



Library podcast

2017 Washington State Book Awards: Find Out the Winners!

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[00:00:35] Welcome to the 2017 Washington State Book Awards celebration. Tonight we honor the writers of and their 2016 books in eight different categories for categories for adults and for categories for children and teens and our panel of judges have been reading and reading and reading books. As you can guess and they've been able to settle in on the top 29 books and there is no doubt that that is a big endeavor. So thank you to our judges. Now the real important part is for all our finalists that are here tonight. Would you take a moment and stand up so we can recognize you. Excellent

[00:01:26] And even better the peanut gallery is here as well. So thank you everyone.

[00:01:32] So these Book Awards are produced in partnership through the Center for the book here at Seattle Public Library and our new relationship with the State Library. So we're excited about all of that. The words are made possible thanks to the support of the foundation. That's my group and if are donors in the audience here thank you. Because donors make everything special at Seattle Public Library. Your key to our work. You know tonight's awards couldn't be possible with the help without the help of Elliott Bay Book Store village books. And third place books. Now I also want to recognize if use of our library folks again Marcellus Turner this would not be possible without his leadership. Crystal lens row who's the deputy director in the Washington State Library. Are you here perchance. Excellent thank you.

[00:02:24] Clear up in the top Lynda Johns has been working with Nona Noto Burling who's also from the State Library. Lynda Johns is here at the library. There we go Linda. And then Andre Andrea and Sasha of also have been here tonight to help. So with SPL applause We've got Kate Loughlin from the executive director of the State Library Association. APPLAUSE And then Carmen Bendix son our immediate past president the Friends of the library. She's done her part as well.

[00:03:03] Applause So we are delighted to have Paul Hansen of bullish books here tonight. He's our host in our emcee nor is Paul areas. He has been a judge for many many years. You know what it takes to pull this thing off. And we're so excited to have you so come on and take over.

[00:03:27] Hi everybody.

[00:03:29] Wow. OK. This is really weird looking at it from this point of view. I've always just been up there and that's so much more comfortable.

[00:03:38] So as a as a bookseller I can't speak for all booksellers but growing up as readers and lover lover of books we've always had two aspirations. One is to either be a librarian or a writer. So this ceremony is fantastic because we've got them all together and to have me up is here as a bookseller at a library book award is a huge honor

[00:04:05] So it's a pleasure to be here as M.C. for the thirty first annual Washington State Book Awards. After serving as a judge for three of those years it's fun to be up here on the other side of the podium and admittedly like most readers and writers it's just a little frightening because I'd rather be sitting in the seats alongside you. Better yet curled up on the couch with a good book. Being in the Pacific Northwest. We're lucky to have those long dark evenings as excuses to stay inside and read. Fortunately for all of us we'll get to hear more about the finalists this evening and come away with plenty of reading recommendations for the season ahead. Before we get underway first and foremost let's thank our judges. I think most of them are here tonight and I've had the pleasure of serving alongside of at least three or four of them which has been great. Our judges are from libraries colleges and independent bookstores. This year they considered more than 200 titles and you can be assured they read everyone I know. I've been there. And every book that was submitted to the award ceremony the awards committee this past summer as they narrowed thing narrowed the long list of finalists.

[00:05:16] These volunteers reread the dozens of books to get down to the 32 finalists we're honoring tonight. Judges Oh and it's not it's both intense and energizing work. It's like a book group marathon and Sprint altogether. But what can be better when we walk out of the meetings it's very gratifying. I'm seeing Pam not her head. Yes it's very fun. Judges want to introduce you. Please stand and stay standing. First the adult juror jury Lisa Bettany of Tacoma Public Library. We are. Right and Pam Cady from university bookstore Lisa Gresham of welcome County Public Library applause. And Lisa I'm sorry we didn't carpool down. I meant to contact you about this. Yeah. It's great representing we got some good folks in Bellingham here today. And Linda Andrews former finalist in the poetry category and poetry instructor at Walla Walla she's unable to attend. She's in Italy. What law. I know she'd much rather be here because if I were her I would. And the judges. Thank you all.

[00:06:29] Thank you.

[00:06:33] And the judges for the youth categories. Sherry Boggs Spokane County Library District. Tom Brown librarian at Laurel Hurst Elementary School in Seattle. And rain the door Timberland library system.

[00:06:52] Applause Thank you for your service.

[00:06:56] So here's how the evening will proceed.

[00:06:59] During the program we want to honor the many finalists who are here tonight. I'll announce the finalists in each category with blurbs that the judges wrote for each book. Thank you for taking the time to do that and to give us a sense of why these books made the shortlist. When I say your name and book title please stand up and wave. And if you're representing the finalists then please stand and wave to. Once the winner is announced we'll have the winner come down to the podium and give us a few words or as many words as you can fit into two minutes.

[00:07:29] Ok.

[00:07:31] First off the Washington State Book Award is given based on the strength of a book's literary merit lasting importance and overall quality.

[00:07:39] That's a short list but boy the amount of time it takes to think about how the books fit into those categories and what will be the final winners is long and interesting.

[00:07:50] Now onto the finalists for the books published in 2016 the finalist for the 2017 Washington State Book Award in Poetry hardly war. By dawn me Choi. Don me Choi brings us the drum beat of distant wars that still reverberate today. Mixing poetry prose and her father's photographs from Korea and Vietnam. This book reanimated the cultures and people ravaged by conflict. Both historical and deeply personal hardly war. Also echoes echoes the tensions in our world today Mai Mai Mai Mai Mai by Tara Hardy. Tara gives us the alternate reality of life threatening illness. One reviewer called this book a magic trick and the reader feels this as the author locks us up in the room where illness and terrible treatments exist. Then breaks down the walls with clear eyed perspective and a vivid glimmer of hope. As imaginary vessels by Paisley rectal. Paisley couldn't be here this evening. If you're looking around for her Paisley explores personal persona and identity in herself. In culture cultural icons in the mystery of anonymous skulls unearthed from the graves of mental institution. She's an interrogator and through her subjects are often beyond though her subjects are often beyond temporal reach. She restores them through her vision and voice as blood song by Michael smelter. As Michael employees surprising imagery and wordplay to plumb the depths of violence loss elegy and regret. But there are love songs in here close observation and a tenderness that speaks of family and the pleasures to be found in a meaningful life.

[00:10:00] And our last finalist is wintering by Megan Snyder camp.

[00:10:08] Megan Follows the urge to blend everyday modern life with the historical record she takes as her guide. The explorations of Lewis and Clark. And she retraces their work through documents legends metaphor and the ground on which they walked. She enters history and takes the reader with her. Applause applause and the poetry award goes to Tara Hardy of Seattle

[00:10:37] Applause. I'm utterly shocked. I thought Paisley was going to win. I could tell you what I want you to take away from the book but I think I'll just. Tell you that I wrote the book. The book is about living hell on earth. It's about having a chronic illness that puts me in constant pain and threatens my life regularly and will most certainly do it again. The book also as a poet. When my immune system rose up and became hyper vigilant and started attacking me ice I think in comparisons and metaphors and stories I started thinking about where else has that occurred in my life that hyper vigilance and I thought about my childhood filled with trauma where I couldn't go off duty because I was constantly being attacked. So the book has those two things talk to each other and play with each other resolve things and open questions that cannot possibly be resolved. I wrote the book to stay alive. Because I thought I was going to die pretty quickly and I can't say that the poems didn't have something to do with that. I also through illness and childhood trauma the thing that shocks me is that.

[00:11:53] An outgrowth of that is I have an incredible. Gratitude to be alive and for the beauty of our world. I haven't been able to leave my house very many days in the last month but every afternoon during the golden hour right before the sunset. There's the cedar tree right outside my window that gives me this incredible display of light and reflection. So I spend a lot of time with that. I also spend a lot of time with the moon and now as a result of almost dying. And that is because I realized that when the time does come for me to die probably of this disease I'm never going to feel like I've had enough moon. I'm never going to feel yeah good see. With the moon so I spend a lot of time with her and I guess if I wanted you to take away something it would be gratitude for the absolute beauty of this world that we live in. I'm going to read you a very short poem that I'm gonna get out of here. OK OK. I'm really shocked. I hope that made sense.

[00:12:51] This is the concluding poem in the book last summer while the healthy were out picnicking and dashing skillfully across crosswalks I was at home making friends with a spider who had taken up residence in a corner outside my window. She was fast. And brutal. Would wait for sunset when the bugs came out and then pounce I watched her suck the life out of the heads of several good bees while I cheered until the day a ladybug started waddling across the pain towards the web. I thought about tapping on the glass to warn the lady but then I thought. Why should just the party survive. So I did nothing. But watch life dish up life's terms. Me sick and brutally odd in my pink chemotherapy gown watched as God marched that lady nine inches two inches three millimeters away from the web when to my Marvel at the velocity of life there in the twilight she flew

[00:14:10] Congratulations tomorrow. Thank you the finalists and biography and memoir. Are inside by Susan Marie Conrad

[00:14:25] Following a dream that few would dare to embrace. Susan Conrad departed Anacortes as Washington on a twelve hundred mile kayak journey north to Alaska with perilous seas grizzly bears and constant wet and cold as her companions you feel every pull of the paddle in this memoir as well as the splendor and solitude of nature as in earlier life by Brendan Miller as these masterful short essays written from the wisdom of middle years coalesced into a portrait of one woman's passage through the gauntlet of adolescence and young adulthood

[00:15:09] Nuanced lyrical and unsparing Lea honest. Brenda Miller describes how it is many small moments witnessed and held in wonder that make an authentic

[00:15:20] Life shrill by Lindy West.

[00:15:32] Although she writes unflinching unflinchingly about the hatred loneliness harassment and loss she has endured. There are plenty of laugh out loud moments in this book because Lindy West is ferociously funny shrill is a reverent thought provoking and a fierce warrior voice on the front lines of fat shaming and rape culture.

[00:15:54] My old man in the mountain by Leif Whittaker.

[00:16:00] My old man in the mountain shares the deeply personal struggles of growing up in the testosterone soaked competitive environment of the Whittaker family. Always with the magnetic pull of Mt. Everest in the background. Yes. Leave climbs the mountain. But the true drama is in finding his voice as a brother son and writer. And the winner of the biography memoir award is Brenda Miller of belling And. Oh

[00:16:32] My God I cannot believe it. Thank you so much.

[00:16:38] I was rooting for leaf because he's a former student of mine so if he won I won right.

[00:16:43] So it's a win win.

[00:16:47] I had to write something down so.

[00:16:50] So they asked us to talk about what we hope readers take away from our books and for me creative nonfiction writing and memoir in particular our spaces for truth telling. It is not the truth of mere fact but the truth that comes when we find connection in a world of disconnection. When we discover a beautiful innate pattern to our lives. Vladimir Nabokov in his memoir speak memory. Put it this way the following of such thematic designs through one's life should be I think the true purpose of autobiography one of the biggest challenges we face as memoir writers is how to create a personal story that resonates with others. Jonathan Yardley in the Washington Post speaks to the way autobiographical writing can strike a universal chord. He says it's real subject is or should be the development of the inner and outer self the successful memoirist is the one who explores self in ways in which others can see perhaps a glimmer of their own selves. I can only hope that my book lives up to those victims from an earlier life. I hope that my readers take away the theme that all of us live many lives in one lifetime and we can look at those past selves with compassion. I'll read just one very short excerpt from one of the first essays in the book.

[00:18:19] The essay is called who you will become. Shalom a Hebrew word that means many things at once. Hello Goodbye welcome peace and good Shabbat Shalom we said to our neighbors in the

synagogue. My father and brothers wearing their kippah as Bobby pinned to their heads. Shabbat Shalom a good Sabbath to you May your family live in peace. We said this easily to one another and did not speak of what might disturb that peace. Shabbat Shalom we whispered the shush sound of comfort. The open vowel of ome like the chants. I'll sing in yoga class years later. All those syllables the same washing over us where we sit in half lotus our bodies hallowed by sound in Hebrew the word for God means I am what I am becoming. This presence is always eminent always evolving. When we say shalom we are in the midst of this transition. Hello goodbye. Turning to face the past and future at once. Thank you so much for this award and my gratitude goes to Judith Kitchen who started Evan bird books and Stan Rubin who continued it. Thank you so much.

[00:19:47] Before we move on to the history and non-fiction finalists we're going to break things up a little bit. We have a little bit of fun. Okay okay okay. We're gonna have some fun. So we're gonna do some trivia based on some of tonight's finalists. I'm going to ask multiple choice questions and if you think you know the answer. Raise your hand if you get it right you'll get a lovely prize. Joining me this evening to help a hand would hand out the prizes is my lovely wife and co-owner of village books Kelly Everett. OK. We're gonna call this first game. What's true about Peru. One of these is true about the name Peru which one of it. Hey in French Peru is a nickname meaning wise worthy or valiant or is it B according to the U.S. Census in 1920 the state that had the highest number of Prue proves Prue.

[00:20:44] Prue was Massachusetts. What is the plural for Prue. That's a question or C..

[00:20:52] According to the Urban Dictionary a Prue is one who wanders aimlessly as if high or drunk randomly asking others odd questions. Or is it d all of the above.

[00:21:03] Raise your hand. Who's gonna answer. I see. Yes. See. Almost. Yes

[00:21:10] The answer is a. Oh almost

[00:21:16] Yes. Yes she answered B is that correct. Almost

[00:21:25] That is the last answer. Yes.

[00:21:31] Ok. So in honor of that he lived in Wyoming for a time from which sprang her short story that went on to become the movie Brokeback Mountain. In honor of cowboys and cowgirls everywhere from our local company Archie McPhee you win a cowgirl air freshener with cactus and

[00:21:51] Congratulations. Don't smell it all in one place.

[00:21:56] Ok. Thank you for a bit of fun. We have a few more tonight finalists in the history and nonfiction category. Immortal Irishman by Timothy Egan.

[00:22:05] Applause.

[00:22:09] An epic spanning three continents and as many generations this book follows the story of Thomas Francis meager whose voice stirred Irish uprisings during the Great Famine and led the legendary Irish brigade to fierce victories in the American Civil War. Egan once again brushes the dust off history to give us a really good read turn very different order eruption.

[00:22:36] The Untold Story of Mount St. Helens by Steve Olson though many of us remember where we were the day the mountain blew.

[00:22:47] There's a lot to discover about the complex economic historical and geographical events that collided on May 18th 1980. Steve Olson weaves these stories and events together bringing us into the lives of the people who lived worked and perished on the mountain. While the city slept a love lost to violence and a young man's descent into madness by Eli Sanders on a hot summer night in 2009 three lives were shattered by a brutal and incomprehensible crime.

[00:23:25] Eli tells a meticulous tale of intersecting lies filled with love and hope along with mind numbing despair and tragedy. Saunders writes with clarity and incredible sensitivity.

[00:23:35] So we too can bear witness to the strength of two incredible women applause turning homeward restoring hope in nature and the urban wild by Adrian Ross Scanlon applause having left her early life in upstate New York.

[00:23:56] Ross Scanlon finds the rhythms of her Jewish faith intertwined with her new volunteer work restoring urban rivers around Seattle as she watches the deep genetic pull salmon feel to return to their spawning ground.

[00:24:08] She finds she too has answered her own call to home and see women of Iceland by Margaret Wilson.

[00:24:24] When Margaret Wilson visited Iceland for the first time she encountered a stone plaque announcing the reconstruction of the winter fishing hut from one of Iceland's most famous fishing captains. To her surprise the captain was a woman does begin will. Thus begins Wilson's fascinating and robust account of the history of the sea women of Iceland. And the winner of the nonfiction award is Steve Oli Olson of Seattle author of the

[00:24:58] Wow. This is. Just an incredible experience for me.

[00:25:02] I grew up in an eastern Washington and the little town of Little fellow and there were a few years back an old fellow where pretty much every hour that I wasn't at school I was at the library at the old library.

[00:25:15] I think if the librarians had set up cots in the 500 section I would've spent the night there but they didn't give me that option.

[00:25:23] And so you know I come to this library a lot I live nearby and every time I walk into this just incredible building it just reminds me of of all that time I spent in Otello.

[00:25:33] And you know some of the thoughts that you have when you're a kid reading books in the library. I left Washington State too when I went to college and my wife Lynne and I had just moved back

[00:25:45] Nine years or so ago. But we always came back. We came back once or twice a year because I I wanted to see my mom and dad and my brothers and sister were all here in the state.

[00:25:57] And I sort of tried to keep up with what was going on but you know in the pre Internet days one of the one of the ways to keep up with what was happening in your state is you would grab a USA Today and you know those little paragraphs about each one of the states it was like I don't know if they're still there now but I think they are on the back page. It gives you a very distorted impression of what's happening

[00:26:17] In this in the state that you grew up.

[00:26:21] So I when I moved back here I wrote this book as sort of a love letter to the state of Washington this state that where I grew up for so long. It's about a lot of things. It's it's not just about an erupting volcano. It's it's about places in Washington state and about the people who live in those places and the way that the people change places and the way that places change change people I write about some. Some heartbreaking events in this book. I briefly write about my great grandfather's death. He was killed in a logging accident. This book is a lot about logging and he was killed in logging accident in the early 20th century out by Lake Wenatchee and there are two sons in this book that die before their fathers. One is the son of logger and one is the son of a timber baron. But but in this book the other places and the people that I write about endure. So I wanted to read just the last two sentences of this book. Which are sort of about that I wrote the world is impermanence. The eruption of Mount St. Helens showed how quickly and drastically things can change. Yet we still can be good stewards of the things we love.

[00:27:42] Oh I'm so relieved when he said he was going to read those last few sentences I thought you were going to give away the ending of the book. I do remember I was not in the Pacific Northwest when the Mount St. Helens blew. But it did make me realize where the heck Seattle was. So I'm very thankful for that. OK. Finalists for the fiction category the solace of monsters by Laurie boner

[00:28:12] Our search for identity is foundational to who we are. But what if. Like Frankenstein we were made up of the parts of other people. How would we know who we are who we are. And if what we feel is really ours to feel there is a lot of heart

[00:28:28] And heart and inside in this novel by Laurie Boehner stories of your life and others by touching upon what would you do if you gradually came to know the future as if it were the present and inevitable as the past.

[00:28:52] This is an astonishing collection of short stories featuring characters that encounters sudden shifts and circumstances that completely change the world as they know it. Bark skins buy any brew it is sixteen ninety three when we meet Rene sell and Charles Duke in the deeply wooded forests of New France for the next three centuries we follow the story of their descendants as they plunder the Canadian and American forests once thought of as an infinite resource too vast to deplete as Lovecraft country by Matt rough. Atticus Turner as a young black man just home from the Korean War. When he finds his father is gone missing he drives in New England where he encounters ghosts and other fantastic creatures. But Lovecraft country lays bare a racism so insidious in American society that demons and ghosts pale in comparison. Daredevils by Shawn Vestal. Applause Loretta a 16 year old sister wife longs for the freedom she sees in a dusty lipstick ad. Like evil can evil snake river canyon jump which makes a cameo in daredevils vessels young protagonist acts boldly on her own behalf never losing her intention to become the hero of her own story and the winner of the fiction award goes to Shawn Vestal of Spokane author of Daredevil. My son wants me to dab. That

[00:30:56] Thank you very much. I want to say one thing about libraries. Growing up in a small town in Idaho I grew up in the town of Gooding Idaho. About 2000 people very religious household. The library was just. A lifeline for me. I discovered so much of what continues to be so important to me in the library. It was really a window onto the world and at that time technologically the only window of a certain kind into the world and so I want to thank all of you for the work that you do. The important work that you worked in for the various libraries. I'm a little embarrassed. I don't have anything very bright to say because any crew was in my category. I started to write a novel about a teenage boy growing up in southern Idaho exactly where I grew up with a family very much like my family in a time pretty close to when I grew up. It was very close to my own life and at the end I wrote a story about a sixth that was mostly about a 16 year old girl who lived in a place I've still never been in circumstances. I know nothing about firsthand and it took me a long time to get there but what I would say about it is that's what's important to me about all of this this work that we do whether we're examining ourselves or trying to imagine other people is that we're reaching across this gap between us between us. What we're trying to do is connect and it's an isolated and sometimes isolating. Practice both to write and to read but at the end of that road what's important to me and I hope what's important about what we do is it's connection.

[00:32:45] And so thank you very much.

[00:32:54] Thank you so much. Okay we're going to take another little break here OK. This one is called he said he said. On Timothy Egan's Web site he has a series of favorite quotes. Which of these is not

[00:33:08] Is not on that list.

[00:33:11] Is it a the illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write but those who cannot learn unlearn and and relearned. Alvin Toffler or is it be Groucho Marx. I find television very educating every time someone turns on the set.

[00:33:29] I go into the other room and read a book or is it see in the immortal words of Socrates. I drink what. Say. You got

[00:33:50] Fantastic. In honor of Egan's the immortal Irishman pot Paddy O'Connell's instant Irish accent Mel spray. Feel free to wow us all with your new flawless accent later at the reception

[00:34:08] Ok. Now we're moving on to the children's categories. I'm sorry youth categories but first here's another bit of trivia that was shared with me earlier. We have three of the finalists tonight are in a writing group together Marc Holtzman MJ friend and Jennifer Longo. Are you all three here. Are there are there other folks in your writing group.

[00:34:30] Are they pretty jealous.

[00:34:33] Did you tell them you were coming here tonight.

[00:34:39] Ok. So beginning with the finalists for books for young adults. Useless Bay by MJ Bo from. The gray quintuplets are the stuff of legend on the island. Serving as an unofficial search and rescue team for the island saving tourists and locals alike from the forces of wind and sea when searching for a missing young boy they find a different dead body and realize that something sinister is in their midst. Essential maps for the lost by Deb Coletti Mads Murray has learned to believe in duty rather than fate. When a morning swim her one respite ends in a tragic discovery. Mads learns that fate has a will of its own. Deb Coletti has crafted an unforgettable story of resilience and hope.

[00:35:44] Applause.

[00:35:46] The third finalist is up to this point by Jennifer Longo. Applause. Harper has a plan. She and her best friend are going to become professional ballerinas with the San Francisco Ballet. And nothing is going to get in her way

[00:36:05] But Harper's plans take an unexpected turn and she finds herself journeying to Antarctica to escape the only life she has ever known. And the winner for the young adult literature is M.J. Bo frond of Seattle Oh dear

[00:36:34] This is so embarrassing I'm so sorry I didn't have anything really. Are you diet plans. The only thing that's really running through my mind is my daughter just got the lead in the musical legally blonde. Are you guys familiar with this. So we've been listening to it all day. Have you guys heard the opening number it goes like Oh my God oh my god you guys. Have you seen or heard this. And there's one line that says nobody should ever be left alone to dress themselves or accessorize. So that's the only thing that's running through my head right now. It's like Oh my God oh my god you guys right.

[00:37:13] So OK so here's my stab at area edition. The poet Mark Doty says that description is nothing but encoded desire. So there's a lot of desire in useless Bay. So have you guys ever been up there used to spend would be island choking on ice. Sorry. Yeah. How many of you think it's useless. I certainly don't. I love it there. To me it takes on sort of this magical quality and I would encourage all of you to find like the useless places in your life. And I hope you guys will find these places and discover the uselessness in all these places around Washington state. And gosh thank you so much I really appreciate this.

[00:38:06] Well if you're writing group is anything like mine you will be. You're all rooting for each other. Otherwise it's really awkward.

[00:38:15] So we have another bit of trivia not the game but just a bit of trivia. Three of the finalists tonight in this category are all from the publisher Scholastic. Finalist for the middle grade books for readers 812. Cleo Edison Oliver playground millionaire by Sandy. Fraser. Cleo has big plans to launch a business called Cleo's quick and painless tooth removal service. Now. An endeavor that will involve a Nerf gun her dad's tablet and her best friend

[00:38:50] Will her plans work out the way she expects Cleo Edison. Oliver is an exciting new character and her story model's virtues of motivation passion and creativity as some kind of courage by damn.

[00:39:07] Dan give mind heart.

[00:39:14] Dan is also a former librarian and he says he is just a writer now.

[00:39:21] Joseph Johnson has lost just about everything he's loved.

[00:39:24] All he has loved is Sarah his beautiful sweet pony. But the man put in charge of caring for Joseph has sold Sarah out from under him. And Joseph aims to get her back no matter what it takes. This is an extraordinary adventure across central Washington in the 80s 90s and audacity Jones to the rescue by Kirby Larson

[00:39:51] As 11 year old audacity Audie to her friends goes from Miss mazes school for wayward girls to a top secret mission in Washington D.C. and Kirby Larson infuses this adventure with humor and style. Audie might live in a time of horses and buggies but don't be fooled. Her intelligence and courage make her every bit a modern girl

[00:40:17] That's a great name audacity Jones. Well done. I want a name like that.

[00:40:23] And the winner for middle grade books is Diane.

[00:40:26] Dan give mind for cash.

[00:40:34] Wow. OK. So I'm very honored. Also shocked and terrified but mostly honored. What should I say I. I know what I wanted to say but I can't read my own handwriting so I will. What do I hope readers

[00:40:49] Take out of this story. I think that what I hope they get out of it is that we are all and the world is very much a work in progress that the main character Joseph he's a lot of things. He's a kid his brother and a son and an orphan and a friend but really at the end of the day he's just a human being who's trying to figure out who he is and where he fits in the world. And that's kind of all of us no matter how old we are. We're still trying to figure out. Where we belong in the world. And I know that in the four years since I wrote this book I have changed a lot and I know that the world has changed a lot. Mostly not for the better. And it seems especially important now for each one of us especially kids. But all of us to have the courage to be the kind of person that we want to be in the kind of person that the world needs. And one of the themes of the story is the importance of doing the right thing even when it's hard. And again that seems like a very timely theme whether it's standing up to a bully or calling your Congressperson for the first time or taking a need to protest social injustice. There's. This it's very important for us all to find the courage inside ourselves to do the right thing and whether we're a 12 year old reader or a grown up in this room trying to figure out and I suppose I guess that's what I hope kids get out of this book.

[00:42:15] Thank you very much for the honor who wants to win another prize.

[00:42:25] He's everywhere. Well nearly everywhere. This is trivia based on Deb Collette his books Captain Ed a recurring character in her books. Drives his Winnebago various places nearly and nearly every one of them. Which one does he not. Appear it

[00:42:42] Was going to take some deep Coletti fans to know the answer to this. Hey a queen of everything B essential maps for the lost

[00:42:52] Or C the fortunes of Indigo sky.

[00:42:54] And you can't answer Deb right. Do I see what you really want to get a B or C. It's going to be one KYC. Yes. Hey you're right.

[00:43:09] Inspired by Captain Ed's Winnebago and in honor of children and the buses they have to write in you receive when the bus smells like egg salad hand sanitizer. The finalists for early readers for ages 6 to 8. Narwhal unicorn of the sea by Ben Clanton. Nahuatl is a total extrovert jellyfish would prefer to be left alone.

[00:43:38] But when the two discover one another in the Deep Blue Sea it's instant friendship as they bond over learning the facts about each other species. Comic book elements make for fun and refreshing take on the mismatched buddy formula. I love all the all the. Good Zack and Lucy and the Museum of Natural Wonders by the peppers and Templeton. Says Jennifer Bradbury and Stephanie GUERRA When Zac and Lucy are looking at a book from the Museum of Natural History. They

decide they can make a museum of their own that sounds like a great idea emerging Lee emerging readers will learn entrepreneurship and stem principles through the lens of a multiracial pair of siblings. And this early reader shows kids that with a little ingenuity and initiative they can make big things happen. As the third finalist is Quakers by Liz Wong. Nose noses a duck because he lives on the duck pond. And while all the other ducks. But what if he's got four paws orange and white fur. Cute little triangle shaped ears. Then crackers meets mittens and it's time for an identity crisis. Liz Wang's relatable illustrations combined with witty and reassuring text to deliver a timely message of unconditional acceptance

[00:45:12] As can we just give the award to all three. These are all. So I have no control over this and the winner is Ben Clanton of Tacoma. Wore the uniform of the city. Ahoy

[00:45:33] Narwhals. They are real for those who didn't know I didn't know about five years ago. I have to confess narwhal unicorns the sea is about friendship. It's about imagination and it is about waffles. Especially waffles.

[00:45:53] I say especially waffles because to me that that is synonymous with fun which is is the main thing I hope readers of all ages will get out of the book is is a love for not only the characters but for reading and especially reluctant readers. I also say imagination though I hope that readers will be encouraged to create their own stories their own characters because in our wall and jelly and also as far as friendship goes of being accepting of others and an inclusive and positive and comfortable in yourself in who you are. Those are all sort of the some of the themes but especially the waffles. Thank you all so much. Especially to. To my critique group friends and all those who helped lead in this book. Thank you.

[00:46:57] Applause Do we have one we're all.

[00:47:02] Thank you Ben.

[00:47:04] And now the finalists in the picture book category Thunder boy Junior by Sherman Alexi illustrated by you you Alex and Sherman Alex's first foray writing books for young children.

[00:47:19] He addresses the poignant and universal issue of identity using concrete terms ideal for developmental level of his audience. The exuberance of this story jumps off the page and the family's warm affection carries the reader all the way to the happy ending. APPLAUSE A TICKET TO THE PENNANT by Mark Coulton. Illustrated by John

[00:47:46] Applause.

[00:47:47] Just in case you didn't know that illustrated by John skews I believe you're here as well John. Is that right. Yes.

[00:47:55] It's nineteen fifty five and Huey's beloved baseball team the Cielo Seattle Rangers are playing for the pennant. Unfortunately Huey has misplaced his ticket and must retrace his steps through the neighborhood runs six stadium to located a wonderful story taking you through Seattle's past when baseball was the only game in town. Are you an echo the lost poetry of Mrs. who. Can you go

[00:48:25] By David Jacobson.

[00:48:30] Mrs. Zukin egos poetry was almost lost forever but in the days following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that devastated Tohoku Japan. Her poem. Are you an echo was broadcast to a grieving nation. This picture book combines 10 poems and a biography of a sensitive young artist and her compassion for the natural world with a message of empathy and solidarity journey. Based on the true story of our seven the most famous wolf in the West written by Emma bland Smith and illustrated by Robin James this tale was inspired by the true story of a gray wolf who left his pack in northeastern Oregon for northern California where he would become the first gray wolf in that state in almost 100 years. For three years or seven would wander California and Oregon searching for a mate trying to stay out of harm's way and becoming the wolf too famous to kill. An Amazon librarian as well right. See we're all aspiring to do that. And the winner is Sherman alexy of Seattle for thunder boy

[00:49:51] As Sherman could not be here tonight he was going to have a short video for us. But that didn't work out for some reason. So. Our congratulations for Sherman and I know that we. Will get word of this

[00:50:10] Ok. So we have one last piece of trivia here tonight and then we're going to wrap things up so. Suzu well lived from 1983 to 1930. We're calling this one blast from the past. Blast from the past her poem. Are you an echo. Touched the hearts of millions following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan where she born into a family of a fisherman. B cave dwellers. See booksellers

[00:50:42] Yes. See. Yes.

[00:50:45] Well done well done so she lived a long time ago and she's now being celebrated again another woman who's come back from history to be celebrated a new Wonder Woman bendable action figure. OK so can we have one more round of applause for the winners and finalists for the 2017 Washington. And for the judges who spend countless hours rereading and rereading thanks again to our sponsors Seattle Public Library Foundation Elliot Bay Book Company village books

[00:51:32] And third place quotes and you know I got to say in our community our bookstore independent bookstore and library partnership we are so proud of that and always looking for other ways to explore those partnerships. And I don't know if everywhere else in the country is like ours but we're a model to follow. And I'm proud of our friendship

[00:51:58] This podcast was presented by the Seattle Public Library and Foundation and made possible by your contributions to the Seattle Public Library Foundation. Thanks for listening.

