

# Fact Sheet

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## Coretta Scott King awards

The Coretta Scott King Award was founded by the late Glyndon Flynt Greer, a school librarian in Englewood, N.J., who envisioned an award that would recognize the talents of Black authors and encourage them to continue writing books for children and young adults.

In 1969, Greer, along with Mabel McKissick, a school librarian, John Carroll, a book publisher, and New Jersey State Librarian Roger McDonough, established the Coretta Scott King Award to commemorate the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and honor Coretta Scott King for continuing to work for peace and world brotherhood.

The first presentation was in 1970 to Lillie Patterson for her book "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Man of Peace."

In 1972, Mrs. Greer moved to Atlanta, where she continued to chair an awards committee and advisory board. In 1974, the committee honored an illustrator for the first time. The award went to George Ford for his illustrations in Ray Charles by Sharon Bell Mathis, who also received the author's award. Also that year, the Coretta Scott King Award seal was designed by Lev Mills, an internationally known artist based in Atlanta, to identify book jackets of award winners.

In 1979, on the 10th anniversary of the King awards, the American Library Association assumed management of the awards by establishing the Coretta Scott King Award Task Force under its Social Responsibilities Round Table, with Greer as chair. Greer died in 1980, having seen the award succeed as one of the most prestigious awarded in American librarianship.

Winners of the Coretta Scott King Award--one Black author and one Black illustrator--receive a framed citation, an honorarium of \$250 and a set of Encyclopaedia Britannica or World Book Encyclopedias. Certificates are given to authors and illustrators of books named as Honorable Mention.



Titles honored are selected by a panel of seven librarians on the basis of appeal to children and young adults and sensitivity to "the true worth and value of all beings." The books--fiction or nonfiction--must have been published in past the year.

Winners are announced at ALA's Midwinter Meeting and awards presented at the ALA Annual Conference (July 9-July 14, 1988, in New Orleans).

Past winners are:

- 1970 Patterson, Lillie. Martin Luther King, Jr. Garrard, 1969.
- 1971 Rollins, Charlemae H. Black Troubador: Langston Hughes. Rand McNally, 1970.
- 1972 Fax, Elton C. Seventeen Black Artists. Dodd, Mead, 1971.
- 1973 Duckett, Alfred. I Never Had It Made. Putnam, 1972.
- 1974 Mathis, Sharon B. (author) and Ford, George (illustrator). Ray Charles. Crowell, 1973.
- 1975 Robinson, Dorothy W. (author) and Temple, Herbert (illustrator). The Legend of Africa. Johnson, 1974.
- 1976 Bailey, Pearl. Duey's Tale. HBJ, 1975.
- 1977 Haskins, James. The Story of Stevie Wonder. Lothrop, 1976.
- 1978 Greenfield, Eloise (author) and Byard, Carole (illustrator). Africa Dream. John Day Co., 1977.
- 1979 Davis, Ossie. Escape to Freedom: A Play about Young Frederick Douglass. Viking, 1978.  
Feelings, Tom (illustrator). Something on My Mind. Dial, 1978
- 1980 Myers, Walter Dean. The Young Landlords. Viking, 1979.  
Byard, Carole (illustrator). Cornrows by Camille Yarbrough. Coward, 1979.
- 1981 Poitier, Sidney. This Life. Knopf, 1980.  
Bryan, Ashley (illustrator). Beat the Story Drum, Pum Pum. Atheneum, 1980.
- 1982 Taylor, Mildred D. Let the Circle Be Unbroken. Dial, 1981.  
Steptoe, John (illustrator). Mother Crocodile. Delacorte, 1981.
- 1983 Hamilton, Virginia. Sweet Whispers, Brothers Rush. Philomel, 1982.  
Magubane, Peter (illustrator). Black Child. Knopf, 1982.
- 1984 Clifton, Lucille (author). Everett Anderson's Goodbye. Holt, 1983.  
Cummings, Pat (illustrator). My Mama Needs Me by Mildred Pitts Walter. Lothrop, 1983.
- 1985 Myers, Walter Dean. Motown and Didi: A Love Story. Viking/Kestrel, 1983.
- 1986 Hamilton, Virginia. The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales. Knopf, 1985.  
Pinkney, Jerry (illustrator). Patchwork Quilt by Valerie Flournoy. Dial, 1985.
- 1987 Walter, Mildred Pitts. Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1986.  
Pinkney, Jerry (illustrator). Half a Moon and One Whole Star by Crescent Dragonwagon. Macmillan, 1986.