



Moonbeam Children's Book Awards

CELEBRATING YOUTHFUL CURIOSITY & DISCOVERY THROUGH BOOKS & READING

INSPIRING THE MINDS OF TOMORROW'S LEADERS

2018 Moonbeam Children's Book Awards Results Announced

(Traverse City, MI – October 11, 2018) Of all the good things we can do for our children, encouraging them to love of books and reading may be the most valuable. Studies show that a child with good reading skills will become a better communicator and problem solver, and be generally more successful in school and in life. That is why the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards exist – to honor those who create the books that help kids fall in love with reading, and start them on a path of life-long reading enjoyment.

The [Moonbeam Children's Book Awards](#) and Jenkins Group are proud to announce this year's 157 medal-winning books, chosen from 1,150 total entries. We congratulate the authors, illustrators and publishers representing 38 U.S. states, five Canadian provinces, and ten countries overseas for their dedication to inspiring young people to read and to love books. See the complete list of Moonbeam Award medalists here: <http://www.moonbeamawards.com/85/2018-winners>

From alphabet books for toddlers to young adult books about gender and race, the Moonbeam Awards recognize excellence in categories for children of every age and developmental stage. In a reflection of the #MeToo movement, many of this year's winning books address the topic of female empowerment. In silver medal-winning, *Mirror, Mirror* (Laredo Publishing) young Tina Thomas looks into her bedroom mirror and wishes that instead of her very dark skin and full lips, she had blonde hair and blue eyes like the actresses on TV. The mirror scolds her and inspires her to explore her racial heritage. When she learns about the visionary Madame C.J. Walker and civil rights activist Clara Luper, she begins to love her looks, including her dark brown eyes, that “shine with the pride and knowledge of her own history!”

Maria Sibylla Merian: Artist/Scientist/Adventurer (Getty Publications) is the gold medal-winning biography of the 17th century ecologist and fine artist whose

ground-breaking studies of caterpillar metamorphosis, along with her accurate but beautiful paintings of them in nature, were way ahead of their time. German girls of that era were not allowed to attend art school or become artists' apprentices, but her stepfather was an art teacher and she learned in their home studio. "(She) never lost her enthusiasm, her curiosity, or her sense of wonder."

Gold medalist in the Multicultural Non-Fiction category, *The Worst First Day: Bullied While Desegregating Central High* (Lamp Press), the story of Elizabeth Eckford and "The Little Rock Nine," the black students who braved death threats and vile insults during their efforts to integrate Little Rock Central High School in 1957. In this tale of courage and perseverance, Eckford endured all manner of abuse but remained submissive through it all. "We swallowed our pride to ensure future students would have the chance we previously lacked."

Silver medalist in the Non-Fiction Chapter Book category is the *Smart Girl's Guide: Sports & Fitness* (American Girl), a comprehensive and entertaining approach to "how to use your body and mind to have fun and be your best." The book promotes serious dedication to "Girl Power," as demonstrated by this statement about girls feeling pressured to be thin: "How your body *feels* is more important than the numbers on a scale. When it comes to sports, strong is where you belong," and under the heading of "Be a Tough Cookie": "When you fall down, don't crumble. Bounce back up!"

Congratulations to all of this year's Moonbeam Award winners for their wonderful stories and advice for the young people of today – and the leaders of tomorrow!

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Moonbeam Award winners will be honored at an award ceremony held November 10th, on the evening of the ninth annual [Traverse City Children's Book Festival](#). The day-long festivities are dedicated to childhood literacy and a celebration of books, reading, and the creative and hard-working people who support this essential cause.

For more information about the Moonbeam Award-winning books or to interview their creators, contact Awards Director Jim Barnes at 1-800-644-0133 x 1011 or jimb@bookpublishing.com.

Learn more about the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards at MoonbeamAwards.com.

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