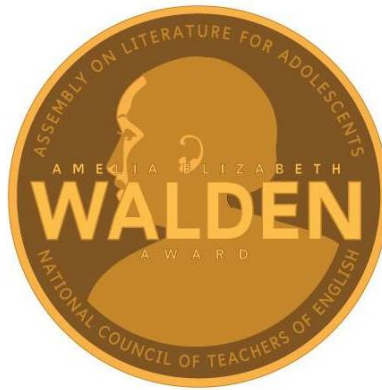


**PROCESS AND PROCEDURES**

**FOR THE**

**AMELIA ELIZABETH WALDEN AWARD**



**Sponsored by the**

**Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the NCTE**

**(ALAN)**

REVISED NOVEMBER 2013

### **CONTEXT AND CRITERIA**

Established in 2008 to honor the wishes of Amelia Elizabeth Walden, the award allows for the sum of \$5,000 to be presented annually to the author of a book selected by the ALAN Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award (AEWA) Committee as “the title of the year most relevant to adolescents and having enjoyed a wide and appreciative teenage audience.”

Per Walden’s request, the selected title must:

- 1) be a work of fiction, ideally a novel (novels that are part of a series must be able to stand alone);
- 2) be published within one year prior to the call for titles;
- 2) be published in the United States but may have been published elsewhere prior; and
- 3) possess a positive approach to life, widespread teen appeal, and literary merit (please see below for additional guidance).

#### *A Positive Approach to Life*

Submitted titles should:

- treat teen readers as capable and thoughtful young people
- offer hope and optimism, even when describing difficult circumstances
- have a credible and appropriate resolution
- portray characters involved in shaping their lives in a positive way, even as they struggle with the harsh realities of life

#### *Widespread Teen Appeal*

Submitted titles should:

- be intended expressly for readers aged 12-18
- have universal themes that transcend time and place
- have themes that resonate with a wide variety of readers, regardless of race, class, gender, and sexual orientation
- provide readers with a window to the world and/or reflect their own experiences

#### *Literary Merit*

Submitted titles should:

- contain well-developed characters
- employ well-constructed forms suitable to function
- include language and literary devices that enhance the narrative
- suggest cogent and richly-realized themes

- present an authentic voice