

Beloit Daily News
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One of the many things I love about my job is being able to talk about all of the great books I've had a chance to read. I wish there was enough time in the day to read everything on my list, but alas, there isn't! So, for the most part, I read kid's book. I read fiction, non-fiction, and even picture books. People are sometimes surprised when I tell them I read picture books. They think picture books are just stories to help kids fall asleep at bedtime. Or they think picture books aren't very in-depth, so why should they bother reading them.

Picture books are usually the first books that kids read with their parents and as such they play a large roll in early language development, image recognition, and auditory skills. Picture books are so important that the American Library Association (ALA) even hands out an annual award (The Caldecott) for the most distinguished American picture book published in the previous year.

At a recent library program, customers participated in a Mock Caldecott event and got a chance to vote for the picture book they think should win the award this year. They voted for the winner and four Honorable Mention titles as well. The ALA will announce their annual Book and Media Awards, which include the Newbery, the Caldecott, the Carnegie, and others, on Monday January 27th. I can't wait to see if our winner matches the ALA winner!

The BPL Mock Caldecott winning book and honorable mention titles can all be found at the Beloit Public Library:

Journey by Aaron Becker – Winner – A lonely girl draws a magic door on her bedroom wall and through it escapes into a world where wonder, adventure, and danger abound. Red marker in hand, she creates a boat, a balloon, and a flying carpet that carry her on a spectacular journey toward an uncertain destiny. (Book Description)

Frog Song by Brenda Z. Guiberson – Honorable Mention – Frogs are astonishing in their variety and crucial to ecosystems. ... stunning illustrations introduce young readers to these fascinating and important creatures, from Chile to Nepal to Australia. (Book Description)

The Matchbox Diary by Paul Fleischman– Honorable Mention - When a little girl visits her great-grandfather at his curio-filled home, she chooses an unusual object to learn about: an old cigar box. What she finds inside surprises her: a collection of matchboxes making up her great-grandfather's diary. (Book Description)

Bugs in My Hair by David Shannon– Honorable Mention - Is something bugging you? David Shannon shows the funny side of waging war against--oh no!--head lice. This book is guaranteed to make you laugh--and itch! From the opening picture of a happy, oversized louse appearing with his suitcases, you know these bugs are determined to stay, and Mom is about to go nuts! (Book Description)

Crankenstein by Samantha Berger – Honorable Mention - He may look like any ordinary boy, but when faced with a rainy day, a melting popsicle, or an early bedtime, one little boy transforms into a mumbling, grumbling Crankenstein. When Crankenstein meets his match in a fellow Crankenstein, the results could be catastrophic--or they could be just what he needs to brighten his day! (Book Description)