

Dear Zena:

I am reluctant to have us give up the Newbery-Caldecott banquet, but if it is getting too large in attendance and over-all cost to be advisable to continue, I would be the last to hold out.

If the awards are to be presented in an open meeting, I hope it will always be done with style, dignity and importance. Never as an added event at a business meeting! I am still haunted by the memory of the year when the medals were given for Miss Hickory (Bailey) and Little lost lamb (Weisgard) at a bleak barren meeting with no enthusiasm or glamour, and with no opportunity for any social contact. If there was a reception, it has faded from my memory. Absolutely bleak! Of course it was one of the war years.

The Newbery-Caldecott banquet also carries another type of importance, that is as ALSC's contribution to the annual conference. If many non-ALSC members attend it is because they find it an enjoyable social function.

I see it also as a professional and social opportunity for the children's librarian to visit with authors, publishers and fellow librarians in a leisurely way not possible at a lecture type meeting, or even in the atmosphere of a reception.

The cost to the individual children's librarian is large, however this is a once-in-a-year affair and worth it! I am afraid that the proportion of children's librarians not belonging to ALA because of the expense of membership dues is far larger than the proportionate number of children's librarians who do not attend the banquet because of the expense.

Thank you for letting me "say my say". I wish I could be with you in Dallas for the discussion and for the Newbery-Caldecott banquet.

Best wishes!

Rosemary
Rosemary E. Livsey
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May 30, 1979

I feel specific thanks for the excellence of the
Bulletin. I keep a file on your stored books
to compare with ALA Notable, SLJ Best and Fantasy (Horn Book)
It makes a useful & very interesting teaching tool in
evaluation.

Summary

The Newbery-Caldecott Award is a very important
type of literature award. It is the highest honor in the
annual award program. It is given to the author of the
best children's book published in the United States.

I see it is a professional and social
responsibility for the children's librarian to assist with
authors, publishers and fellow librarians in a literary
way not possible at a lecture type meeting or even in the
classroom of a classroom.

The goal of the children's librarian is to
provide a one-on-one service to the child and
the parent. I am sure that the proportion of children's
literature not belonging to ALA because of the expense of
membership was a factor for the award.

Thank you for looking at "my my say". I wish
I could be with you in Dallas for the discussion and
for the Newbery-Caldecott Award.

Best wishes,
Rosemary

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May 30, 1978