

NCTE Excellence in Poetry for Children Award Committee

Charge: To recommend on a regular basis every two years a living American poet to the NCTE Executive Committee for the NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children (<http://www.ncte.org/awards/poetry>) in recognition of his or her aggregate work; to sustain the collection of poetry books of award winners, past and future, in the University of Minnesota, Kerlan Collection (<http://special.lib.umn.edu/clrc>); to recognize and foster excellence in children's poetry by encouraging its publication; and to explore ways to acquaint teachers and children with poetry through such means as publications, programs, and displays.

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2012?

The 2012 of the NCTE Excellence in Poetry for Children Award Committee members (Mary Napoli, Rebecca Kai Dotlich, Elaine Magliaro, Terrell Young, and Barbara Young, chair) continued to read the works of several poets being considered for the Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children. Discussions occurred through email exchanges, and cases were put forth for several worthy poets. The final discussion and vote took place during a closed session of the committee at the 2012 convention in Las Vegas. Joyce Sidman was selected as the 2013 recipient of the award and Barbara Ward, committee chair, announced Ms. Sidman's selection during the Books for Children Luncheon at the convention.

Prior to and after the convention, the 2012 NCTE Excellence in Poetry for Children Award Committee read copies of all poetry titles published during 2012 in order to select the Poetry Notables for that year. The committee met at the 2012 convention, and the final list was chosen by vote of the committee, and then members wrote annotations of the titles, obtained book images, submitted both of those for each book to the chair, who compiled and edited them, wrote an introduction to the article, and submitted it to the editor of *The New England Reading Association Journal* for publication. Following are the titles selected for the Notable Poetry List for 2013. (The books were all published in 2012.)

Poetry

- Coombs, Kate. (2012). *Water sings blue: Ocean poems*. Illus. by Meilo So. San Francisco: Chronicle Books.
- Corcoran, Jill. (2012). *Dare to dream...Change the world*. Illus. by J. Beth Jepson. Tulsa, OK: Kane Miller.
- Elliott, David. (2004). *In the sea*. Illus. by Holly Meade. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.
- Florian, Douglas. (2012). *UnBEElievables: Honeybee poems and paintings*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster/ Beach Lane.
- Grady, Cynthia. (2012). *I lay my stitches down: Poems of American slavery*. Illus. by Michelle Wood. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.
- Harrison, David. (2012). *Cowboys: Voices in the western wind*. Illus. by Dan Burr. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mill Press/Wordsong.
- Hoberman, Mary Ann. (Ed.). (2012). *Forget-me-nots: Poems to learn by heart*. Illus. by Michael Emberley. New York, NY: Little Brown and Company/Hachette Book Group.
- Hopkins, Lee Bennett. (Ed.). (2012). *Nasty bugs*. Illus. by Will Terry. New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers.
- Hughes, Langston. (2012). *I, too, am America*. Illus. by Bryan Collier. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.
- Jensen, Dana. (2012). *A meal of the stars: Poems up and down*. Illus. by Tricia Tusa. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children.
- Katz, Susan. (2012). *The president's stuck in the bathtub: Poems about the presidents*. Illus. by Robert Neubecker. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Books/Clarion Books.
- Levine, Gail Carson. (2012). *Forgive me, I meant to do it: False apology poems*. Illus. by Matthew Cordell. New York, NY: HarperCollins.
- Lewis, J. Patrick. (2012). *Edgar Allan Poe's pie: Math puzzlers in classic poems*. Illus. by Michael Slack. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
- Lewis, J. Patrick. (2012). *If you were a chocolate mustache*. Illus. by Matthew Cordell. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press/Wordsong.
- Lewis, J. Patrick. (Ed.). (2012). *National Geographic book of animal poetry: 200 poems with photographs that squeak, soar, and roar!* Washington, DC: National Geographic Society.

- Lewis, J. Patrick, & Yolen, Jane. (2012). *Take two!: A celebration of twins*. Illus. by Sophie Blackall. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.
- McLaughlin, Timothy P. (Ed.). (2012). *Walking on earth & touching the sky: Poetry and prose by Lakota Youth at Red Cloud Indian School*. Illus. by S. D. Nelson. New York, NY: Abrams Books for Young Readers.
- Singer, Marilyn. (2012). *A stick is an excellent thing: Poems celebrating outdoor play*. Illus. by LeUyen Pham. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin/Clarion Books.
- Singer, Marilyn. (2012). *A strange place to call home: The world's most dangerous habitats & the animals that call them home*. Illus. by Ed Young. San Francisco: Chronicle Books.

Novels in Verse

- Newman, Leslea. (2012). *October mourning: A song for Matthew Shepard*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick.
- Rose, Carolyn Starr. (2012). *May B*. New York, NY: Random House/Schwartz & Wade.

All of the 2012 committee members were part of a conference presentation spotlighting the Poetry Notables at the annual convention in Las Vegas.

Since Barbara Ward had served two three-year terms on the NCTE Excellence in Poetry for Children Award Committee, her term expired after the 2012 convention. Nancy Hadaway was invited to chair the committee, and she accepted. She appointed the 2013 committee which included two previous members who had served one three-year term, Mary Napoli and Terry Young, and four new members, Darcy Bradley, Kathryn Button, Mary Lee Hahn, and Amy Ludwig VanDerwater. Due to health reasons, Mary Napoli had to resign from the committee in the spring, and Lesley Colabucci replaced her.

Terrell Young and Barbara Young are also profiling Joyce Sidman as the 2013 recipient of the Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children for an article for *The New England Reading Association Journal* for the next journal.

Nancy Hadaway submitted the proposal for a session to honor the 2013 Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children winner, Joyce Sidman, at the 2013 convention. The 2013 committee members will also participate in the session. The committee chair has been in contact with the members via email regarding the convention session with Joyce Sidman. The committee chair has also scheduled a meeting of all committee members at the convention.

What projects, initiatives, or studies are “in progress” at this time?

Copies of all poetry titles published during 2013 have been requested from publishers for the committee members in order to select the Poetry Notables for this year. The committee will have initial discussions via email this fall prior to our committee meeting at the 2013 convention, and the final Poetry Notables list will be selected by vote of the committee, and then members will write annotations of the titles, obtain book images .

The committee will begin to discuss through email exchanges worthy poets to be considered for the 2015 award.

Based on the initial ideas of Barbara Ward, Nancy Hadaway is exploring the possibility of a project to tape the living Poetry Award recipients reciting some of their favorite poems for archival purposes and possibly posting these on YouTube or in the University of Minnesota Kerlan Collection.

Strategic Governance and Council Initiatives:

Over the past few years, NCTE has established the [National Center for Literacy Education](#) (NCLE) to advance collaboration and inquiry among educators teaching literacy in all disciplines. Through the strategic governance process the Executive Committee has also established goals and priorities relating to these key topics in our field: [Teacher Evaluation](#) and Performance Assessment of Teacher and Student Learning, among others.

How do you see the work of your group contributing to or benefiting from these initiatives?

Spotlighting poetry and the possibilities that it offers in literacy education is important since some teachers feel intimidated by this genre.

What additional information do you need about these topics or initiatives?

None

<http://www.ncte.org/volunteer/groups/poetrycom>

Nancy Hadaway, Chair