

## Washington State Book Awards: Jury Guidelines

The Washington Center for the Book, a partnership of The Seattle Public Library and Washington State Library, presents the annual Washington State Book Awards recognizing up to eight books that exemplify the best writing in the state during a given year:

- Fiction
- Poetry
- Biography/memoir
- History/general nonfiction

As part of the annual Washington State Book Awards, the Scanduzzi Children's Book Award honors:

- A picture book for children
- A book for early readers (ages 6 to 8)
- A book for middle grade readers (ages 9 to 12)
- A book for young adults (ages 13 to 18)

The purpose of the awards is to honor outstanding books by Washington authors and to bring attention to the quality of writing being produced in Washington. The 2018 awards are for books published in 2017.

### Definition of a Washington Author

A Washington author is a writer who meets one of these criteria:

1. Was born in Washington State or
2. Is a current resident and has maintained residence here for at least three years.

### Selection Criteria

Books will be judged based on three criteria:

1. Literary merit
2. Lasting importance
3. Overall quality of the publication

### Guiding Policies

1. Literary merit. Books will be judged principally on the quality of the writing. Scholarly works are eligible if they are accessible to the interested, non-specialist reader.
2. Overall quality of the publication. Production of the book, presentation, and documentation will also be considered.
3. Collected essays, poems, or short stories by various authors. Books authored by more than one individual are eligible if all authors are Washington residents. In the event such a work is selected as a winner, the award will be shared equally among the authors.
4. Translations. Translations of books written in foreign languages are eligible if the translation exhibits literary merit.
5. Authors who live in Washington part time. An author who lives in Washington part of the year and considers Washington to be her or his home is eligible.
6. Previous winners. The fact that an author has received an award in a prior year does not disqualify a current book by that author.
7. Multiple books published in one year. An author may be recognized for more than one book published in a year.
8. Series. A book that is a segment of a multiple-part series will be considered if it stands entirely on its own as a work of literature.
9. Reprints. A title that is a new or updated edition, or reprinted material (e.g., from cloth to paper), will generally not be considered unless the original edition was not considered.
10. Books inadvertently omitted. A title that was inadvertently not considered one year is eligible for consideration the following year.
11. Art books, photography books, or books that are primarily illustration. With the exception of children's picture books (see #12), those works that consist primarily of depictions of artwork and artists' statements without original commentary will generally not be considered.
12. Children's book award. The Scanduzzi Children's Book Award will be given annually to the author *and* illustrator of a picture book for children (either may meet the definition of a Washington author/illustrator), and to the author of a book for early readers (ages 6 to 8), middle grade readers (ages 9 to 12), and young adults (ages 13 to 18).