2021 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award Winner Announced

The Assembly on Literature for Adolescents (ALAN) of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) is pleased and proud to announce the 2021 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award for Young Adult Fiction winner and finalists. Established in 2008 to honor the wishes of young adult author Amelia Elizabeth Walden, the award allows for the sum of $5,000 to be presented annually to the author of a young adult title selected by the ALAN Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award Committee as demonstrating a positive approach to life, widespread teen appeal, and literary merit.

The 2021 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award winner is:

*Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo
(HarperCollins/Quill Tree Books)
The 2020 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award finalists are:

**SLAY** by Brittney Morris  
(Simon & Schuster/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

![SLAY book cover](image)

**The Black Kids** by Christina Hammonds Reed  
(Simon & Schuster/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

![The Black Kids book cover](image)

**Kent State** by Deborah Wiles  
(Scholastic/Scholastic Press)

![Kent State book cover](image)

The winner and finalists will be honored at the 2021 ALAN Workshop on November 22nd, and the authors will be invited to participate in a panel discussion.

The 2021 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Committee would like to thank: the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Foundation, the ALAN Executive Council, the ALAN Board of Directors, NCTE, and the many publishers who submitted titles for consideration.

The 2021 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Committee considered almost 300 young adult titles throughout the process. The committee included ten members representing the university, K-12 school, and library communities. They are:

Sarah Mulhern Gross
English Teacher
High Technology High School, Lincroft, NJ

Beth Shaum, Past Chair
8th Grade ELA Teacher/ K-8 Librarian
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, Ann Arbor, MI

Jodi Blair
Librarian
Alcoa High School, Alcoa, TN

Nicole Clawson
Visiting Professor
Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

Bryan Gillis
Professor of English Education & Literacy
Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA

Walter M. Mayes
Library Media Specialist
The Girls’ Middle School, Palo Alto, CA

Elizabeth Prosniewski
7th Grade Language Arts Teacher
Pennington Traditional School, Manassas, VA

Morgan Jackson
English Teacher
Bishop Gorman High School, Las Vegas, NV

L.E. Oldham
English Language Arts Content Specialist
Deming Public Schools, Deming, NM

Julia Torres
Librarian
Denver Public Schools, Denver, CO

Maria Hernandez Goff
Assistant Professor of Literacy Education
California State University Fresno, Fresno, CA

For more information on the award, please visit ALAN Online: The Official Site of the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents: http://www.alan-ya.org/awards/walden-award/.