

RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2014
8:30 a.m.

CONTACT: Sherrie Young
National Book Foundation
(212) 685-0261/cell: (917) 612-8078
syoung@nationalbook.org



National Book Foundation

2014 NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS LONGLIST FOR YOUNG PEOPLE’S LITERATURE

**The ten contenders for the National Book Award for
Young People’s Literature.**

New York, NY (September 15, 2014) – The National Book Foundation announces the Longlist for the 2014 National Book Award for Young People’s Literature. Finalists will be revealed on October 15.

Among this year’s ten Longlisted books are four former National Book Award Finalists, three Newbery Honor Book recipients, a Michael L. Printz Award Winner, and a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Honoree.

The ten titles on the Longlist are a range of sophisticated voices and writing styles in genres that include fantasy, memoir, mystery, nonfiction, science fiction, and a novelized history.

2014 Longlist for the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature:

Laurie Halse Anderson, *The Impossible Knife of Memory*
Viking/ Penguin Group (USA)

Gail Giles, *Girls Like Us*
Candlewick Press

Carl Hiaasen, *Skink—No Surrender*
Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers/ Random House

Kate Milford, *Greenglass House*
Clarion Books/ Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Eliot Schrefer, *Threatened*
Scholastic Press/ Scholastic

Steve Sheinkin, *The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights*
Roaring Brook Press/ Macmillan Publishers

Andrew Smith, *100 Sideways Miles*
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers/ Simon & Schuster

John Corey Whaley, *Noggin*
Atheneum Books for Young Readers/ Simon & Schuster

Deborah Wiles, *Revolution: The Sixties Trilogy, Book Two*
Scholastic Press/ Scholastic

Jacqueline Woodson, *Brown Girl Dreaming*
Nancy Paulsen Books/ Penguin Group (USA)

Biographies:

Laurie Halse Anderson was a National Book Award Finalist in Young People’s Literature for *Speak* in 1999, which was also a Michael L. Printz Honor Book, and for *Chains* in 2008. In 2009, Anderson received the Margaret A. Edwards Award for Lifetime Achievement honoring her outstanding contributions to young adult literature. She lives in Northern New York.

www.madwomanintheforest.com

Gail Giles is the author of several books for teens, including *Shattering Glass*, *What Happened to Cass McBride?*, and *Right Behind You*. She lives near Houston, Texas. www.gailgiles.com

Carl Hiaasen is the author of six YA novels, including *Hoot*, which was a Newbery Honor Book. He is also the author of several bestselling novels for adults and a columnist at the *Miami Herald*. He lives in Florida. www.carlhiaasen.com

Kate Milford is the author of *The Boneshaker* and *The Broken Lands*, as well as the novellas *The Kairos Mechanism* and *Bluecrown*. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

www.clockworkfoundry.com

Eliot Schrefer is the author of several YA novels, including *Endangered*, which was a 2012 National Book Award Finalist for Young People’s Literature. He lives in New York City.

www.eliotSchrefer.com

Steve Sheinkin is the author of several histories for young readers, including *Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal The World’s Most Dangerous Weapon*, which was a 2012 National Book Award Finalist for Young People’s Literature and a Newbery Honor Book, and *The Notorious Benedict Arnold*, which won the YALSA Award for Excellence. *The Port Chicago 50* won the 2014 Boston Globe-Horn Book Nonfiction Award. He lives in Saratoga Springs, New York.

www.stevesheinkin.com

Andrew Smith is the author of several novels, including *Winger* and *Grasshopper Jungle*, which won the 2014 Boston Globe-Horn Book Fiction Award. He lives in Southern California.

www.authorandrewsmith.com

John Corey Whaley was a 2011 National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Honoree for his debut novel *Where Things Come Back*, which also was a Michael L. Printz Winner. *Noggin* is his second novel. He lives in Los Angeles, California. www.johncoreywhaley.com

Deborah Wiles is the author of two picture books and six YA novels, including *Each Little Bird That Sings*, which was a 2005 National Book Award Finalist. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

www.deborahwiles.com

Jacqueline Woodson was a National Book Award Finalist in 2002 for *Hush* and in 2003 for *Locomotion*. She has received many awards, including two Newbery Honors. In 2006, Woodson received the Margaret A. Edwards Award for Lifetime Achievement honoring her outstanding contributions to young adult literature. www.jacquelinewoodson.com

Publishers submitted a total of 294 books for the 2014 National Book Award in Young People’s Literature. Five distinguished judges were given the charge of selecting what they deem to be the best books of the year. Their decisions are made independently of the National Book Foundation staff and Board of Directors; deliberations are strictly confidential. To be eligible for a 2014 National Book Award, a book must have been written by a US citizen and published in the United States between December 1, 2013 and November 30, 2014.

2014 National Book Award Judges for Young People’s Literature:

Sharon M. Draper is a professional educator, as well as an accomplished writer of over thirty award-winning books for adolescents and teachers, including *Copper Sun*, Winner the 2007 Coretta Scott King Award and the highly acclaimed Jericho and Hazelwood trilogies. She served as the National Teacher of the Year, has been honored at the White House six times, and is a *New York Times* bestselling author. She was selected by the US State Department to be a literary ambassador to the children of Africa as well as China. www.sharondraper.com

Starr LaTronica is the Youth Services/Outreach Manager for the Four County Library System and the current President of the Association for Library Services to Children. She has served as chair of the John Newbery Award committee and as a panelist for *The New York Times* Best Illustrated Books for Children. She is the namesake for Daniel Pinkwater's librarian character Starr Lakawanna in *Looking for Bobowitz*, (HarperCollins: 2003), who utters the immortal line; "I live to amaze, astonish and astound. Those are things librarians do well."

Dave Shallenberger is co-owner of Little Shop of Stories in Decatur, Georgia, "the best independent bookstore for kids & the grownups they become in the observable universe." Prior to the founding of Little Shop in 2005 he worked as an attorney who practiced in the area of labor and employment law, and had served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Malaysia.

Sherri L. Smith has worked in movies, animation, comic books, and construction. She is the author of the award-winning novels *Lucy the Giant*, *Sparrow*, *Hot, Sour, Salty, Sweet* and the 2009 California Book Awards Gold Medalist *Flygirl*, which the Washington Post named a best book of the year. Her latest novel is the "cli-fi" adventure, *Orleans*, which was published in 2013. www.sherrilsmith.com

Rebecca Stead has written three novels for children: *Liar & Spy*, winner of the 2013 Guardian Children's Fiction Award and a *New York Times Book Review* Notable Book for Children; *When You Reach Me*, which was awarded the 2010 Newbery Medal and the Boston Globe/Horn Book Award for Fiction; and *First Light*, a Junior Library Guild Selection and New York Public Library Best Book for Teens. www.RebeccaSteadBooks.com

The remaining Longlists for the Poetry, Nonfiction, and Fiction categories will be revealed exclusively in *The New York Times* at 8 a.m. ET as follows: Poetry on Tuesday, September 16; Nonfiction on September 17; and finally, the Longlist for Fiction on September 18.

The National Book Award Finalists will be announced exclusively on October 15 on NPR's *Morning Edition*, and the Winners at the invitation-only National Book Awards Ceremony and Benefit Dinner on November 19 in New York City.

####

The National Book Foundation's mission is to celebrate the best of American literature, to expand its audience, and to enhance the cultural value of good writing in America. In addition to the National Book Awards, for which it is best known, the Foundation's programs include **5 Under 35**, a celebration of emerging fiction writers selected by former National Book Award Finalists and Winners; the **National Book Awards Teen Press Conference**, an opportunity for New York City students to interview the current National Book Award Finalists in Young People's Literature; **NBA on Campus**, a partnership that brings National Book Award authors to colleges and universities across the country; the **Innovations in Reading Prize**, awarded to individuals and institutions that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading; and **BookUp**, a writer-led, after-school reading program.

The National Book Award is one of the nation's most prestigious literary prizes and has a stellar record of identifying and rewarding quality writing. In 1950, William Carlos Williams was the first Winner in Poetry, the following year William Faulkner was honored in Fiction, and so on through the years. Many previous Winners of a National Book Award are now firmly established in the canon of American literature, such as Sherman Alexie, Louise Erdrich, Jonathan Franzen, Denis Johnson, James McBride, Joyce Carol Oates, and Adrienne Rich.