



Young Reader's Choice Awards

Frequently Asked Questions

About YRCA

Q: How did YRCA get started?

A: The award was established in 1940 by Harry Hartman, a Seattle bookseller who believed every student should have an opportunity to select a book that he or she enjoys.

Q: Who participates in YRCA?

A: Children in grades 4-12 in the Pacific Northwest: Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana and Washington can participate.

Q: How long has the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) been promoting YRCA?

A: Since 1980! At that time, there was only one division and the winner was *Ramona and Her Father* by Beverly Cleary.

TRIVIA

In 1991, YRCA added a Senior Division – Winner: *Sex Education* by Jenny Davis

In 2002, YRCA added an Intermediate Division – Winner: *Mary, Bloody Mary* by Carolyn Meyer

Q: What is the award in YRCA?

A: For the author, it is the prestige of having been selected by their targeted audience and only by their targeted audience – no adults, no teachers, no professionals, just their biggest critics – the kids who love their book!!

YRCA beyond Edmonton

Q: Who sponsors YRCA?

A: The Young Reader's Choice Awards is sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) and continues to be the longest running "children's choice" book award.

Q: What is the Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA)?

A: The PNLA is an organization of over 200 people who work in, with, and for libraries, from Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, and Washington. Established in 1909, the PNLA is the oldest regional library association in the United States and the only binational association in North America. The PNLA promotes many special projects and initiatives, one of which is the Young Reader's Choice Awards.

Q: Where is the PNLA website?

A: <http://www.pnla.org/yrca>

Suggesting books

Q: How are books selected?

A: Books are suggested by students, librarians, teachers, and parents in the Pacific Northwest. Suggestions are not accepted from publishers.

Q: I want to suggest a book! What books can I suggest?

A: Suggested titles must already be popular with young readers. Suggested titles must be published three (3) years prior to the award and be printed in the United States or Canada. They may include fiction, nonfiction, and graphic format titles and can be a sequel or part of a series.

Q: Why does a book have to be published 3 years prior?

A: There are two reasons.

First, this gives enough time for the book to be in circulation so that it can reach a large audience and gain popularity.

Second, Harry Hartman not only wanted the kids to have their own award, but he wanted them to have their own books. In 1940, it took three years for a book to be published in paperback after having been first published in hardback, thus making it accessible to everyone!

Q: When can I suggest a book?

A: PNLA accepts suggestions until October 30 of every year.

Q: How do I suggest a book?

A: [Visit our website](#) to search EPL's catalogue by title or author. Once you find the book you want to suggest, you can let us know what division you think the book belongs in (Junior, Intermediate or Senior), as well as explain why you want to suggest it.

If the book isn't in EPL's collection, you can still suggest it.

You can also suggest a book by contacting an EPL staff member or by emailing the Alberta YRCA Representative, Jocie Wilson, at yrca_ab@yahoo.ca.

How books are shortlisted

Q: How are books shortlisted?

A: All suggestions will be reviewed and voted on by YRCA representatives assigned to a division (Junior/Intermediate/Senior). Student input may be used when shortlisting.

Q: What are the criteria for review of suggested titles?

A: At least one title in each division must be Canadian, meaning the author is Canadian or the story is set in Canada (even if the author is not Canadian).

Suggested titles will be judged on popularity with readers. Other considerations include reading enjoyment; reading level; interest level; genre representation; racial diversity; diversity of social, political, economic, or religious viewpoints; regional consideration; effectiveness of expression; and imagination. Age appropriateness will also be considered for placement in a division.

The PNLA is committed to intellectual freedom and diversity of ideas. No title will be excluded because of race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political or social view of either the author or the material.

Q: When are the nominations announced?

A: The YRCA nominees will be announced every February. There are 8 per division.

Voting

Q: Who can vote for the winners?

A: ONLY young readers in grades 4-12 and whose state or province are PNLA members are eligible.

Q: Do I need an EPL card to vote?

A: Library cards aren't required to vote, however we do encourage all children to have their own. It's FREE!

Q: Can I vote in two different divisions?

A: Yes, as long as you read or listen to a nominated title from a division. You can vote in all three divisions if you want!

Q: When do I vote?

A: Voting takes place between May and April 15 every "YRCA" year, and winners are announced shortly after.

Q: Where do I vote?

A: There are three different ways to vote:

1. collectively at your school with your teacher ([Teachers submit votes here](#))
2. at your closest EPL branch
3. online at epl.ca/yrca

Q: Where can I find a list of past winners?

A: For a full list of YRCA winners since 1940, please visit the PNLA website at <https://pnla.org/young-readers-choice-award/past-yrca-winners/>