

ALSC Award Eligibility Task Force

Report to ALSC Board January 14, 2008

Function Statement of the Task Force:

To examine existing terms for ALSC award committees concerning publisher and author/illustrator eligibility; to make recommendations to the ALSC Board to clarify and/or change existing terms. (July 11, 2006)

Task Force History and Update

The task force convened via conference call in September 2006.

We met at Midwinter 2007 and decided to do a survey of past award chairs and a separate survey of selected individuals connected to the field of children's literature. The survey was conducted in February/March 2007. From the results of this survey and our own review of the award manuals we comprised a list of terms that needed further clarification.

These terms were reviewed at the 2007 ALA annual conference.

The task force worked on these definitions for the terms through the summer and reviewed them in September 2007. Dudley Carlson then began to add examples of past eligibility situations to these "working definitions" from her experiences as Priority Group Consultant.

We reviewed this document via email prior to ALA midwinter. The task force then met on Sunday, January 13 to review and discuss the document.

The task force will continue to work after ALA Midwinter and will meet via conference call in late February. We plan to have the document ready to submit to the ALSC Board in April for review. We would then make presentation of the document to the ALSC Board at ALA Annual in Anaheim.

The literary awards that have been included in our work include: Newbery, Caldecott, Sibert, Geisel and Batchelder.

ALSC Awards Eligibility Task Force Members: Dudley Carlson, Terry Borzumato-Greenburg, John Mason, Judy Zuckerman, Carolyn S. Brodie, ChairJulie Corsaro, Priority Consultant

Working Definitions

Eligibility of Publisher:

Simultaneous (see example)
Originally Published in the United States
Co-publication
U.S. Publisher/American Publisher
Published
Distributed
Editorial Work
American Literature for Children

Eligibility of Book:

Original Work
In English
Children's Book
Book
Distinguished

Eligibility of Author/Illustrator:

Resident
Citizen (see example)

DRAFT DOCUMENT

EXAMPLES FROM "WORKING DEFINITIONS"

I. ELIGIBILITY OF PUBLISHER

(A) SIMULTANEOUS

SIMULTANEOUS - means "at the same time." For purposes of these awards, "published simultaneously" means that a book was first published in the United States within the same calendar year that it was first published in any other country, whether or not the actual dates of publication are identical.

Example:

How I Live Now, by Meg Rosoff, was published in 2004 by Wendy Lamb/Random House, and "simultaneously" published in Great Britain. It was explained by the editor, Wendy Lamb, that the book had been jointly acquired by the US and British publishers; that editorial work had, from the beginning, been a joint process by the two editors; and that every effort had been made to be sure that the two editions were, literally, simultaneous. However, certain procedures specific to each publisher were impossible to manipulate (such as Tuesday always being print day in the US while the British print day was always Thursday). For this reason, the British edition was actually released a few days - but only a few days - before the US edition. The book was ruled eligible.

Because of such unavoidable differences, which are sometimes weeks or months instead of days, it was decided that publication within the same calendar year provides a more reasonable means of establishing eligibility, whether or not publication is actually simultaneous. This reflects a CHANGE from previous procedure.

III. Eligibility of Author/Illustrator

(B) CITIZEN

CITIZEN - means that the author/illustrator is considered by the government of the United States to be a U.S. Citizen, whether by birth or naturalization.

* This definition shall apply even if the author or illustrator obtains citizenship during the year in which a book is being considered.