Every year, the Association of Library Services to Children, a division of the American Library Association, awards the Newbery Medal to the author of the most distinguished contribution to children’s literature.

**Criteria for the Award**

- The award takes into consideration only the text of the book; images may not be considered. Only if elements distract from the text may they be taken into consideration. The text cannot be dependent on other media (sound, video, website, etc.).
- Children must be the target audience, with childhood being defined as up to fourteen years of age. All books within this entire age range may be considered, but the intended age group’s understandings, abilities, and appreciations should be taken into consideration.
- “Distinguished” is defined as being…
  - marked by eminence and distinction; noted for significant achievement
- Committee members should consider:
  - interpretation of theme/concept
  - presentation of information (accuracy, clarity, organization, etc.)
  - development of plot
  - delineation of characters and setting
  - appropriateness of style
  - Not all of these elements must be present, but distinction should be in all present elements.
- The work must be original; retellings are acceptable, but must be the product of original research.
- The work must be published in the previous year.
- The work must be published in the United States; original publications from other countries are ineligible.
- The author must be a United States citizen or have an established, maintained residence in the United States.
- The author’s entire body of work may *not* be taken into consideration.

Adapted from the ALSC guidelines for the Newbery Medal (ala.org/awards)

**Discussion Dates**

| Thursday, September 20 | Thursday, October 18 | Thursday, November 8 | Thursday, December 20 | Thursday, January 10 | Thursday, January 24* |

For each of these dates, a curated list of titles has been selected for reading and discussion. However, if you read a book that meets the criteria, and would like to bring it forward for inclusion and discussion, please submit the title to Joe (jjprinc@bgsu.edu). He will add it to one of the weekly discussion lists. You do not need to attend every meeting!

All discussion will take place at the Curriculum Resource Center at 3:30 PM in Room 210B. Please arrive having read at least half the books for that particular month. If you are unable to make the meeting but would like to submit your reactions to the texts for consideration, please email Joe.

All books on these curated lists are available on reserve at the CRC.

On our final meeting, Thursday, January 24, following the guidelines of the ALSC, we will discuss all titles and cast our ballots to determine our winner (and any honors). The actual award will be announced on Monday, January 28. We will livestream the awards in the CRC that morning!
### September 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Synopsis</th>
<th>Reflections*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Callender, Kheryn. Hurricane Child.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="https://example.com/hurricane-child-cover">Image</a></td>
<td>Born on Water Island in the Virgin Islands during a hurricane, which is considered bad luck, twelve-year-old Caroline falls in love with another girl—and together they set out in a hurricane to find Caroline's missing mother. <em>(Realistic Fiction)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Curtis, Christopher Paul. The Journey of Little Charlie.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="https://example.com/little-charlie-cover">Image</a></td>
<td>When his poor sharecropper father is killed in an accident and leaves the family in debt, twelve-year-old Little Charlie agrees to accompany fearsome plantation overseer Cap'n Buck north in pursuit of people who have stolen from him. Cap'n Buck tells Little Charlie that his father's debt will be cleared when the fugitives are captured, which seems like a good deal until Little Charlie comes face-to-face with the people he is chasing. <em>(Historical Fiction)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Rhodes, Jewell Parker. Ghost Boys.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="https://example.com/ghost-boys-cover">Image</a></td>
<td>After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till. <em>(Realistic Fiction/Historical Fiction/Fantasy)</em></td>
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[Image](https://example.com)  
In the summer of 1988, twelve-year-old Chuck Bell is sent to stay with his grandparents, where he discovers jazz and basketball and learns more about his family's past. *(Historical Fiction)* | | |
[Image](https://example.com)  
Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary. *(Historical Fiction)* | | |
| Mosier, Paul. *Echo’s Sister.*  
[Image](https://example.com)  
Twelve-year-old El has planned on making her first week at a new school fantastic. But when her dad picks her up after school and tells her that her younger sister, Echo, has a life-threatening illness, her world is suddenly turned upside down. *(Realistic Fiction)* | | |
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<td><strong>Brosgol, Vera. Be Prepared.</strong></td>
<td>All Vera wants to do is fit in--but that's not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. Her friends live in fancy houses and their parents can afford to send them to the best summer camps. Vera's single mother can't afford that sort of luxury, but there's one summer camp in her price range--Russian summer camp. <em>(Fictional Biography)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Connor, Leslie. The Truth As Told by Mason Buttle.</strong></td>
<td>Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day. <em>(Mystery)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Johnson, Varian. The Parker Inheritance.</strong></td>
<td>Twelve-year-old Candice Miller is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, in the old house that belonged to her grandmother, who died after being dismissed as city manager for having the city tennis courts dug up looking for buried treasure. With the help of her new friend, she sets out to find the inheritance, exonerate her grandmother, and expose an injustice once committed against an African American family in Lambert. <em>(Mystery)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Applegate, Katherine.</strong> <em>Endling: The Last.</em></td>
<td>Byx, the last of the dairnes, sets out to find others of her kind and along the way meets new allies. The group soon uncovers a secret that threatens the lives of every creature in their world. <em>(Fantasy)</em></td>
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<td><strong>DiCamillo, Kate.</strong> <em>Louisiana’s Way Home.</em></td>
<td>When Louisiana Elefante's granny wakes her up in the middle of the night to tell her that the day of reckoning has arrived and they have to leave home immediately, Louisiana isn't overly worried. After all, Granny has many middle-of-the-night ideas. But this time, things are different. This time, Granny intends for them never to return. <em>(Realistic Fiction)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Saeed, Aisha.</strong> <em>Amal Unbound.</em></td>
<td>In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family. <em>(Historical Fiction)</em></td>
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### January 10

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Uptight elfin historian Brangwain Spurge is on a mission: survive being catapulted across the mountains into goblin territory, deliver a priceless peace offering to their mysterious dark lord, and spy on the goblin kingdom -- from which no elf has returned alive in more than a hundred years. (Fantasy) | | |
| Murdoch, Catherine Gilbert. *The Book of Boy.*  
In 1350, a boy with a large hump on his back becomes the servant of a shadowy pilgrim on his way to Rome, who pulls the boy into a dangerous expedition across Europe to gather the seven precious relics of Saint Peter. (Historical Fiction) | | |
| Woodson, Jacqueline. *Harbor Me.*  
It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat--by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for "A Room to Talk"), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them--everything from Esteban's father's deportation to Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives. (Realistic Fiction) | | |
Note-taking

Author:
Title:
Illustrator:
Genre:
Publisher:

Reviews

<table>
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<tr>
<th>BCCB</th>
<th>Booklist</th>
<th>Horn Book</th>
<th>Kirkus</th>
<th>PW</th>
<th>SLJ</th>
<th>VOYA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Summary:

Characters:

Strengths:

Concerns:

Other comments:

Criteria to consider:
- Interpretation of the theme or concept
- Presentation of information including accuracy, clarity, and organization
- Development of a plot
- Delineation of characters
- Delineation of setting
- Appropriateness of style