

For Immediate Release
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Booklist announces 1992 Top of the List winners

Booklist magazine, the review journal of the American Library Association (ALA), has announced its second annual Top of the List winners.

The seven titles on the list are chosen from the annual Editors' Choice selections as the best of the year in literature and video for adults and young people.

The winners are:

Adult Nonfiction: "Truman," by David McCullough (Simon & Schuster). Be honest, fair, loyal, cheerful and hardworking - those were the homely maxims that Harry Truman lived by, and that McCullough celebrates in this readable but scrupulously researched biography. From Truman's rural upbringing and his adroitness in dealing with the corrupt Pendergast machine of Kansas City, through his senate career and vice presidency, and on to his fateful presidency, McCullough gives us the whole of this embattled, steadfast common man whose greatness was thrust upon him.

Adult Fiction: "The Volcano Lover," by Susan Sontag (Farrar, Straus, Giroux).

A genuine departure from the influential author of "On Photography" and "Illness as Metaphor," this is a brilliant, dramatic, grand, funny and romantic work of historical fiction that goes far beyond the usual parameters of the genre. Set in

late-eighteenth-century Naples, "The Volcano Lover" is an engrossing improvisation upon the love triangle of connoisseur Sir William Hamilton, his vivacious wife, Emma and Lord Nelson. An exhilarating tale of passion, loyalty, deceit and tolerance set against a cataclysmic background of revolution, eruption and displacement.

Booklist announces 1992 Top of the List winners -- add one

Youth Fiction: "Missing May," by Cynthia Rylant (Orchard/Richard Jackson).

Death is a heavy subject, but Rylant's lightness of style and memorable characters help us face it. Twelve-year-old Summer has to deal with her Aunt May's death and her Uncle Ob's grieving, but she also learns about the restorative power of love. Whether writing poetry or picture books or novels you don't forget, Cynthia Rylant has a remarkable talent for telling the truth.

Youth Nonfiction: "The Bard of Avon: The Story of William Shakespeare." by Diane Stanley and Peter Vennema; illustrated by Diane Stanley (Morrow).

Stanley and Vennema open a window into Shakespeare's world in this refreshingly honest account of the bard's theater and his life. Extending well beyond biography, this handsome, boldly illustrated book provides an intriguing introduction to the mysteries and adventures of historical research.

Youth Picture Book: "The Stinky Cheese Man," by Jon Scieszka; illustrated by Lane Smith (Viking).

In a book bursting with wry wit, wordplay and wacky jokes, Scieszka and Smith turn a host of fairy tales upside down and recast them with art that captures the comic insolence of the telling, all the while giving the process of bookmaking a distinctive new look.

Documentary Video: "The Donner Party," directed by Ric Burns (Direct Cinema and PBS Video)

In the best tradition of the award-winning "Civil War" television series (co-produced by Ric Burns), this documentary evocatively melds captivating narration, stirring read diaries and letters, on-location footage and historian's comments to re-create a dramatic moment in history. With gripping power and a finely wrought sense of impending doom, the video draws viewers into the initial hope, growing desperation and ultimate despair of a band of California-bound immigrants who are forced to eat their dead comrades in an effort to survive.

Children's Video: "The Road to Avonlea," produced by Kevin Sullivan (Direct Cinema)

Lush production values, stunning scenic locations and uniformly fine performances earned Canadian filmmaker Kevin Sullivan critical acclaim and a popular following for "Anne of Green Gables" and "Anne of Avonlea." In "The Road to Avonlea," Sullivan's new 26-episode sequel to the earlier productions, the same polished cinematic qualities are maintained, and the appeal of the series, captivating on action-filled plots that both boys and girls age can enjoy, extends to a younger and sometimes hard-to-reach age group.

Booklist announces 1992 Top of the List winners -- add two

"We were very pleased last year with the enthusiastic response from our readers to our first Top of the List picks," said Bill Ott, Booklist editor and publisher. "All of us in the library community are in the business of promoting reading, and there's nothing like a best-book list to get people talking about what's good. Top of the List gives the ongoing debate over best of the year a new focus."

The Top of the List winners are featured in the January 15 issue of Booklist. Complete annotated Editors' Choice lists for adult, young adult and children's books as well as audiovisual materials are also included in the January 15 issue.