

2026 Mock Newbery Discussion #1

July 1, 2025

It's time to start taking a closer look at the children's books of 2024. Participating in the Mock Newbery is an opportunity to read the newest children's books and to discuss them with other passionate readers. A letter of participation is available for those applying the Mock Newbery program towards professional development.

Program registration: olis.ri.gov/mocknewbery

Mock Newbery Discussion #1

Wednesday, October 9 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Virtual Zoom Discussion, register for link

2026 Mock Newbery Reading List #1

1. *Bad Badger* by Maryrose Wood
2. *The Boy Who Lived in a Shell: Snippets for Wandering Minds* by John Himmelman
3. *Candle Island* by Lauren Wolk
4. *Danilo Was Here* by Tamika Burgess
5. *El Niño* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
6. *The Gate, the Girl, and the Dragon* by Grace Lin
7. *The Girl in the Walls* by Meg Eden Kuyatt
8. *Is it Real? The Loch Ness Monster* by Candace Fleming
9. *It's All or Nothing, Vale* by Andrea Beatriz Arango
10. *The Nine Moons of Han Yu and Luli* by Karina Yan Glaser (release date September 16)
11. *Octopus Moon* by Bobbie Pyron
12. *Please Pay Attention* by Jamie Sumner
13. *Scattergood* by H.M. Bouwman
14. *The Trouble with Heroes* by Kate Messner
15. *The Undead Fox of Deadwood Forest* by Aubrey Hartman
16. *What Fell From the Sky* by Adrianna Cuevas
17. *Will's Race for Home* by Jewell Parker Rhodes
18. *A World Worth Saving* by Kyle Lukoff

Please send suggested titles for Reading List #2 by October 15th to: danielle.margarida@olis.ri.gov

Reading List #2 will be available October 17th at olis.ri.gov/mocknewbery

Voting for a Rhode Island winner and honor books will take place on January 14, 2026 using the balloting procedures of the real committee.

Continuing sessions:

Mock Newbery Discussion #2

Wednesday, December 10, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Virtual Zoom Discussion, [Register](#)

Mock Newbery Discussion #3 - Voting

Wednesday, January 14, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Virtual Zoom Discussion, [Register](#)

The Newbery Medal is awarded annually to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children published in the United States during the preceding year. The Award is restricted to authors who are citizens or residents of the United States.

Criteria:

1. In identifying "Distinguished Writing" in a book for children,

a. Committee members need to consider the following:

- 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

Note: Because the literary qualities to be considered will vary depending on content, the committee need not expect to find excellence in each of the named elements. The book should, however, have distinguished qualities in all of the elements pertinent to it.

b. Committee members must consider excellence of presentation for a child audience.

2. Each book is to be considered as a contribution to American literature. The committee is to make its decision primarily on the text. Other components of a book, such as illustrations, overall design of the book, etc., may be considered when they make the book less effective.

3. The book must be a self-contained entity, not dependent on other media (i.e., sound or film equipment) for its enjoyment.

Note: The committee should keep in mind that the award is for literary quality and quality presentation for children. The award is not for didactic content or popularity.

Adopted by the ALSC Board, January 1978. Revised, Midwinter 1987. Revised, Annual 2008.