



Frequently Asked Questions

About YRCA

Q: How did YRCA get started?

A: The award was established in 1940 by Harry Hartman, a Seattle bookseller who believed students should have an opportunity to select books that they enjoy.

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 the Edmonton Public Library (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.

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

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

Q: What is the award in YRCA?

A: For the winning authors, 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 books!!

YRCA Beyond Edmonton

Q: Who sponsors YRCA?

A: The Young Reader's Choice Awards 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 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, the PNLA is the oldest regional library association in the United States and the only binational association in North

America. The PNLA promotes many special projects and initiatives, one of which is the Young Reader's Choice Awards.

Q: Where is the PNLA website?

A: <https://pnla.org/young-readers-choice-award/>

Suggesting Books

Q: How are books selected?

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

Q: I want to suggest a book! What books can I suggest?

A: You can suggest any book you enjoyed reading, and you can suggest as many books as you like! For a book to be shortlisted, it must be published three (3) years prior to the award and printed in the United States or Canada. Titles may include fiction, nonfiction, and graphic format titles and can be a sequel or part of a series. If you suggest a book published too recently for next year's YRCA, don't worry! It will be considered for YRCA when it is three years from its date of publication!

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

A: There are two reasons.

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 more accessible to everyone!

Q: When can I suggest a book?

A: PNLA accepts suggestions until October 30 of every year.

Q: How do I suggest a book?

A: We have a [page on our website](#) for that!

How Books Are Shortlisted

Q: How are books shortlisted?

A: All suggestions will be reviewed and voted on by YRCA representatives assigned to a division. Student suggestions are considered when shortlisting.

Q: What are the criteria for review of suggested titles?

A: At least one title in each division must be Canadian, meaning the author is Canadian or the story is set in Canada (even if the author is not Canadian).

Suggested titles will be judged on popularity with readers. Other considerations 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 nominations announced?

A: The YRCA nominees will be announced every May. There are 8 per division.

Voting

Q: Who can vote for the winners?

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

Q: Do I need an EPL card to vote?

A: Library cards aren't required to vote, however we do encourage all children to have one. It's FREE to sign up for a card!

Q: Can I vote in two different divisions?

A: Yes, as long as you read or listen to a nominated title from a division. You can vote in all three divisions, or for more than one title in the same division if you want!

Q: When do I vote?

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

Q: Where do I vote?

A: There are three different ways to vote:

1. At your school through your teacher
2. At your closest EPL branch
3. Online at epl.ca/yrca

Q: Where can I find a list of past winners?

A: For a full list of YRCA winners since 1940, please visit the PNLA website.