

News Release: American Library Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The most distinguished and prestigious awards for children's literature published in the United States during 1978 were announced January 11, 1979, by the Association for Library Service To Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA) during the ALA's Midwinter Meeting, January 7 - 12, in Washington, D.C.

Ellen Raskin, author of The Westing Game, published by E.P. Dutton and Company, Inc., has been named the winner of the 1979 Newbery Medal for the most distinguished contribution to literature for children.

Paul Goble, illustrator and author of The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses, published by Bradbury Press, Inc., is the recipient of the 1979 Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished picture book for children.

The Westing Game is an intellectually challenging, soundly entertaining, well-crafted mystery/puzzle about 16 zany heirs who compete for an eccentric millionaire's fortune.

Ellen Raskin has written three other wildly imaginative full-length mystery/puzzle books: Figgs and Phantoms (Dutton), a 1975 Newbery Honor Book; The Mysterious Disappearance of Leon (I Mean Noel) (Dutton); and The Tattooed Potato and Other Clues (Dutton). She is also well known for the many picture books which she has written and illustrated.

Ms. Raskin was born and raised in Milwaukee, WI, and studied

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at the University of Wisconsin at Madison where she majored in art. She now lives and works in New York City.

The decidedly unique illustrations Goble created for the Caldecott Medal winner The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses, a fairy tale about a Native American girl's love of horses, are crisp, clear, full-color paintings. The well-balanced and varied use of space dramatizes the small beauties and large magnificence of Nature; they detail a panorama of wild horses and the environment typical of the Plains area of North America.

Other books created by this talented artist/author are: Red Hawk's Account of CUSTER'S LAST BATTLE (Pantheon Books, Inc.), Brave Eagle's Account of THE FETTERMAN FIGHT (Pantheon Books, Inc.), LONE BULL'S HORSE RAID (Bradbury), and THE FRIENDLY WOLF (Bradbury).

Paul Goble was born in Haslenere, England and first came to the United States (Montana) in the summer of 1959 while he was a student. After many subsequent visits to the U.S., he chose to make his residence here and now lives in Rapid City, SD. He is Artist-in-Residence at the Gallery of Indian and Western Arts at Mt. Rushmore National Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Katherine Paterson is the author of the 1979 Newbery Honor Book, The Great Gilly Hopkins, published by Thomas Y. Crowell Co., a division of Harper & Row. This is an uncompromising story about an eleven-year-old girl who copes with the longings and fears of being a foster child. The protagonist in this optimistic book is wiley, tough, proud, brash, prejudiced and very vulnerable.

Ms. Paterson received the 1978 Newbery Medal for her novel, Bridge to

add two - Newbery and Caldecott

Terabithia (Crowell), and a 1977 National Book Award for The Master Puppeteer (Crowell).

Ms. Paterson was born in China and spent part of her childhood there. After completing her education in China and the U.S., she moved to Japan where she studied at the Japanese Language School in Kobe and taught in a rural area in Shikoku Island. She now lives in Takoma Park, MD with her husband and their four children.

The two 1979 Caldecott Honor Books are Freight Train, illustrated and written by Donald Crews, published by Greenwillow Books, a division of William Morrow Company, and The Way to Start a Day, illustrated by Peter Parnall, written by Byrd Baylor, and published by Charles Scribner's Sons.

Donald Crews' illustrations in Freight Train are deceptively simple and offer even the youngest reader of this picture book a sophisticated thrilling visual experience.

The flat clear bright colors, simple shapes, precise lines, superb shading and/or blurs of colors, when combined with the basic and unelaborate text, permit one to literally hear the fast moving train approach, see and feel it whizz past, and watch it go off into the distance.

Donald Crews is a freelance artist and designer who has written and illustrated many books for children including We Read: A to Z (Harper & Row) and Ten Black Dots (Scribner). He is a graduate of Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York and lives in Manhattan with his wife, a freelance artist and designer, and their two daughters.

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Peter Parnall's illustrations in The Way To Start A Day, offer an exhilarating visual experience. Through an outstanding blend of line, negative space, and crisp flat colors, Parnall, illustrates the inner moods and feelings of people around the world, in times past and present, as they greet and savor each new day.

Parnall, has illustrated two Caldecott Honor Books in recent years: The Desert Is Theirs (Scribner) and Hawk, I'm Your Brother (Scribner), both written by Byrd Baylor. These books and Everybody Needs A Rock (Scribner) were named ALA "Notable Children's Books."

Parnall was born in Syracuse, NY and lives with his wife and son in Maine.

The Newbery and Caldecott medals will be presented at a banquet on June 26, 1979, during ALA's Annual Conference in Dallas.

The John Newbery Medal has been awarded annually since 1922 to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children published in the United States during the previous year.

The Randolph Caldecott Medal has been awarded annually since 1938 to the illustrator of the most distinguished American picture book for children published in the United States during the previous year.

The medals, originally donated by Frederic G. Melcher, continue to be provided by his son, Daniel Melcher, who was present for the announcement ceremonies.

Selection of the Medal Winners and the Honor Books is made by a committee of 23 members of the ALSC.