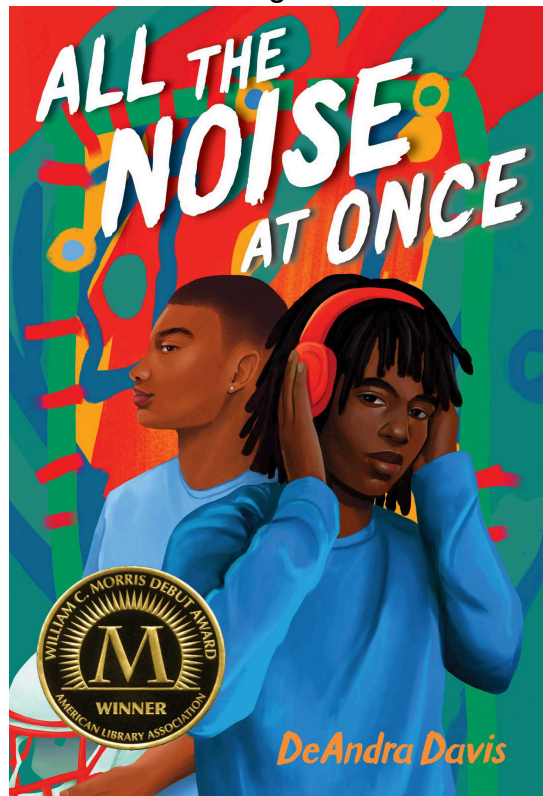


2026 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award Winner Announced

The Assembly on Literature for Adolescents (ALAN) of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) is pleased and proud to announce the 2026 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award for Young Adult Fiction finalists and winner. Established in 2008 to honor the wishes of young adult author Amelia Elizabeth Walden, the award allows for a monetary prize 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.

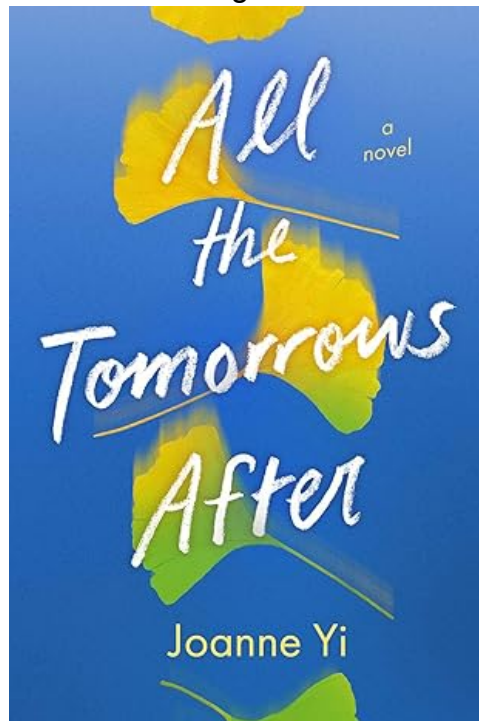
The 2026 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award winner is:

***All the Noise at Once* by DeAndra Davis**
(Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Shuster)

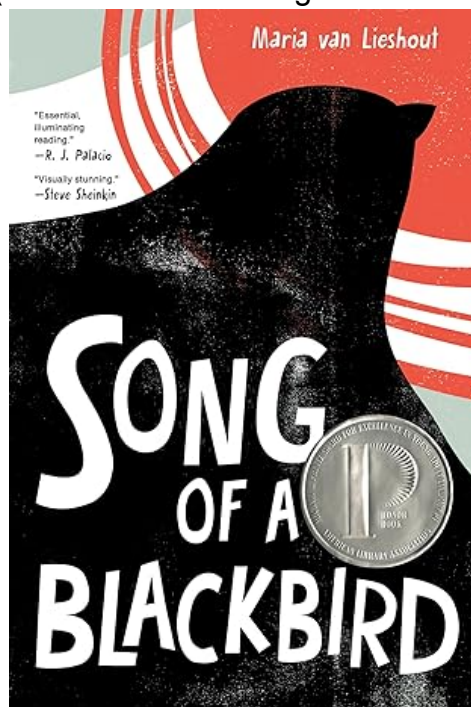


The 2026 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award finalists are:

***All the Tomorrow's After* by Joanna Yi**
(Atheneum Books for Young Readers/ Simon & Shuster)

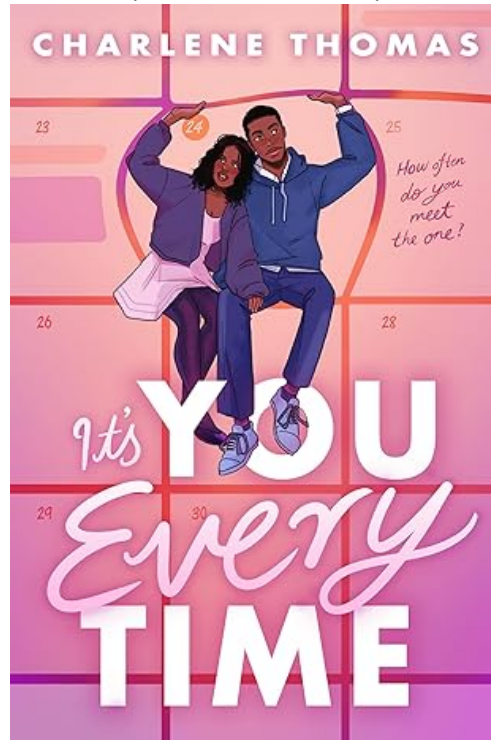


***Song of a Blackbird* by Maria Van Lieshout**
(First Second/ Roaring Book Press)



***It's You Every Time* by Charlene Thomas**

(Scholastic Press)



The winning title and finalists will be honored at the 2026 ALAN Workshop on Monday, November 24th in Philadelphia, PA, and the authors will be invited to participate in a panel discussion.

The 2026 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 2026 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Committee considered over 300 young adult titles throughout the process. The committee was comprised of nine members representing the university, K-12 school, and library communities. They are:

T. Hunter Strickland, Ph.D., Committee Chair
Assistant Professor of Adolescent Literacy
Augusta University, Augusta, GA

Jung Kim, Ph.D., Past Committee Chair
Professor of Literacy
Lewis University, Romeoville, IL

Liz Deskins
University Professor
Hilliard City Schools, Columbus, OH

Christian Gregory, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Education

Saint Anselm College, Goffstown, NH

Chris Lewis, Ph.D.
English Learner Teacher on Special Assignment
Mountain View High School, El Monte, CA

Lori Lieberman
Librarian
Lincoln High School, Portland, OR

Kate Hoppenrath
Librarian
West High School, Knoxville, TN

Jessica Lorentz Smith
Librarian
Bend Senior High School, Bend, OR

Liz Carr
Teacher
Academically Talented Youth Program, WMU
Kalamazoo, MI

Maggie Wilson
Teacher
Belton Middle School, Belton, SC

Renee Stites Kruep
Clinical Teaching Professor
University of Missouri, Columbia MO

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/>