

# Editor's Note Awards Always Get Me

By Sharon Verbeten

I'm an awards show junkie. I'm just going to put that out there.

I love watching the Emmy Awards. I have Academy Awards parties. I'll even watch the ESPYs, though I have little interest in sports. I love the suspense . . . the pomp . . . the circumstance. It's little wonder then that I'm just as enthralled when I attend the Youth Media Awards announcements.

For those of you who have attended in person, I know you have felt that rush—it happens most often when a book you love or an author you admire is announced as the winner. If you've been in the room, you have heard the squeals of joy or the gasps of surprise (at times) and witnessed the jumping, cheering, clapping, and sometimes the matching hats and T-shirts of those lucky enough to be on the awards selection committees.

It's an early morning for attendees and an even earlier one for the committee members charged with making that allimportant (and, no doubt, ultimately life-changing) phone call to the winners.

The buzz is just contagious. And now for the last few years, thanks to technology, those of you who cannot attend can follow in via live streaming. It's not quite the same as being there, but it may be even better—as you watch with your colleagues at the library or in your jammies in the comfort of your couch!

I hope you, like me, can feel the energy—either in person or vicariously—of these amazing awards. I know many of you participate in mock Newbery and Caldecott voting in your schools and libraries; that's another great way to get involved and gauge interest from those who matter most—the kids!

Now, on to my second favorite thing—stalking (I mean, watching for!) the winners at the ALA Annual Conference in June, where it's always a delight to see the lines snake around the aisles for their signings, and to see them all dressed up and beaming at the awards dinner.

I know I'm blessed and lucky to have the opportunity to witness this all in person—and I wouldn't trade it for the world . . . except maybe for a front-row seat at the Oscars! (Kidding!) &

# Children the journal of the Association for Library Service to Children Libraries

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*Children and Libraries* (ISSN 1542-9806) is a refereed journal published four times per year by the American Library Association (ALA), 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. It is the official publication of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of ALA. Subscription price: members of ALSC, \$20 per year, included in membership dues; nonmembers, \$50 per year in the U.S.; \$60 in Canada, Mexico, and other countries. Back issues within one year of current issue, \$15 each. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Children and Libraries*, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Nonmember subscribers: Subscriptions, orders, changes of Address, and inquiries should be sent to *Children and Libraries*, Taves 5, fax: (312) 944-2641; e-mail: subscriptions@ala.org.

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*Children and Libraries* is the official journal of ALSC, a division of the American Library Association. The journal primarily serves as a vehicle for continuing education of librarians working with children, which showcases current scholarly research and practice in library service to children. It also serves as a vehicle for communication to the ALSC membership, spotlighting significant activities and initiatives of the Association. (From the journal's "Policies and Procedures" document adopted by the ALSC board, April 2004, revised, 2014.)

#### Production

ALA Production Services: Chris Keech, Tim Clifford, Lauren Ehle, and Veronica Perez.

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Bill Spilman, Innovative Media Solutions, 320 W. Chestnut St., PO Box 399, Oneida, IL 61467; 1-877-878-3260 or (309) 483-6467; fax: (309) 483-2371; e-mail: bill@innovativemediasolutions .com. The journal accepts advertising for goods or services of interest to the library profession and librarians in service to youth in particular. It encourages advertising that informs readers and provides clear communication between vendor and buyer. The journal adheres to ethical and commonly accepted advertising practices and reserves the right to reject any advertisement not suited to the above purposes or not consistent with the aims and policies of ALA. Acceptance of advertising in the journal does not imply official endorsement by ALA of the products or services advertised.

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## Indexing, Abstracting, and Microfilm

Children and Libraries is indexed in Library and Information Science Abstracts and in Library Literature and Information Science.

*Children and Libraries* is indexed, abstracted, and available in full text through EBSCOhost. For more information, contact EBSCO at 1-800-653-2726.

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