

January is Children's Book Award Month!



On January 23, 2012, the American Library Association will announce this year's winners of the coveted Newbery and Caldecott Awards. The Newbery Award is presented every year to "the author of the most distinguished contribution to American children's literature." It is the oldest children's book award in the world. The Caldecott Award is presented to "the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children." Several other awards will also be presented at this time, including the Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal (children's nonfiction), the Theodore Seuss Geisel Award (beginning reader books), and the Coretta Scott King Award (African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults).

Last year's winner of the Newbery Award, Clare Vanderpool wrote *Moon Over Manifest*, the story of 12-year-old Abilene Tucker, set in Iowa in 1936 during the Great Depression. Abilene is sent to live with her father's friend, Pastor Shady Howard, while her father takes a job with the railroad. Abilene and her new friends work to uncover a local mystery.

Past winners include:

1922 *The Story of Mankind* by Hendrick Willem Van Loon

1923 *The Voyages of Dr. Doolittle* by Hugh Lofting
1963 *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
1989 *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* by Paul
Fleischman
2004 *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo

The winner of last year's Caldecott Medal was Erin E. Stead, illustrator of *A Sick Day for Amos McGee* by Phillip Stead. This is the story of Amos McGee who works at the zoo and faithfully cares for the animals every day. When Amos becomes sick, the animals try to return the favor.

Past winners include:

1938 *Animals of the Bible* illustrated by Dorothy Lothrop
1942 *Make Way for Ducklings* illustrated by Robert
McCloskey
1982 *Jumanji* illustrated by Chris VanAllsburg
2000 *The Polar Express* illustrated by Chris
VanAllsburg

To view detailed lists of awards, go to:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/awardsgrants/index.cfm>

Background information for this article gathered at the web site of the American Library Association – www.ala.org