



# Young Reader's Choice Awards FAQ

**Q: How did YRCA get started?**

A: The award was established in 1940 by Harry Hartman, a Seattle bookseller who believed every student should have an opportunity to select a book that he or she enjoys.

**Q: Who participates in YRCA?**

A: Children in grades 4-12 in the Pacific Northwest: Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana and Washington can participate.

**Q: How long has EPL been promoting YRCA?**

A: Since 1980! At that time, there was only one division and the winner was *Ramona and Her Father* by Beverly Cleary.

## TRIVIA

1991 YRCA added a Senior Division – Winner: *Sex Education* by Jenny Davis

2002 YRCA added an Intermediate Division – Winner: *Mary, Bloody Mary* by Carolyn Meyer

**Q: What is the Award in YRCA?**

A: For the author, it is the prestige of having been selected by their targeted audience and only by their targeted audience - no adults, no teachers, no professionals, just their biggest critics – the kids who love their book!!

**Q: Who sponsors YRCA?**

A: The Young Reader's Choice Award is sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) and continues to be the longest running "children's choice" book award.

**Q: What is the Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA)?**

A: The Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) is an organization of over 200 people who work in, with, and for libraries, from Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, and Washington. Established in 1909, PNLA is the oldest regional library association in the United States and the only binational association in North America. PNLA promotes many special projects and initiatives, one of which is the Young Reader's Choice Award.

**Q: Where is the PNLA website?**

A: <http://www.pnla.org/yrca>

**Q: How are books selected?**

A: Books are nominated by students, librarians, teachers, and parents in the Pacific Northwest. Nominations are not accepted from publishers.

**Q: What books can I nominate?**

A: Nominated titles must already be popular with young readers. Nominated titles must be published three (3) years prior to the award and be printed in the United States or Canada. Nominations may include fiction, nonfiction, and graphic format titles and can be a sequel or part of a series.

**Q: Why does a book have to be published 3 years prior?**

A: There are two reasons for this. First, this gives enough time for the book to be in circulation so that it can reach a large audience and gain popularity. Second, Harry Hartman not only wanted the kids to have their own award, but he wanted them to have their own books. In 1940, it took three years for a book to be published in paperback after having been first published in hardback, thus making it accessible to everyone!

**Q: When can I nominate a book?**

A: Nominations close October 30 of every year.

**Q: What information do I need to nominate a book?**

A: When nominating a title, please include the following:

Title

Author

Copyright Date

Division where you feel the title is most appropriate and any other information you would like to include about the popularity of the title.

Junior Division: Grades 4-6

Intermediate Division: Grades 7-9

Senior Division: Grades 10-12

And feel free to tell us how you liked it as well!!

**Q: Where do you nominate a book?**

A: The public can nominate either by going to [epl.ca/yrca-nominations](http://epl.ca/yrca-nominations), by contacting an EPL staff member, or by emailing the Alberta YRCA Representative, Jocie Wilson, at [yrca\\_ab@yahoo.ca](mailto:yrca_ab@yahoo.ca).

**Q: How are books shortlisted?**

A: All nominations will be reviewed and voted on by YRCA representatives assigned to a division (Junior/Intermediate/Senior). Student input may be used when shortlisting.

**Q: What are the criteria for review of nominations?**

A: At least one title in each division must be Canadian, meaning either a Canadian author or the story is set in Canada, such as *Never Say Die* (2016). Nominated titles will be judged on popularity with readers. Other considerations will include reading enjoyment; reading level; interest level; genre representation; racial diversity; diversity of social, political, economic, or religious viewpoints; regional consideration; effectiveness of expression; and imagination. Age appropriateness will also be considered for placement in a division.

The PNLA is committed to intellectual freedom and diversity of ideas. No title will be excluded because of race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political or social view of either the author or the material.

**Q: When are the shortlisted nominations announced?**

A: Every February the YRCA shortlisted nominees will be announced (8 per division).

**Q: Who can vote for the winners?**

A: ONLY young readers in grades 4-12 and whose state or province are PNLA members are eligible.

**Q: Do you need an EPL card to vote?**

A: No, however we do encourage all children to have their own card – it's free!

**Q: Can you vote in two different divisions?**

A: Yes, as long as you read/listen to a nominated title from a division. You can vote in all three!

**Q: When do you vote?**

A: Voting takes place between September 30 and April 15 every "YRCA" year, and winners are announced shortly after.

**Q: Where do students vote?**

A: There are three different ways to vote:

1. collectively at your school with your teacher
2. at your closest EPL branch
3. online at [epl.ca/yrca](http://epl.ca/yrca)

**Q: Where do you find a list of past winners?**

A: <http://www.pnla.org/yrca-past-winners>