Caldecott Medal

The 2020 Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children was awarded to Kadir Nelson for illustrating “The Undefeated” by Kwame Alexander.

In “The Undefeated,” Nelson’s oil paintings illustrate Alexander’s poem that brings to life the struggles of African Americans and celebrates their many achievements throughout our country’s history.

Kadir Nelson grew up in New Jersey and San Diego, where he started drawing when he was just 3 years old. Today, he mostly uses oil paints to create his images.

Nelson, who is 44, lives in Los Angeles. He told a reporter that Alexander’s poem “really spoke to me,... I have to step into the paints to create his images.”

John Newbery Medal

The 2020 winner of the John Newbery Medal, awarded to an author for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children, is “New Kid” by Jerry Craft. He is also the illustrator of the graphic novel, “The Undefeated.”

“New Kid” also won this year’s Coretta Scott King Author Book Award, which recognizes an African American author of outstanding books for children and young adults.

Craft’s main character, Jordan, has left his neighborhood school to attend a challenging private school. But between his old friends and his new classmates, he doesn’t really feel as if he fits in anywhere.

Jerry Craft has published many books as an author and illustrator. He’s also the creator of a syndicated comic strip, “Mama’s Boys,” that appeared in newspapers from 1995 to 2013.

“I wanted to give 10-year-old Jerry Craft a book he could read and say was his own,” Craft told a reporter. “The things I had to read in school couldn’t have been further from my life.”

Try ’n’ Find

Words that remind us of book awards are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

AUTHOR, AWARD, BOOK, CALDECOTT, CHARACTER, CHILDREN, CRAFT, HONOR, ILLUSTRATOR, KING, LIBRARY, MEDAL, NELSON, NEWBERY, POEM, READING, SCHOOL, STORY, WEEK, WRITE.

Cook’s Corner

Quick Breakfast Rollups

You’ll need:
• 2 eggs
• 1/2 cup reduced-fat cheese
• salt and pepper to taste
• 1/2 cup diced ham

What to do:
1. Scramble eggs with cheese; sprinkle with salt and pepper.
2. Stir in ham during last part of cooking eggs.
3. Heat tortillas in microwave for 15 seconds.
4. Stir in ham during last part of cooking eggs.
5. Top each tortilla with 1 tablespoon salsa. Roll into cylinders. Serves 2.

Mini Jokes

Brita: Why is Cinderella so bad at soccer?
Burt: Because she always runs away from the ball!

Eco Note

We’re hoping everyone is healthy! As you know, the coronavirus, or COVID-19, has been spreading all over the world. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has some simple things you can do to stay healthy:

1. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
2. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
4. Wash your hands often with soap and water.

For later:
Pick out two books you’d like to read and share your choices with a friend.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!

Let’s Get Reading

Mini Fact: National Library Week is April 19-25. Check in to your local library!

Honor books

Four Newbery Honor Books were named this year. There are three Caldecott Honor Books.

Newbery Honor Books

“Scary Stories for Young Foxes,” written by Christian McKay Heidicker, illustrated by Juny Wu

“Genesis Begins Again,” by Alecia D. Williams

“The Undefeated,” illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Caldecott Honor Books

“Bear Came Along,” illustrated by LeUyen Pham and written by Richard T. Morris

“Double Bass Blues,” illustrated by Rudy Gutierrez and written by Andrea J. Loney

“Going Down Home With Daddy,” illustrated by Daniel Minter and written by Kelly Starling Lyons

Mini Newbery Honor Books

• “Two BoysKissing,” written by Michael Hall

• “Carmen Muse,” written by Kwame Alexander

• “The Most Beautiful,” written by Christian Robinson

• “My Two Lovers,” written by Mary Oke

• “The Night You Got Real,” written by Julia Hay li

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