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## **Marilyn Singer Honored with the 2015 Excellence in Poetry for Children Award**

**Urbana, IL—December 1, 2014—Marilyn Singer** has been chosen as the winner of the 2015 Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children, given by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

NCTE, through its Poetry Award Committee, recognizes and fosters excellence in children's poetry by encouraging its publication and by exploring ways to connect teachers and children with poetry through such means as publications, programs, and displays. As one means of accomplishing this goal, NCTE established the Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children in 1977 to honor a living American poet or anthologist for his or her aggregate work for children ages 3 thru 13.

Singer has published over one hundred books for children and young adults in a wide variety of genres. She likes writing many different kinds of books, and many of them have won awards with several placed on notable book lists. *Mirror, Mirror* has garnered many awards, including the Cybil Award for Poetry and the Land of Enchantment Picture Book Award, and has also been named an ALA Notable Book, a CLA/NCTE Notable Book and a Capitol Choice Book. It's been called one of the best books of 2011 by the *Washington Post*, *Horn Book*, *Booklist*, *Publishers Weekly*, the New York Public Library, the Chicago Public Library, Scripps News Service, and blogger Betsy Bird's list.

Singer will be honored at the Books for Children Luncheon and at a Poetry Award session during the NCTE Annual Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in November.

This prestigious award was given annually until 1982 and then every three years until 2009. In 2008, the Poetry Award Committee updated the criteria and changed the time frame to every other year; the next award will be given in 2017. Criteria for the award include literary merit (art and craft of aggregate work); poet's or anthologist's contributions; evolution of the poet's or anthologist's work; and appeal to children.

A collection of poetry books of all the winners of the Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children is preserved at the University of Minnesota Children's Literature Research Collections (CLRC)/Kerlan Collection at the Andersen Library.

For more information about the NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children, including past winners, see <http://www.ncte.org/awards/poetry>.

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*The National Council of Teachers of English, with 35,000 individual and institutional members worldwide, is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education. For more information, please visit <http://www.ncte.org>.*

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