2020 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Finalists

The Assembly on Literature for Adolescents (ALAN) of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) is pleased and proud to announce the 2020 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award for Young Adult Fiction 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 2020 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award finalists are:

1. With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo (HarperCollins/HarperTeen)
2. Lovely War by Julie Berry (Penguin Random House/Viking)
3. Like a Love Story by Abdi Nazemian (HarperCollins/Balzer + Bray)
4. Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay (Penguin Random House/Kokila)
5. White Rose by Kip Wilson (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Versify)
The winning title will be announced May 11th. The winner and finalists will be honored at the 2020 ALAN Workshop on Monday, November 23rd in Denver, CO, and the authors will be invited to participate in a panel discussion.

The Walden Award Committee:

The 2020 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 2020 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Committee considered over 300 young adult titles throughout the process.

The committee included ten members representing the university, K-12 school, and library communities. They are:

Beth Shaum, Committee Chair
K-8 Librarian St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, Ann Arbor, MI

Wendy Stephens, Past Chair
School Library Program Chair Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL

Robert Bittner
SSHRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

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

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

Walter M. Mayes
Librarian The Girls’ Middle School, Palo Alto, CA

Elizabeth Parker
English Teacher Saunders Middle School, Manassas, VA

Jennifer Paulsen
English and Social Studies Teacher Holmes Junior High School, Cedar Falls, IA

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/.

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