



California Young Reader Medal

Supported by the California Reading Association, California Association of Teachers of English, California Library Association, and the California School Library Association

www.californiayoungreadermedal.org

California Young Reader Medal program announces 2024 book nominations

Kids vote, kids decide! Ballots due April 1, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2024

[Contact CYRM via website form](#)

[Costa Mesa, CA] - California's longstanding student-choice award program for children's literature announced the 2024-25 nominees today. The California Young Reader Medal (CYRM), now in its 50th year, encourages recreational reading of popular literature among the young people of our state.

"Children and teens get more involved in reading when they get to vote and decide the winners," notes Melanie Miller, co-administrator for the California Young Reader Medal and retired literacy coach.

"We thank the hundreds of teachers and librarians who make these books available in their classrooms and libraries, and also assist the children and young people with the opportunity to select the next CYRM winners," she added.

California school-aged children can vote for their favorite nominees in the appropriate categories for their age group and reading level and vote online or submit paper ballots. There are 5 nominated books in the picture book category and 3 nominations in each of the other categories. The CYRM nominees were first announced publicly at the annual California School Library Association conference in Costa Mesa, CA.

All votes are due by April 1, 2025 (postmark deadline for paper mailed ballots). Winners will be announced on May 1, 2025. Promotional materials such as posters are available, and educators and librarians are encouraged to use a tag line of "Kids vote, kids decide!" in outreach correspondence, or "You vote, you decide!" for older students. Teachers and librarians may [request outreach materials through the CYRM website](#).

Primary (Grades K-3)

- [***Are You a Cheeseburger?***](#) Monica Arnaldo (author/illustrator), Harper Collins, 2021
- [***Luli and the Language of Tea***](#), Andrea Wang (author) & Hyewon Yum (illustrator), Neal Porter 2022
- [***Mel Fell***](#), Corey R. Tabor (author/illustrator), Balzer & Bray (Harper Collins Imprint) 2021
- [***My First Day***](#), Phùng Nguyễn Quang and Huynh Kim Liên (authors/illustrators), Penguin Random House 2021
- [***Room for Everyone***](#), Naaz Khan (author) & Mercè López (illustrator), Simon & Schuster 2021



California Young Reader Medal

Supported by the California Reading Association, California Association of Teachers of English, California Library Association, and the California School Library Association

www.californiayoungreadermedal.org

Picture Books for Older Readers (4th Grade and up)

- [**Cougar Crossing: How Hollywood's Celebrity Cougar Helped Build a Bridge for City Wildlife**](#), Meeg Pincus (author) & Alexander Vidal (illustrator), Beach Lane Books, 2021
- [**Gardner of Alcatraz, a True Story**](#), Emma Bland Smith (author) & Jenn Ely (illustrator), Charlesbridge Publishing, 2022
- [**Nour's Secret Library**](#), Wafa Tarnowska (author) & Vali Mintzi (illustrator), Barefoot Books, 2022

Intermediate (Grades 3-6)

- [**New From Here**](#), Kelly Yang, Simon & Schuster, 2022
- [**The Ogress and the Orphans**](#), Kelly Barnhill, Algonquin Young Readers (Hachette Book Group), 2022
- [**Three Strike Summer**](#), Skyler Schrempp, Margaret K. McElderry Books (Simon & Schuster), 2022

Middle School/Junior High (Grades 6-9)

- [**Blackbird Girls**](#), Anne Blankman, Puffin Books (Penguin Random House), 2020
- [**My Nest of Silence**](#), Matt Faulkner, Simon & Schuster, 2022
- [**Simon Sort of Says**](#), Erin Bow, Disney Hyperion, 2023

Young Adult (Grades 9-12)

- [**I Must Betray You**](#), Ruta Sepetys, Penguin Random House, 2021
- [**Love in English**](#), Maria E. Andreu, Balzer + Bray (Harper Collins), 2021
- [**Take Me With You When You Go**](#), David Levithan & Jennifer Niven, Knopf BYR (Penguin), 2021

[**Still time to vote for last year's nominees!**](#) Many children and youth are in the process of reading the 2023-24 nominees as the 2024-25 nominations are announced. Educators and librarians have until April 1, 2024, to submit the ballots for last year's nominees. [The list of last year's nominations](#) is on the California Young Reader Medal website. Educators and teachers can guide readers to the online form. [Vote — California Young Reader Medal](#)

[**Recommendations for following year currently accepted.**](#) Students, librarians, and teachers may make recommendations on the California Young Reader Medal website for consideration next year. Recommended books must have been published within the past four years (2021-2024) by a living author. Books must be works of fiction except for the Picture Books for Older Readers category. Graphic novel recommendations are accepted. Picture books without words are not eligible.

Since its inception in 1974, millions of California children have nominated, read, and voted for the winners. Various resources, rules of the program, and other information is available at www.californiayoungreadermedal.org. The California Young Reader Medal is a joint program of the [California Reading Association](#), the [California School Library Association](#), the [California Association of Teachers of English](#), and the [California Library Association](#).

###