

Jane Addams Peace Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANE ADDAMS CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD ANNOUNCED

APRIL 30, 2018... Since 1953, the Jane Addams Children's Book Award annually recognizes children's books of literary and aesthetic excellence that effectively engage children in thinking about peace, social justice, global community, and equity for all people. Recipients of the 2018 Jane Addams Children's Book Award were announced today by the Jane Addams Peace Association.

Malala's Magic Pencil, written by Malala Yousafzai, illustrated by Kerascoët, and published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Hachette, is the winner in the Books for Younger Children Category. ***The Enemy: Detroit 1954***, written by Sara Holbrook and published by Calkins Creek an imprint of Boyds Mills Press, is the winner in the Books for Older Children Category.

Malala's Magic Pencil begins Malala's life story with a dream; she wishes for a magic pencil that will draw her heart's desires—a lock on her door, an extra hour in bed, a new ball. When she sees a girl her age working in the city dump, her intentions for that magic pencil become serious. After powerful, armed men prevent some girls from attending school, she knows that dreaming for a magic pencil is not enough. She picks up a real pencil and writes about her life in Pakistan. Her words gain international attention and, at the same time, the attention of dangerous men who brutally attack her school bus in an attempt to silence her. Malala's courageous words rally millions around the globe who join her campaign for women's rights, equality, and education. Illustrations of her dreams glisten with gold and partner with lyrical text affirming Malala's words: "One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world."

The Enemy: Detroit 1954, is an intimate, textured historical novel set at the peak of McCarthyism. During a snowball fight, spirited, twelve-year-old Marjorie Campbell tries to make sense of an unfamiliar figure who is staring at her and her friends. Is he a Nazi, or a Commie? Is he a Red, a Pinko, or a Red Devil? Is he a spy? Fear that feeds hatred of all that is foreign plagues Marjorie's friends, school, neighborhood, and community. It also challenges her relationships with her father, a World War II veteran, and her mother, a staunch supporter of free speech. When Marjorie's teacher selects her to befriend Inga, a new student who, while recently arrived from Canada, is clearly German, Marjorie grapples with an essential question: Who is The Enemy? This question and the novel's depiction of bullying, PTSD, censorship, and the position of women will seem eerily familiar to readers today.

One Honor Book was named in the Books for Younger Children Category.

Contributions to the Jane Addams Peace Association, Inc. are deductible for income and estate tax purposes.

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Before She Was Harriet by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James Ransome, and published by Holiday House, chronicles the steadfast courage of Harriet Tubman in a cumulative biographical poem that travels both backwards and forwards through her life. Before she was Harriet Tubman, she went by several other names—General Tubman, Aunt Harriet, Moses, Minty, and Araminta—and took on many roles— liberator, suffragist, union spy, nurse, and, her most well known, conductor on the Underground Railroad. Judicious repetition, eloquent phrasing, and evocative imagery bring a scriptural tone to the text, underscoring the sacred nature of Harriet Tubman's work. Luminous illustrations reveal Tubman's changing emotions and growing conviction from childhood to old age, bringing to life a woman who championed justice with every bone of her body.

Three Honor Books were named in the Books for Older Children category.

Fred Korematsu Speaks Up by Laura Atkins and Stan Yogi, illustrated by Yutaka Houlette, and published by Heyday, reveals the depth and scope of anti-immigrant discrimination in a particularly bleak period of U.S. history. A fusion of free-verse poetry, Japanese American artwork, short narratives, timelines, and historical photographs tells the story of Fred Korematsu and his family who are imprisoned in Japanese American internment camps. Placing the family's experience within a continuing history of discrimination against many groups in the United States, the varied primary source documents highlight Japanese American creative talents and contributions. More than this, the documentary brings to life brave, shy, young Fred as he lives in the internment camps and no-nonsense, elderly Fred, as he challenges the U.S. government many years later. Reflective prompts and ideas “for young activists” anticipate that children recognize injustice and want to help break cycles of hatred and fear.

Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson, published by Bloomsbury Children's Books, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing introduces bright, artistic, confused and endearing Jade as she navigates the multiple milieus of her teenage life. Living in a primarily black and poor neighborhood, Jade attends a fancy prep school. There, both her race and her poverty lead to alienation, until she meets Sam, a white girl who lives in an adjacent working-poor neighborhood. Together they travel the bus back and forth to school. But Sam doesn't understand the small and large ways Jade faces racial oppression. Jade's mentor Maxine, an upper middle class African American who attended the same prep school, understands racism, but is blind to her own condescension concerning class. This contemporary, realistic novel models how to interact with imperfect people, to build bridges as one evolves, and to do so in a world circumscribed by racism and classism.

Midnight Without A Moon by Linda Williams Jackson, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company,

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explores the complex choices facing Rosa Lee, a dark-skinned African American teenager growing up in the rural South on the cusp of the civil rights movement. Keenly aware of the ever-present threat of violence from whites, Rosa Lee also lives with an abusive grandmother and a beloved grandfather who seem ready to cut short her education for economic reasons. Rosa Lee longs to join her mother and her aunts in the North. The murder of Emmett Till heightens her compelling desire to leave while her attachment to family, especially her younger brother and her grandfather, equates migration akin to abandonment. This poignant novel exposes the personal, heartbreaking costs exacted from those who chose to leave the South during the Great Migration.

A national committee chooses winners and honor books for younger and older children. Members of the 2018 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Committee are Susan Freiss (WI), Chloë Hughes (OR), Debbie LeeKeenan (WA), Jenice Mateo-Toledo (NY), Beth McGowan (IL), Heather Palmer (Chair, MN), Tracy Randolph (TN), Melissa García Vega (PR), and Barbara Ward (ID).

Regional reading and discussion groups of all ages participated with many of the committee members throughout the jury's evaluation and selection process.

The 2018 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards will be presented on Friday, October 19, 2018, in New York City. Details about the award event and about securing winner and honor book seals are available from the Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA). Contact by phone 212.682.8830 or by email info@janeaddamspeace.org. The Hastings Peace and Justice Fund funds the Jane Addams Children's Book Award and its annual ceremony in loving memory of Mrs. Wolcott B. Dunham.

For additional information about the Jane Addams Children's Book Award and a complete list of books honored since 1953, as well as a poster and bookmark featuring this year's winners, visit JaneAddamsChildrensBookAward.org.