

USBBY 2018 Hans Christian Andersen Award Press Release

USBBY ANNOUNCES 2018 HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN NOMINEES

Pam Muñoz Ryan and Jerry Pinkney have been selected as the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY) nominees for the prestigious 2018 Hans Christian Andersen Award. Considered to be equivalent to a Nobel Prize for children's literature, the award is given biennially by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), an organization representing 75 countries around the globe.

Nominated in the author category, Ryan's works include novels, informational books, picture books, and short stories in which she explores issues ranging from life on farm camps for immigrant laborers to the power of music and imagination in times of adversity. Her best known works are *Esperanza Rising*, a novel based on her maternal grandmother's experience immigrating from Mexico to the United States during the 1920's, and *When Marian Sang*, the story of celebrated singer Marian Andersen in pre-Civil Rights America.

Many of Ryan's books have received critical acclaim and major awards. *Echo*, her most recent novel, received a Newbery Honor. Ryan was awarded the Pura Belpé Medal for narrative for *Esperanza Rising* as well as *The Dreamer*. *The Dreamer* and *Becoming Naomi León* also received Américas Awards. *Esperanza Rising* won a Jane Addams Children's Book Award and an ALA Schneider Family Book Award. *When Marian Sang* won the Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction. Ryan has been honored with two lifetime achievement awards: the Virginia Hamilton Literary Award and the National Education Association's Civil and Human Rights Award.

Ryan's writing is consistently fluid and compelling. Her graceful writing style is characterized by vivid descriptions and aptly suited figurative language. The diversity within her body of work shines through as she writes in a wide array of genres and formats about a broad range of intriguing, masterfully drawn, racially and ethnically diverse characters and interesting, engaging, important topics. Children in the US have been enriched by the wide variety within the thirty plus books Ryan offers them. Ten of her titles have been published in languages other than English, enabling children around the globe to enjoy books by one of our finest American writers.

Consummate illustrator Jerry Pinkney is the United States' nominee in the illustrator category. Pinkney has created an astonishing body of works, including over 100 illustrated books depicting fairytales, folktales, fables, historical events, and the African American experience. Each book is filled with watercolor masterpieces, intricately detailed and finely textured, which vividly portray characters' emotions, relationships, and actions. His finest masterpiece to date is *The Lion and the Mouse*, a nearly wordless picture book that breathes new life into a beloved Aesop's fable.

The Lion and the Mouse earned Pinkney a Caldecott Medal. He had previously garnered five Caldecott Honors for *The Ugly Duckling*, *Noah's Arc*, *John Henry*, *The Talking*

Eggs, and *Mirandy and Brother Wind*. He also received five Coretta Scott Awards for *Minty*, *Goin' Someplace Special*, *Mirandy and Brother Wind*, *The Patchwork Quilt*, and *Half a Moon and One Whole Star* along with five Coretta Scott King Honors for *The Moon Over Star*, *The Talking Eggs*, *God Bless the Child*, and *Count on Your Fingers African Style*. *John Henry* received a Boston Globe-Horn Book Award while *Minty* received a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor and a Golden Kite Award. Pinkney's work has been recognized with eight lifetime achievement awards: the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement, Induction into the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame, Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Original Arts Lifetime Achievement Award, Virginia Hamilton Literary Award, Dean S. Hope Memorial Award, and the Aesop Prize.

Pinkney was nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 1998. Since then he has expanded his body of work significantly and honed his highly distinctive and recognizable artistic style. His books are now translated into twelve languages and published in fourteen countries. The delicacy and complexity that his work continues to exude, along with his superb visual storytelling skills, have made him a beloved illustrator for several generations of children in the US. There is no doubt he is eminently deserving of re-nomination for this international lifetime achievement award.

Ryan and Pinkney will be honored at the IBBY Regional Conference, to be held in Seattle, Washington, from October 20-22, 2017. Hans Christian Andersen Author and Illustrator winners will be selected by the IBBY Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury, consisting of eleven members from around the globe. Winners will be announced at the Bologna Book Fair in April of 2018 and honored at the IBBY World Congress to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, September 1-4, 2018.

Pam Muñoz Ryan and Jerry Pinkney were selected by the 2018 USBBY Hans Christian Andersen Nominating Committee. Committee members include: Dr. Elizabeth Poe, chair, Morgantown, West Virginia; Dr. Laretta Henderson, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Dr. Sujin Huggins, Dominican University, Illinois; Erin Ostrander, King County Public Library, Washington; Dr. Lisa Patrick, The Ohio State University Literacy Cooperative, Columbus. The committee believes that in addition to being a highly deserved honor within their own country, Ryan and Pinkney's nominations are also a gift from the United States to the children around the world: by increasing their awareness of an author and illustrator who have made outstanding contributions to children's literature in the United States, we are sharing the best our country has to offer with the rest of the world.

(Press release prepared by Elizabeth Poe
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