Francisco in June 2001.

The 2001 Caldecott Committee calls on ALSC members to submit titles for consideration. Please remember: Only books from the 2000 publishing year are under consideration for the award.

Please send suggestions to _____ at _____.
Chair's name Email address

Sample Newbery/Caldecott Press Release

ALA Public Information Office

For Immediate Release

January 21, 2002

Park, Wiesner win Newbery, Caldecott Medals

(New Orleans) - Linda Sue Park, author of "A Single Shard," and David Wiesner, illustrator and author of "The Three Pigs," are the 2002 winners of the John Newbery and Randolph Caldecott Medals, the most prestigious awards in children's literature.

Park and Wiesner were among the award winners announced January 21 by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in New Orleans. Considered the "Academy Awards" of children's book publishing, the 2002 Newbery and Caldecott Medals honor outstanding writing and illustration of works published in the United States during the previous year.

The 2002 Newbery Medal recipient Park takes readers to 12th-century Korea to tell a timeless story of dedication to one's dreams and art in "A Single Shard," published by Houghton Mifflin Company/Clarion Books. Tree-ear, an orphan who lives under a bridge with his wise friend Crane-man, becomes fascinated with a nearby community of potters. Drawn by their exquisite craftsmanship, the adolescent boy begins to assist the master potter Min.

In a compelling plot, Tree-ear must overcome Min's hostility by undertaking a dangerous journey to carry the potter's precious vases to the royal court. On the way, he confronts an overwhelming obstacle that threatens to halt his efforts and shatter his dream of proving himself worthy of Min's trust in this powerful, uplifting story.

"Tree-ear's determination and bravery in pursuing his dream of becoming a potter takes readers on a literary journey that demonstrates how courage, honor and perseverance can overcome great odds and bring great happiness," said Newbery Award Committee Chair Kathleen Odean.

"Park effectively conveys 12th-century Korea in this masterful piece of historical fiction. The story shines with dignity and strong values. Park's writing is powerful and precise as she explores universal themes about loyalty and art."

Park was born and raised in Illinois, and now teaches English to foreign students in New York. She has been writing poems and stories since she was four years old and was first published in a children's magazine at the age of nine. Born of Korean immigrants, her heritage is reflected in each of her books: "The Kite Fighters" (2000) and "Seesaw Girl" (1999).

The 2002 Caldecott Medal for illustration was awarded to David Wiesner for "The Three Pigs," published by Houghton Mifflin Company/Clarion Books. In "The Three Pigs," the plot and form of a familiar folktale unravels as the pigs are huffed and puffed off the page and into a new world. The trio cavorts through scenes from a nursery rhyme to a fairy tale, liberating other characters on the fly. Using a range of artistic styles and thrilling perspectives, Wiesner plays with the structure and conventions of traditional storytelling, redefining the picture book.

"Pigs burst through the pages' boundaries and soar into new dimensions. Transformations occur as the pigs boldly enter new stories, make friends, and ultimately control their own fate," Caldecott Award Committee Chair Kate McClelland said. "Witty dialogue and physical humor make this a selection that will have youngsters squealing with delight. Through Wiesner's vision and artistic virtuosity, "The Three Pigs," celebrates possibility."

Wiesner has written and illustrated seven children's books. He received the 1992 Caldecott Medal for "Tuesday," (1991), a 1989 Caldecott Honor for "Free Fall," (1988), and a 2000 Caldecott Honor for "Sector 7," (1999). Wiesner lives with his wife and two children in Philadelphia.

Two Newbery Honor Books were named: "Everything on a Waffle" by Polly Horvath, published by Farrar Straus Giroux; and "Carver: a life in poems" by Marilyn Nelson, published by Front Street.

When 11-year-old Primrose Squarp's parents disappear at sea, her faith in their return defies all adult logic. Set in British Columbia, "Everything on a Waffle" combines quirky characters, recipes and amazing twists of plot in a striking combination of the barely credible and profoundly true. Horvath also has written "The Trolls" (1999), an ALA Notable Children's Book and National Book Award finalist, "An Occasional Cow" (1989), "The Happy Yellow Car" (1994), and "When the Circus Came to Town" (1996).

Nelson, Connecticut's Poet Laureate, challenges readers with a truly new biography of George Washington Carver. Told from multiple perspectives, this collection of 59 poems reveals little-known facets of the remarkable scientist, who is too often

dismissed as "the peanut man." Nelson, the daughter of a Tuskegee Airman, is a professor of English at the University of Connecticut at Storrs.

Three Caldecott Honor Books were named: "Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," illustrated by Bryan Collier, written by Doreen Rappaport, and published by Hyperion Books for Children/Jump at the Sun; "The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins: An Illuminating History of Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins, Artist and Lecturer," illustrated by Brian Selznick, written by Barbara Kerley, and published by Scholastic Press; "The Stray Dog," illustrated and written by Marc Simont and published by HarperCollins.

From the smiling, inviting image on the cover to each striking double spread, Collier's illustrations in "Martin's Big Words" portray significant events evoking King's purpose, telling readers that "His big words are alive for us today."

Using a rich palette, theatrical staging and monumental dimensions, Selznick creates an exquisite balance between illustration and design in this distinguished marriage of science and art in "The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins."

Simont's soft palette and subtle touches in the distinctive watercolors perfectly capture the heroic actions of the young protagonists and convey the universal feelings of longing and belonging in "The Stray Dog."

Members of the 2002 Newbery Award Selection Committee are: Kathleen F. Odean, Barrington, R.I.; Patricia A. Carleton, St. Louis Public Library, St. Louis, Mo.; Lisa Falk, Los Angeles Public Library; Roxanne H. Feldman, The Dalton School, New York, N.Y.; Sharon M. Harvey, Hilton Head (S.C.) Elementary School; JoAnn M. Jonas, Chula Vista (Calif.) Public Library; Jerianne S. Kladder, Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library; Vaunda Micheaux Nelson, Rio Rancho (N.M.) Public Library; Gail Nordstrom, Stillwater (Minn.) Public Library; Elizabeth C. Overmyer, Berkeley (Calif.) Public Library; Ken H. Settingerton, Toronto Public Library; Louise L. Sherman, Leonia, N.J.; Victoria J. Smith, McArthur Public Library, Biddeford, Me.; Deborah D. Taylor, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md.; and Junko Yokota, National-Louis University, Evanston, Ill.

Members of the 2002 Caldecott Award Selection Committee are: Kathryn McClelland, Perrot Memorial Library, Old Greenwich, Conn.; Anne C. Connor, Los Angeles Public Library; Ann H. Cook, Altamonte Springs, Fla.; Marian L. Creamer, Riverdale School Library, Portland, Ore; Floyd C. Dickman, Columbus, Ohio; Steven Donald Engelfried, Beaverton City (Ore.) Library; Cyndi A. Giorgis, University of Nevada-Las Vegas; Sharon B. Grover, Arlington (Va.) County Library; Molly Krukewitt, Fort Bend County Libraries, Richmond, Texas; Marge Loch-Wouters,

Menasha (Wis.) Public Library; Cindy A. Lombardo, Orrville (Ohio) Public Library; Katherine O'Dell, Multnomah County Library, Portland, Ore; Susan J. Pine, New York Public Library; Luann Toth, School Library Journal, New York; and Melissa Yurechko, Hartford (Conn.) Public Library.

For more information about the Newbery Award, visit www.ala.org/alsc/newbery.html and more information about the Caldecott Award, visit <http://www.ala.org/alsc/caldecott.html>.

**CONTRACT WITH F. G. MELCHER
ON**

THE JOHN NEWBERY MEDAL

Established in 1921 as an annual award for “the most distinguished contribution to American Literature for children.”

Donor: Frederic G. Melcher of New York
Sculptor: Rene Chambellan of New York
Awarded by: The Children’s Librarians Section of the American Library Association or the specialists in children’s work in the American Library Association, under whatever name they may be organized.

The Medal: The donor agrees to have struck each year at his expense one bronze medal from the dies, and to have this engraved with the winner’s name and the year covered by the award, and to place it in a case ready for presentation by the librarians, and deliver it to the responsible authorities in the Library Association at a time designated by them. Or his heirs will undertake to do the same. The steel dies are at this date (November, 1922) deposited for safe-keeping with the Medallion Art Company, 137 East 29th Street, New York City, and may be taken from there, according to instructions filed with them, by the donor or by executive head of the American Library Association. The original sculpture remains with the donor for appropriate disposition.

The Recipient of the Award: The medal is to be awarded annually to the author of the “most distinguished contribution to American Literature for children,” the award being made to cover books whose publication in book form falls in the calendar year last elapsed. The award is restricted to authors who are citizens or residents of the United States. Reprints and compilations are not eligible for consideration. There are no limitations as to the character of the book considered except that it be original work. It need not be written solely for children, the judgment of the librarians voting shall decide whether a book be a “contribution to the literature for children.” The award considers only the books of one calendar year and does not pass judgment on an author’s previous work or other work during that year outside the volume that may be named.

The Method of Award: The donor agrees to leave the methods and practice of selecting each annual winner of the John Newbery Medal entirely to the American Library Association, whose president shall have power to delegate each year the responsibility for all details to the officers of a subsidiary group in the Association. It

is the thought of the donor that the decision should be made by votes of such members of the American Library Association as are especially connected with the work with children and young people. If the award be announced at the annual meeting of the American Library Association, the month between January first and that date will be available for process of election. It may be possible to have the author present at the annual conference to receive the award then first announced; otherwise the name might be there announced and proper delegate appointed to deliver same.

Possible Termination of Arrangement: The American Library Association may terminate its agreement to serve as the awarding body by two-thirds vote of its Executive Board. Such decision to be communicated to the donor before October 1 of a year. The donor or heirs may terminate the agreement by three years' notice to the American Library Association or may endow the award with funds sufficient to cover costs of striking, engraving and case, leaving the medal thereafter entirely in the hands of the American Library Association.

The Purpose of the John Newbery Medal: To encourage original and creative work in the field of books for children. To emphasize to the public that contributions to the literature for children deserve similar recognition to poetry, plays or novels. To give to those librarians, who make it their life work to serve children's reading interests, an opportunity to encourage good writing in this field.

June 25, 1937

To the Executive Board

The first set of resolutions passed by the Section for Library Work with Children reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Picture Book Medal offered by Mr. Frederic G. Melcher be accepted. The name of this medal shall be the Caldecott Medal. This medal shall be awarded to the artist of the most distinguished American Picture Book for Children published in the United States during the preceding year. The award shall go to the artist, who must be a citizen or resident of the United States, whether or not he be the author of the text. Members of the Newbery Medal Committee will serve as judges. If a book of the year is nominated for both the Newbery and the Caldecott awards, the committee shall decide under which heading it shall be voted upon, so that the same title shall not be considered on both ballots.

The second set of resolutions passed by the Section for Library Work with Children reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED: that the School Libraries Section be invited to take part in the Newbery and Caldecott awards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Chairman of the School Libraries Section and for school librarians designated by the Section be given votes for the Newbery and Caldecott Awards and that these five persons be added to the Newbery Medal Committee.

(signed) Ruth Giles
Secretary
Section for Library Work with Children

Past Caldecott Medal Winners, 1938-present

- **2003:** *My Friend Rabbit* by Eric Rohmann (Roaring Brook Press/Millbrook Press)
- **2002:** *The Three Pigs* by David Wiesner (Clarion/Houghton Mifflin)
- **2001:** *So You Want to Be President?* Illustrated by David Small; text by Judith St. George (Philomel Books)
- **2000:** *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*, Simms Taback (Viking)
- **1999:** *Snowflake Bentley*, Illustrated by Mary Azarian; text by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (Houghton)
- **1998:** *Rapunzel* by Paul O. Zelinsky (Dutton)
- **1997:** *Golem* by David Wisniewski (Clarion)
- **1996:** *Officer Buckle and Gloria* by Peggy Rathmann (Putnam)
- **1995:** *Smoky Night*, illustrated by David Diaz; text: Eve Bunting (Harcourt)
- **1994:** *Grandfather's Journey* by Allen Say; text: edited by Walter Lorraine (Houghton)
- **1993:** *Mirette on the High Wire* by Emily Arnold McCully (Putnam)
- **1992:** *Tuesday* by David Wiesner (Clarion Books)
- **1991:** *Black and White* by David Macaulay (Houghton)
- **1990:** *Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China* by Ed Young (Philomel)
- **1989:** *Song and Dance Man*, illustrated by Stephen Gammell; text: Karen Ackerman (Knopf)
- **1988:** *Owl Moon*, illustrated by John Schoenherr; text: Jane Yolen (Philomel)
- **1987:** *Hey, Al*, illustrated by Richard Egielski; text: Arthur Yorinks (Farrar)
- **1986:** *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg (Houghton)
- **1985:** *Saint George and the Dragon*, illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman; text: retold by Margaret Hodges (Little, Brown)
- **1984:** *The Glorious Flight: Across the Channel with Louis Bleriot* by Alice & Martin Provensen (Viking)
- **1983:** *Shadow*, translated and illustrated by Marcia Brown; original text in French: Blaise Cendrars (Scribner)
- **1982:** *Jumanji* by Chris Van Allsburg (Houghton)
- **1981:** *Fables* by Arnold Lobel (Harper)
- **1980:** *Ox-Cart Man*, illustrated by Barbara Cooney; text: Donald Hall (Viking)
- **1979:** *The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses* by Paul Goble (Bradbury)
- **1978:** *Noah's Ark* by Peter Spier (Doubleday)
- **1977:** *Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions*, illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon; text: Margaret Musgrove (Dial)
- **1976:** *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*, illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon; text: retold by Verna Aardema (Dial)
- **1975:** *Arrow to the Sun* by Gerald McDermott (Viking)
- **1974:** *Duffy and the Devil*, illustrated by Margot Zemach; retold by Harve Zemach (Farrar)
- **1973:** *The Funny Little Woman*, illustrated by Blair Lent; text: retold by Arlene Mosel (Dutton)
- **1972:** *One Fine Day*, retold and illustrated by Nonny Hogrogian (Macmillan)
- **1971:** *A Story A Story*, retold and illustrated by Gail E. Haley (Atheneum)
- **1970:** *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig (Windmill Books)

- **1969:** *The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship*, illustrated by Uri Shulevitz; text: retold by Arthur Ransome (Farrar)
- **1968:** *Drummer Hoff*, illustrated by Ed Emberley; text: adapted by Barbara Emberley (Prentice-Hall)
- **1967:** *Sam, Bangs & Moonshine* by Evaline Ness (Holt)
- **1966:** *Always Room for One More*, illustrated by Nonny Hogrogian; text: Sorche Nic Leodhas, pseud. [Leclair Alger] (Holt)
- **1965:** *May I Bring a Friend?* illustrated by Beni Montresor; text: Beatrice Schenk de Regniers (Atheneum)
- **1964:** *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak (Harper)
- **1963:** *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats (Viking)
- **1962:** *Once a Mouse*, retold and illustrated by Marcia Brown (Scribner)
- **1961:** *Baboushka and the Three Kings*, illustrated by Nicolas Sidjakov; text: Ruth Robbins (Parnassus)
- **1960:** *Nine Days to Christmas*, illustrated by Marie Hall Ets; text: Marie Hall Ets and Aurora Labastida (Viking)
- **1959:** *Chanticleer and the Fox*, illustrated by Barbara Cooney; text: adapted from Chaucer's Canterbury Tales by Barbara Cooney (Crowell)
- **1958:** *Time of Wonder* by Robert McCloskey (Viking)
- **1957:** *A Tree Is Nice*, illustrated by Marc Simont; text: Janice Udry (Harper)
- **1956:** *Frog Went A-Courtin'*, illustrated by Feodor Rojankovsky; text: retold by John Langstaff (Harcourt)
- **1955:** *Cinderella, or the Little Glass Slipper*, illustrated by Marcia Brown; text: translated from Charles Perrault by Marcia Brown (Scribner)
- **1954:** *Madeline's Rescue* by Ludwig Bemelmans (Viking)
- **1953:** *The Biggest Bear* by Lynd Ward (Houghton)
- **1952:** *Finders Keepers*, illustrated by Nicolas, pseud. (Nicholas Mordvinoff); text: Will, pseud. [William Lipkind] (Harcourt)
- **1951:** *The Egg Tree* by Katherine Milhous (Scribner)
- **1950:** *Song of the Swallows* by Leo Politi (Scribner)
- **1949:** *The Big Snow* by Berta & Elmer Hader (Macmillan)
- **1948:** *White Snow, Bright Snow*, illustrated by Roger Duvoisin; text: Alvin Tresselt (Lothrop)
- **1947:** *The Little Island*, illustrated by Leonard Weisgard; text: Golden MacDonald, pseud. [Margaret Wise Brown] (Doubleday)
- **1946:** *The Rooster Crows* by Maude & Miska Petersham (Macmillan)
- **1945:** *Prayer for a Child*, illustrated by Elizabeth Orton Jones; text: Rachel Field (Macmillan)
- **1944:** *Many Moons*, illustrated by Louis Slobodkin; text: James Thurber (Harcourt)
- **1943:** *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton (Houghton)
- **1942:** *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey (Viking)
- **1941:** *They Were Strong and Good*, by Robert Lawson (Viking)
- **1940:** *Abraham Lincoln* by Ingri & Edgar Parin d'Aulaire (Doubleday)
- **1939:** *Mei Li* by Thomas Handforth (Doubleday)
- **1938:** *Animals of the Bible, A Picture Book*, illustrated by Dorothy P. Lathrop; text: selected by Helen Dean Fish (Lippincott)