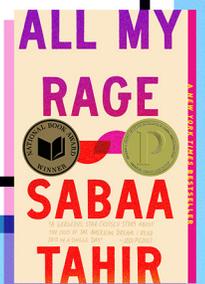
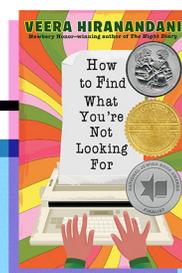
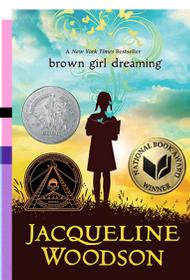
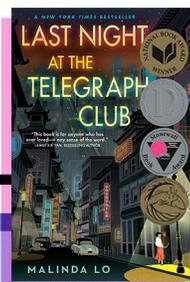
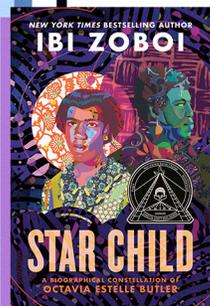
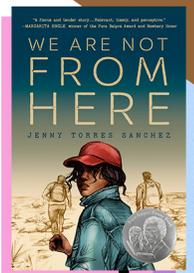
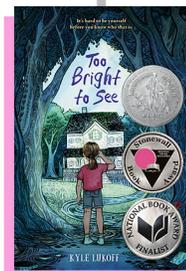
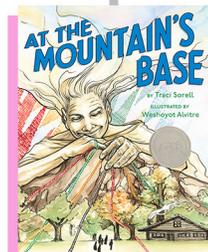
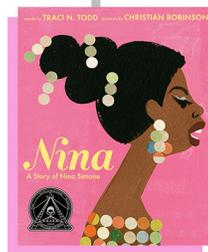
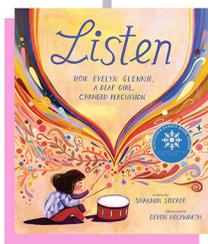
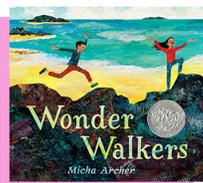
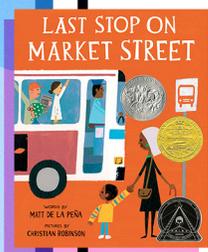


# AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MOCK AWARD BOOK CLUBS!

## A HOW-TO GUIDE

Caldecott	Newbery	Printz	Coretta Scott King	Stonewall	APALA
Geisel	Sibert	Sydney Taylor	Schneider	AIYLA	



## A Note from Pernille Ripp, Writer of This Guide



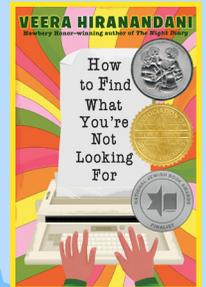
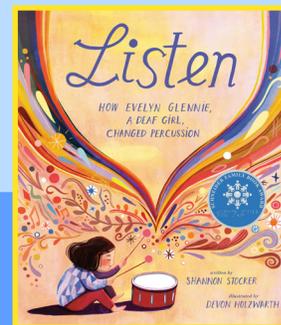
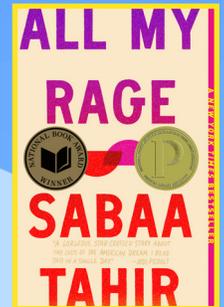
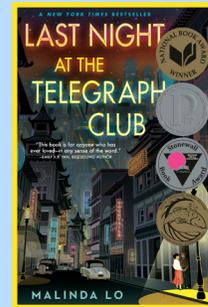
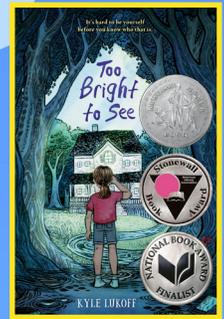
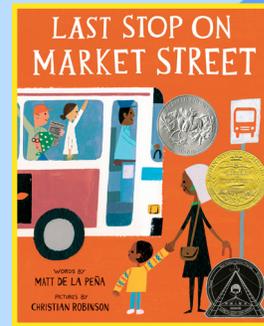
It is the silence that gets me every year. After all, teaching middle schoolers, it is hardly ever silent. And yet, one day a year, you can hear a pin drop as we watch the president of the American Library Association reveal the winners of this year's ALA Youth Media Awards.

We are heavily invested. Leading up to the event, we meticulously read, discuss, and debate the merits of carefully selected picture books, trying to narrow it down to the elusive few that we believe should win the Caldecott Medal. The kids are passionate—debates spill into the hallway and lunch breaks. They stop me to tell me just one more reason why the book their group has chosen is clearly the right one. They express confusion and disbelief if their chosen book is not awarded anything. After all, how can a group of esteemed adults miss this incredible book? And if their choice aligns with the judges? It's like watching a winning football goal happen. But why bother introducing students to the ALA Awards? And how do you even navigate fitting yet one more item into our already bursting lesson plans? Turns out, you only need a few things: **INCREDIBLE BOOKS, KIDS READY TO DIVE IN, AND THIS GUIDE.**

## Why bother?

### The benefits of running a Mock Award Club:

- **Deepens literature connection and appreciation of visual arts:** Engaging discussions and evaluations create a stronger bond with books, enhancing overall appreciation.
- **Strengthens critical thinking and empowers student voices:** Debates and analyses refine critical thinking skills, aiding in informed judgments and evaluations.
- **Promotes collaboration:** Collaborative discussions encourage respectful communication and diverse perspectives.
- **Ignites love for reading and sparks curiosity:** The process of exploring, debating, and celebrating books ignites a lasting passion for reading that transcends the classroom.
- **Fosters cultural understanding:** Exposure to inclusive stories promotes empathy and cultural awareness.



This guide is brought to you by Penguin Young Readers and was written by Pernille Ripp. Since Pernille Ripp was a child growing up in Denmark, she knew she wanted to work with kids. She has loved being a 4th, 5th, and then 7th-grade teacher in the American public school system, as well as an educational coach for adults. In her co-created teaching spaces, students' identities are at the center of the explorations that they do, as well as considering how to fight for change. She is also the founder of The Global Read Aloud which has connected millions of students in more than 85 countries. Recently, Pernille moved home to Denmark where she is expanding her knowledge about children's development and needs as a 1st grade teacher.

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MOCK AWARD CLUB STARTED!**

# WHICH AWARD SHOULD YOU FOCUS ON?

*Here are a few of them highlighted:*

- **CALDECOTT: Celebrating Illustrative Excellence**

These awards recognize picture books that shine with outstanding artistic brilliance. **Do this mock experience to focus on visual literacy and storytelling through images and words.**

- **NEWBERY: Honoring Literary Excellence**

These awards celebrate books that weave remarkable narratives, capturing readers' hearts with compelling storytelling. **Do this mock experience to focus on the broadest of the best children's literature.**

- **PRINTZ : Elevating Young Adult Excellence**

This award shines a spotlight on young adult literature that pushes boundaries and sparks conversations.

**This is the perfect mock experience to focus on the best of young adult literature.**

- **CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARDS: Championing Diverse Voices**

These awards celebrate books that illuminate the African American experience, advocating for cultural understanding and inclusion.

**This mock experience allows you a deep dive into Black excellence.**

- **PURA BELPRÉ AWARD: Embracing Latino/a Culture and Heritage**

These awards honor books that celebrate the Latino/a cultural experience, offering a window into diverse traditions and stories.

**This mock experience promotes inclusivity and appreciation for Latino/a heritage.**

- **AMERICAN INDIAN YOUTH LITERATURE AWARD:**

**Amplifying Indigenous Voices**

These awards recognize books that amplify Indigenous voices and perspectives. Through compelling storytelling, these works shed light on the rich tapestry of Native American heritage. **Only given out every two years, it is an excellent one to focus on and amplify Indigenous voices with a Mock Award Club.**

- **ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN AWARD FOR LITERATURE: Illuminating Asian and Pacific Islander Stories**

These awards highlight books that share the narratives of Asian and Pacific Islander communities. **Do this mock experience to broaden the appreciation for stories that are often diminished.**

- **STONEWALL BOOK AWARDS: Celebrating LGBTQ+ Representation**

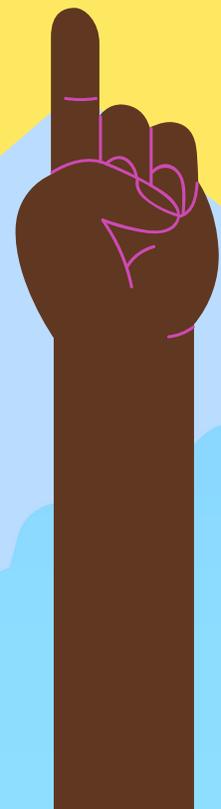
These awards honor literature that authentically portrays the LGBTQ+ experience, fostering understanding and empathy. **This mock experience allows a great opportunity for inclusivity and to celebrate the diaspora of the LGBTQIA+ community/stories.**

- **SCHNEIDER FAMILY BOOK AWARD: Honoring the Disability Experience for Youth**

The Schneider Family Book Awards recognize literature that authentically portrays the diverse experiences within the disability community, fostering empathy and understanding. **Do this mock experience to focus on a profound exploration of the diverse and authentic world of disability perspectives.**

*A mock award experience is all about the discussions, so make sure your timeline offers you enough time to really build community surrounding your selected texts.*

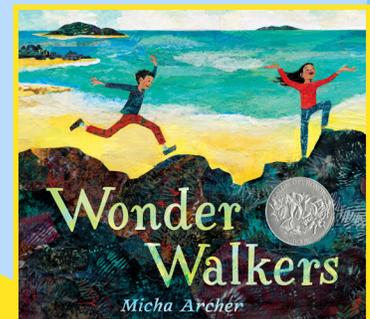
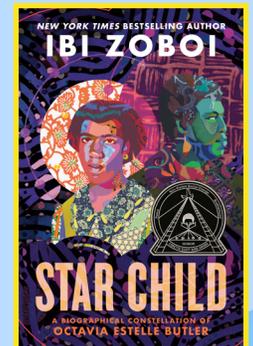
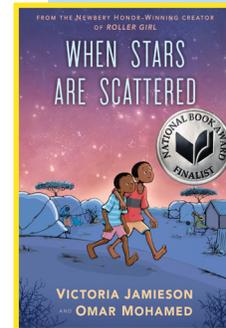
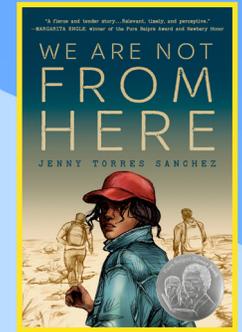
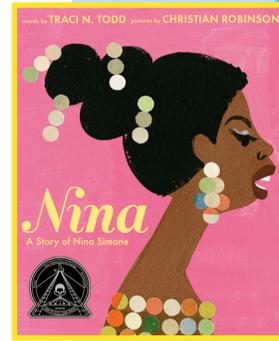
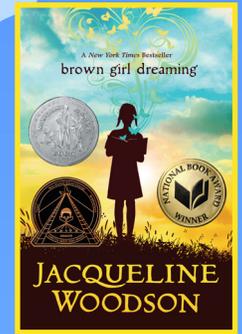
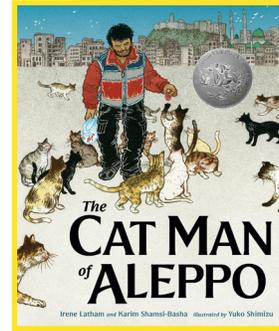
If you choose to focus on the Caldecott, you can run the experience within a few weeks leading up to the ceremony, but if you choose to focus on any of the novel experiences, then you can easily start it at the beginning of the year and incorporate it as a red thread throughout your year. **How expansive and immersive you want the experience to be is truly up to you.**



# TIPS FOR RUNNING A SUCCESSFUL MOCK AWARD CLUB

## *So what are the steps?*

- 1. BOOK SELECTION:** Curate a diverse list of eligible books—many publishers and reviewers offer up their choices for the awards, but don't forget about the readers in your classroom or library. What are the chapter books and picture books that have moved you? How can you activate your readers to get them to think like judges early on?
- 2. DETERMINE YOUR TIMELINE:** By determining how many books you want your students to consider, you can more easily determine the reading time needed. If it is a concentrated unit, then focusing on 6–8 books where students only read one or two is easiest to manage. If you extend the reading over several months, you can easily focus on up to 12 books, having students select a few books to read and be ready to discuss.
- 3. INTRODUCTION AND EXPLANATION:** Begin by introducing the concept of Mock Award experiences and share how students will get to be on par with a select group of judges who get to radically change the lives of authors and illustrators. You can even share interviews and articles where previous winners dive into what it meant to get “The Call.”
- 4. SETTING GUIDELINES:** Establish clear guidelines for discussions, evaluations, and voting to ensure a structured and productive club experience. This is where your lesson planning comes into effect; how will students share the books? If focusing on picture books, they can do it in groups, but perhaps for chapter books they read together or apart to then come together to discuss.
- 5. DISCUSSION GUIDES:** Create thought-provoking discussion questions for each book, encouraging students to delve deeper into the literary elements that tie them to the category. Why might a book by a Latino/a author celebrate the Latino/a heritage and culture? Why is a particular young adult book more worthy of an award than others? Students can, and should, be a part of the creation of discussion questions to increase their investment.



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## Tips for Running a Successful Mock Award Club (cont.)

- 6. PROMOTE INCLUSIVITY:** Embrace all viewpoints and encourage open discussions, creating an environment where every voice is valued. Discussions can get passionate, and that is a good thing. Because books offer us such a personal experience, it is important that we make space for passionate discourse. This is also a perfect opportunity to consider how we make space for all voices to be heard and not just the loudest ones.
- 7. ENGAGE CRITICAL THINKING:** Encourage students to analyze characters, themes, and writing styles, fostering deeper insights and thoughtful responses and have them go beyond, “I just really like this book.” Have them consider the layers that create an excellent reading experience. For example, why is it a particular book or illustrator moved them so deeply?
- 8. EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION:** Teach students how to articulate their thoughts clearly and respectfully during discussions. Helping them prepare thoughtful considerations for why the book or books they are voting for are, indeed, the right choices. You can easily combine this preparation with a mini-unit on the tools of persuasion and watch children embed the persuasive techniques you have taught into their passionate pleas for votes.
- 9. FAIR VOTING PROCESS:** Implement a fair and transparent voting process, allowing each student’s voice to be heard. I have students vote after they present their arguments for who should be the winner—they can vote for their own choices but need to vote for two others as well. If ties occur then you can do another round of voting, where each student only gets one vote. You can also choose to keep it by groups, where students determine their winners without voting and then root for their choices when watching the awards. Whether you choose to focus on a class winner or individual group winners, display the titles that you think should win and count down the days until the actual ceremony.
- 10. CELEBRATE:** On the day of the awards, or day after depending on your time zone, get ready to watch in anticipation. Make it a celebration if possible and pull your community together—do they agree with the judges? Where did the judges go wrong?
- 11. LET YOUR WINNERS KNOW:** In this day of social media, many authors and illustrators have ways of being contacted, so why not let them know that you chose their masterpieces as your winners?

Running a Mock Award Club is more than just reading books—it’s an expedition into the realms of critical thinking, cultural awareness, and a love for stories. As we guide our students through this journey, we kindle flames of curiosity that burn long after the final page is turned. What can seem overwhelming doesn’t have to be. Start small, find incredible books to discuss, and watch the love of books expand.

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