

The Sydney Taylor Book Award

Presented by the Association of Jewish Libraries

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The Sydney Taylor Book Award is presented annually to outstanding books for children and teens that authentically portray the Jewish experience. Presented by the Association of Jewish Libraries since 1968, the award encourages the publication and widespread use of quality Judaic literature. Gold medals are presented in three categories, called Younger Readers, Older Readers, and Teen Readers until 2020 when the categories were renamed Picture Book, Middle Grade, and Young Adult. Honor Books are awarded silver medals, and Notable Books are named in each category.

2021

- Welcoming Elijah: A Passover Tale with a Tail by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Susan Gal (Charlesbridge, 2020) PICTURE BOOK
- Turtle Boy by M. Evan Wolkenstein (Delacorte, 2020) MIDDLE GRADE
- Dancing at the Pity Party by Tyler Feder (Dial Books, 2020) YOUNG ADULT

2020

- The Book Rescuer: How a Mensch from Massachusetts Saved Yiddish Literature for Generations to Come, illustrated by Stacy Innerst (Paul Wiseman, 2019) PICTURE BOOK
- White Bird: A Wonder Story by R.J. Palacio, illustrated by the author (Knopf, 2019) MIDDLE GRADE
- Someday We Will Fly by Rachel Dewoskin (Viking, 2019) YOUNG ADULT

2019

- All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah by Emily Jenkins, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky (Schwartz & Wade, 2018) YOUNGER
- Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster by Jonathan Auxier (Amulet, 2018) OLDER
- What the Night Sings by Vesper Stamper, illustrated by the author (Alfred A. Knopf, 2018) TEEN

2018

- The Language of Angels by Richard Michelson, illustrated by Karla Gudeon (Charlesbridge, 2017) YOUNGER
- Refugee by Alan Gratz (Scholastic, 2017) OLDER
- The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe, translated by Lilit Thwaite (Godwin, 2017) TEEN

2017

- I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark by Debbie Levy, illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley (Simon & Schuster, 2016) YOUNGER
- The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Holy Children and Their Magical Dog by Adam Gidwitz (Dutton, 2016) OLDER
- Anna and the Swallow Man by Gavriel Savit (Knopf, 2016) TEEN

2016

- Ketzels, the Cat Who Composed by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Amy June Bates (Candlewick, 2015) YOUNGER
- Adam & Thomas by Aharon Appelfeld, illustrated by Phillippe Dumas, translated by Jeffrey M. Green (Seven Stories Press, 2015) OLDER
- The Hired Girl by Laura Amy Schlitz (Candlewick, 2015) TEEN

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| <p>2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Grandfather's Coat by Jim Aylesworth, illustrated by Barbara McClintock (Scholastic, 2014) YOUNGER • Hidden: A Child's Story of the Holocaust by Loïc Dauvillier, Marc Lizano, and Greg Salsedo (First Second, 2014) OLDER • Storm by Donna Jo Napoli (Simon & Schuster, 2014) TEEN <p>2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Longest Night by Laurel Snyder, illustrated by Catia Chen (Schwartz & Wade, 2013) YOUNGER • The Blessing Cup by Patricia Polacco (Simon & Schuster, 2013) OLDER • The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi by Neal Bascomb (Arthur A. Levine, 2013) TEEN <p>2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannah's Way by Linda Glaser, illustrated by Adam Gustavson (Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2012) YOUNGER • His Name Was Raoul Wallenberg by Louise Borden (Houghton Mifflin, 2012) OLDER • Intentions by Deborah Heiligman (Knopf, 2012) TEEN <p>2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chanukah Lights by Michael Rosen, paper engineering by Robert Sabuda (Candlewick, 2011) YOUNGER • Music Was It: Young Leonard Bernstein by Susan Goldman Rubin (Charlesbridge, 2011) OLDER • The Berlin Boxing Club by Robert Sharenow (HarperTeen, 2011) TEEN | <p>2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathering Sparks by Howard Schwartz, illustrated by Kristina Swarner (Roaring Brook, 2010) YOUNGER • Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword by Barry Deutsch (Amulet, 2010) OLDER • The Things a Brother Knows by Dana Reinhardt (Wendy Lamb, 2010) TEEN <p>2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Year at the Pier by April Halprin Wayland, illustrated by Stéphane Jorisch (Dial, 2009) YOUNGER • The Importance of Wings by Robin Friedman (Charlesbridge, 2009) OLDER • Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba by Margarita Engle (Henry Holt, 2009) TEEN <p>2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As Good As Anybody: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom by Richard Michelson, illustrated by Raúl Colón (Knopf, 2008) YOUNGER • Brooklyn Bridge by Karen Hesse (Fiewel & Friends, 2008) OLDER • A Bottle in the Gaza Sea by Valérie Zenatti (Bloomsbury, 2008) TEEN <p>2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bedtime Sh'ma by Sarah Gershman, illustrated by Kristina Swarner (EKS, 2007) YOUNGER • The Entertainer and the Dybbuk by Sid Fleischman (HarperCollins, 2007) OLDER • Strange Relations by Sonia Levitin (Knopf, 2007) TEEN |
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2007 – Teen Readers Category introduced this year

- Hanukkah at Valley Forge by Stephen Krensky, illustrated by Greg Harlin (Dutton, 2006) YOUNGER
- Julia’s Kitchen by Brenda Ferber (Farrar Straus Giroux, 2006) OLDER
- The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (Knopf, 2006) TEEN

2006

- Sholom’s Treasure by Erica Silverman, illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein (Farrar Straus Giroux, 2005) YOUNGER
- Confessions of a Closet Catholic by Sarah Darer Littman (Dutton, 2005) OLDER

2005 – Dating system changed this year to reflect year in which award is announced instead of year of publication. Award-giving did NOT skip a year.

2004

- There was no winner in the Younger Readers Category this year.
- Real Time by Pnina Moed Kass (Clarion, 2004) OLDER

2003

- Bagels from Benny by Aubrey Davis, illustrated by Dušan Petričić (Kids Can Press, 2003) YOUNGER
- Who Was the Woman Who Wore the Hat? by Nancy Patz (Dutton, 2003) OLDER

2002

- Chicken Soup by Heart by Esther Hershenhorn, illustrated by Roseanne Litzinger (Simon & Schuster, 2002) YOUNGER
- Hana’s Suitcase by Karen Levine (Second Story, 2002) OLDER

2001

- Rivka’s First Thanksgiving by Elsa Okon Rael, illustrated by Maryann Kovalski (Simon & Schuster, 2001) YOUNGER
- Sigmund Freud: Pioneer of the Mind by Catherine Reef (Clarion, 2001) OLDER

2000

- Gershon’s Monster: A Story for the Jewish New Year by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Jon J. Muth (Scholastic, 2000) YOUNGER
- The Key Is Lost by Ida Vos (HarperCollins, 2000) OLDER

1999

- The Peddler’s Gift by Maxine Rose Schur, illustrated by Kimberley Bulcken Root (Dial, 1999) YOUNGER
- The Speed of Light by Sybil Rosen (Atheneum, 1999) OLDER

1998

- Nine Spoons by Marci Stillerman, illustrated by Pesach Gerber (Hachai, 1998) YOUNGER
- Stones in Water by Donna Jo Napoli (Dutton, 1998) OLDER

1997

- When Zaydeh Danced on Eldridge Street by Elsa Okon Rael, illustrated by Marjorie Priceman (Simon & Schuster, 1997) YOUNGER
- The Mysterious Visitor: Stories of the Prophet Elijah by Nina Jaffe, illustrated by Elivia Savadier (Scholastic, 1997) OLDER

1996

- Shalom, Haver: Goodbye, Friend by Barbara Sofer (Kar-Ben, 1996) YOUNGER

- When I Left My Village by Maxine Rose Schur, illustrated by Brian Pinkney (Dial, 1996) OLDER
- 1995
 - Star of Fear, Star of Hope by Jo Hoestlandt, illustrated by Johanna Kang (Walker, 1995) YOUNGER
 - Dancing on the Bridge of Avignon by Ida Vos (Houghton Mifflin, 1995) OLDER
- 1994
 - The Always Prayer Shawl by Sheldon Oberman, illustrated by Ted Lewin (Boyd's Mills, 1994) YOUNGER
 - The Shadow Children by Steven Schnur, illustrated by Herbert Tauss (Morrow Junior, 1994) OLDER
- 1993
 - The Uninvited Guest by Nina Jaffe, illustrated by Elivia Savadier (Scholastic, 1993) YOUNGER
 - Sworn Enemies by Carol Matas (Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1993) OLDER
- 1992
 - Something from Nothing by Phoebe Gilman (North Winds Press, 1992) YOUNGER
 - Letters from Rifka by Karen Hesse (Henry Holt, 1992) OLDER
- 1991
 - Daddy's Chair by Sandy Lanton, illustrated by Shelly O. Haas (Kar-Ben, 1992) YOUNGER
 - Cakes and Miracles: A Purim Tale by Barbara Diamond Goldin, illustrated by Erika Weihs (Viking 1991) YOUNGER
 - The Diamond Tree: Jewish Tales from Around the World by Howard Schwartz & Barbara Rush, illustrated by Uri Shulevitz
- (Harper Collins, 1991) OLDER
- 1990
 - The Chanukah Guest by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Giora Carmi (Holiday House, 1990) YOUNGER
 - My Grandmother's Stories by Adèle Geras (Knopf, 1990) OLDER
- 1989
 - Berchick by Esther Silverstein Blanc, illustrated by Tennessee Dixon (Volcano Press, 1989) YOUNGER
 - Number the Stars by Lois Lowry (Houghton Mifflin, 1989) OLDER
- 1988
 - The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco (Simon & Schuster, 198) YOUNGER
 - The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen (Viking Kestrel, 1988) OLDER
- 1987
 - The Number on My Grandfather's Arm by David A. Adler (UAHC Press, 1987) YOUNGER
 - The Return by Sonia Levitin (Atheneum, 1987) OLDER
- 1986
 - Joseph Who Loved the Sabbath by Marilyn Hirsh, illustrated by Devis Grebu (Viking, 1986) YOUNGER
 - Beyond the High White Wall by Nancy Pitt (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1986) OLDER

1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brothers by Florence B. Freedman, illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker (Harper & Row, 1985) YOUNGER • Ike and Mama and the Seven Surprises by Carol Snyder (Lothrop Lee & Shepard, 1985) OLD • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ike and Mama and the Block Wedding by Carol Snyder (Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1979)
1984	<p>Mrs Moskowitz and the Sabbath Candlesticks by Amy Schwartz (Jewish Publication Society, 1984) YOUNGER</p> <p>The Island on Bird Street by Uri Orlev (Houghton Mifflin, 1984) OLDER</p>	<p>1978</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Devil in Vienna by Doris Orgel (Penguin, 1978) <p>1977</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exit from Home by Anita Heyman (Random House, 1977)
1983	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bubby, Me, and Memories by Barbara Pomerantz (UAHC Press, 1983) YOUNGER • In the Mouth of the Wolf by Rose Zar (Jewish Publication Society, 1983) OLDER 	<p>1976</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never to Forget by Milton Meltzer (Harper Collins, 1976) <p>1975</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting for Mama by Marietta Moskin (Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1975)
1982	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Castle on Hester Street by Linda Heller (Jewish Publication Society, 1982) YOUNGER • Call Me Ruth by Marilyn Sachs (Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1982) OLDER 	<p>1974 – No award was given in 1974</p> <p>1973</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncle Misha’s Partisans by Yuri Suhl (Four Winds, 1973)
1981 – Age categories were introduced this year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yussel’s Prayer by Barbara Cohen (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1981) YOUNGER • The Night Journey by Kathryn Lasky (Penguin, 1981) OLDER 	<p>1971-1972 – No awards given in these years</p> <p>1970</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Year by Suzanne Lange (S.G. Phillips, 1970)
1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Russian Farewell by Leonard Everett Fisher (Four Winds Press, 1980) 	<p>1969</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Eddie by Shulamith Ish-Kishor (Pantheon, 1969) <p>1968</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Endless Steppe by Esther Hautzig (Harper Collins, 1968)
1979		

