



# Library podcast

## 2018 Washington State Book Awards

[00:00:05] Welcome to The Seattle Public Library's podcasts of author readings and library events. Library podcasts are brought to you by The Seattle Public Library and Foundation. To learn more about our programs and podcasts, visit our web site at [www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org). To learn how you can help the library foundation support The Seattle Public Library go to [foundation.spl.org](http://foundation.spl.org).

[00:00:31] Good evening everyone. Welcome to The Seattle Public Library and welcome to the 2018 Washington State Book Awards celebration. I'm Tom Fay. As many of you might know I'm not Marcellus Turner our chief librarian. He regrets not being here tonight and he sends his warm welcome to everyone. I'm the director of libraries of programs for The Seattle Public Library. I'm thrilled that you are able to join us this evening. And I'm looking forward to a great night in celebration and recognition of Washington state's wonderful authors as we begin this evening. I'd like to acknowledge that we are gathered together on the ancestral lands of the coast say these people. We'd like to honor their elders past and present. We thank them for their stewardship of this land. The Washington State Book Awards recognized significant contributions to Washington's literary landscape this year. There were 245 books submitted to our judging panels. The highest number of entries ever. Tonight we're honoring 36 finalists most of our finalists are here tonight. And I'd like all of you who are a finalist to please stand up and wave so that we can give you a round of applause. The Washington State Book Awards are administered by the Washington Center for the Book which is a partnership of the Seattle Public Library and the Washington State Library. I'd like to thank Linda Johns from the Washington State Library and Linda Johns from right here at her central library for their work on these awards and for keeping many center for the book projects moving forward. Also here tonight is our State Librarian Cindy Aden in the front row who will be presenting an award later tonight. We're so grateful to the Amazon literary Partnership for a generous grant supporting these awards as well as an author tour of rural libraries that is currently in development. Thank you also to university bookstore for their support this evening after the ceremony we hope you will be able to join us upstairs in the third floor living room for light refreshments a book sale and no host wine bar and a chance to meet these authors and have your books signed.

[00:03:11] Also our friends of the library shop will be open and very often then they are offering a 10 percent discount on everything tonight.

[00:03:20] Now I'd like to introduce tonight's award host novelist and poet Karen Finneyfrock. Karen is the author two young adult novels *The Sweet Revenge of Celia Dore* and *Star Bird Murphy and the World Outside*. She is also the author of the poetry collection *Ceremony for the Choking Ghost*. Karen

teaches at Hugo House as well as the Seattle Arts and Lectures writers in the schools program and am happy to say she has been teaching for our Seattle rights program for the past four years. Let me take you all once more for joining us this evening.

[00:04:04] And without further ado Karen Finneyfrock.

[00:04:17] Good evening everyone. What a big crowd for tonight. Thank you so much for joining us as we honor the finalists for the Washington State book award books submitted for consideration for these awards were evaluated for their literary merit. Overall quality of publication and lasting importance as Tom already mentioned there were 245 books to be reviewed for these awards. And that big task went to our judges the judges are from libraries colleges and independent bookstores. This past summer as they narrowed to a long list of finalists these intrepid judges rewrite dozens of books to get down to the 36 finalists who are honored tonight. I'd like to recognize the judges for their time and commitment to this project. If you could please stand as I introduce you and stay standing. First our judges for the adult categories.

[00:05:13] Kelly Everett owner of Village Books in Bellingham Zola Mumford library in North Seattle College Brian.

[00:05:36] So Neda formerly the director of Mount Vernon city library and dusty Weltner director of the Dayton Memorial Library in Dayton Washington. And the judges for the youth categories Sherry Boggs Spokane County Library District Tom Brown librarian at Laurel Hearst Elementary School in Seattle Raina Seedorf Timberland library system. Is

[00:06:26] A round of applause for all of our judges. Thank you all very much.

[00:06:29] Here's how the evening will proceed. During the program. We want to honor the many finalists who are here tonight. I will announce finalists in each category and read a short description of each book. When I say your name and book title please stand up and wave. Once the winner is announced we'll have the winner come down here to the podium to give a few words as many words as will fit in two minutes. Now onto the finalists the finalists for the 2018 Washington State book award in poetry killing Marie is a poem from multiple voices by Claudia Castro Luna throughout this memorable collection. Castro Luna's phrasing is both graceful and powerful. The Marias in these poems have many faces and their poems make a reader examine both themselves and their relationship with the larger world. Vivid phrasing and imagery do not shy away from the violence and discrimination that women experience. Each poem is complex yet accessible next thresholds by Glenna Cook. The first full length collection by Glenna Cook pushes readers to think and reflect on times when they had to laugh even through pain. Her keen observations of human nature often show a wry humor reminiscent of Collette's. These poems eloquently tells stories of loving tenacity in Life's beautiful and difficult moments.

[00:08:21] Timber curtain by Francis McHugh timber curtain starts with the demolition of a house.

[00:08:35] Richard Hugo House where Frances and her family worked and lived like the Seattle skyline or the forests surrounding Seattle. These poems arise and are then erased like the Richard Hugo House. They grow with energy and abandon and are then cut down and transformed anew.

[00:08:56] Next is Mary's dust by Melinda Mueller the Merry's in this collection.

[00:09:11] All 32 of them are based on historic figures both well-known and overlooked. Now revealed in a new light. The story is of a union soldier a spy an explorer a mystic and other marries touch on confinement and loss liberation and love and the strength of women creating their own narratives. Map traces blood traces by H. Hania Toledo. Translated by Carolyn Wright this beautiful collection skillfully translated chronicles the author's trip to her native Chile where Chileans are striving to come to terms with the Pinochet years. One poem is especially moving in linking the emotions of the miraculous Chilean mine rescue with finding remains of long missing Pinochet regime victims. Water and salts by Lena Cates Baja Lenas collection provides a lyrical look at immigration assimilation memory and holding on to who you are from an Arab American perspective. And while the intifada poems are both powerful and painful a poem like The whole point could not be a more universal treatment of the joys and laments of parenthood. And the winner tonight is Lena Cates too haha for water

[00:11:34] Wow.

[00:11:38] This is just unbelievable. I'm so grateful my dad when we would fly to Seattle in the summer coming back we're always coming back from somewhere we would fly in the summer. And he loved the way the Pacific Northwest looked from the plane and he would always say look cascade country. I think his ambition was to maybe do advertisements for the Washington state tourism board. Anyway I am grateful for many things and deeply proud of my heritage but I'm also really grateful and proud that this is the place my parents chose to immigrate to. It's an incredible place to also call home. And this is just such a magnificent gift. Thank you so much.

[00:12:42] Our next category is biography and memoir The chicken who saved us by Kristen Jarvis Adams with words limited by autism. Andrew lives in a fantastic world where chickens talk and superheroes come alive when he tells his chicken that his body is trying to kill him. A family and doctors begin a decade long quest for answers. Fierce and beautiful all over the place. Adventures in travel.

[00:13:23] True love and petty theft by Geraldine de Rueter hilarious and moving.

[00:13:42] This book follows blogger Geraldine intruder's travels through both her external and internal internal worlds for director patients love humor and ultimately a courageous optimism are the key to handling life's obstacles. This is a unique book and a delicious read. Next the spider and the fly by Claudia Rowe childhood fascination with evil leads Rowe an acclaimed journalist to initiate a correspondence with the serial killer. Begun as an exploration of the killer's motivation the story

becomes about coming to terms with her personal motivations in an intriguing mix of true crime and memoir.

[00:14:43] And the winner for a biography memoir is *The Spider and the fly* by Claudia.

[00:15:11] Thank you so much. I didn't expect this at all.

[00:15:14] A lot of people told me not to do this book for a really really really long time. Agents and family and everybody told me not to write this book.

[00:15:25] But I guess I can say the best thing to happen out of it is when people who I've never met people across the world in Australia or or or North Carolina or wherever.

[00:15:39] Reach out to me and they and they tell me that it helped them kind of have renewed motivation to address the rifts in their families. And and that it's never too late to bring people together.

[00:15:52] So thank you so much.

[00:16:06] Our next category is history and nonfiction *upstream searching for wild salmon from river to table* by Langdon Cook debate over the fate of the salmon is a very modern story with an ancient past. Cook follows the wild salmon from first catch in a fisherman's net to the sale to an upscale California restaurant. Part history part travelogue. This is an important addition to the story of this ancient fish *Mozart's Starling* byline and land how a story that began as an exploration of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and his pet Starling becomes much larger under the unwavering eye of how it who took a rescued Starling into her home while researching this book a blend of music history biography natural history and then delightfully insightful memoir *Growing a revolution bringing our soil to life*. By David R. Montgomery a mixture of history environmental science agriculture and memoir Montgomery provides a third option in the debate of conventional versus organic farming. No till or conservation agriculture traveling the globe in his quest to learn new methods. Readers end up optimistic about our ability to restore the world's soil health tides the science and spirit of the ocean.

[00:18:11] By Jonathan White's this beautiful book combines scientific inquiry and adventure travel in his quest for exploration and discovery.

[00:18:30] You travel with white from China to Chile from France to Scotland and then to the Arctic with knowledge gleaned from Inuit elders and French monks. We learn about the complexity of ocean tides waterway the story of Seattle's locks and Ship Canal by David Williams My apologies I did not finish reading that line I should have said. By David Williams and Jennifer Ott and the staff of history link my apologies Jennifer why would a city surrounded by water want to carve through the land to create yet another waterway 100 years after the Lake Washington Ship Canal opened. Historians Ott and Williams provide a fascinating look back at Seattle's history commerce and growth. *Ghosts of Seattle past*. Edited by Jamie Gharb Bach chick a collection of essays by Seattle residents from a

variety of backgrounds and perspectives result in a mosaic of writing styles tones and content from their embrace of queer spaces to favorite eateries frequented. As a child GOCE offers intimate portraits of a city undergoing a rapid change and the regular people caught between a beloved past and uncertain future. And the winner of the nonfiction award is Mozart's Starling LA

[00:20:45] I'm so surprised. Thank you. This is really lovely. The nonfiction category was populated with people that are my dear friends and a beautiful group of books that I admire and love so I'm super grateful. I also noticed that many of them and I'm just going to go ahead and throw ghosts of Seattle past loosely in this category are about nature and our connection to them more than human world. And I was thinking about how I don't think it's just because in the Pacific Northwest we have this moody green green green landscape that inspires nature writing. I think that's part of it. I think also we're in a mystifying time where our sustenance and the natural world and our grounding as if we see our ways in terms of resistance and change in defense of wild places and creatures is really coming to the fore. And I think that's part of it too. And I thank you for all of us who share this nomination.

[00:21:39] And I'm so grateful thank you.

[00:21:54] Next up is the fiction category. This is how it always is by Laurie Frankel. A large loving hilarious and totally relatable family is at the heart of Frankel's novel. All families have secrets and dramas but it is how we react to those in the decisions that we make that make each family unique. This book will charm you completely without falling into sentimentality. The cold eye by Laura and Gilman. It isn't often that a sequel can stand alone but the cold eye does just that. Gilman is a skillful world builder who takes her readers into a reimagined American Wild West setting where things are equally familiar and fantastic the other Alcott's by at least Hooper the other alcohol tells the story of May the youngest sister of Louisa May Alcott. Hooper skillfully tells the story of a creative and ambitious young woman living in the shadow of a successful sister at a time when opportunities for women were limited. Solar reboot by Matthew D'Hondt solar flares have turned the world on its head and an every man for himself attitude becomes the new normal. Under the pressure of this new reality old friendships dissolve and new ones are forged as the family struggles to reunite from opposite sides of the country. George and Lizzie by Nancy Pearl Sonny steady George and mercurial brooding Lizzie marry soon after college. But a decade later Lizzie's old secrets bring them to a crossroads full of compassion for her characters a dash of rom com humor and the perfect amount of literary references. Pearl tackles true love painful childhoods and forgiveness duplicity by Ingrid Thiaw private detective Phina Ludlow investigates a crime tied to a cult like church with a charismatic leader. In the fourth installment of thoughts mystery series solid plodding and a layered character development work for the die hard Phina fans as well as those jumping into the series with duplicity and the winner of the fiction award tonight is this is how it always is.

[00:25:11] By Laurie Frank.

[00:25:31] This is the problem with awarding braiders things is that we are not good at getting up and talking like especially not in a spur of the moment way. I think they sent me an email wherein they

said don't thank people but I forgot what I was supposed to do instead. And I kind of feel like I should thank people and I can say a lot. In two minutes I talk really quickly. So if you'll bear with me I really feel like it's thank you because this is awesome. And I don't think the judges cause got so much work doing this I know that it is. And I want to thank you all for organizing this night because it is so awesome. And I want to thank you all for being here because books man they need. Boy this is what we need is people who read books and get excited about stuff like this. More than anything. This is what the world needs now. And I want to thank my kid who had to go to bed. And I want to thank my husband who had to go home because my kid had to go to bed. I don't want to think Jenny sure because she's here and Garst dying because he's here. And these are people who really help this back and you are awesome.

[00:26:28] Thanks.

[00:26:41] Before we go on to the youth categories I'd like to introduce you to Cindy Aden the director of the Washington State Library who will be telling you about the inaugural Washington Voices Award.

[00:27:01] Hello. And what an exciting thing to have a full room full of people wanting to talk about books. There was recently something in the news the Frankfurt Book Fair which is a huge book that's been going on for 100 years just made this terrible discovery that Germans are no longer reading books. Germans are embarrassed to give books as gifts anymore because people aren't reading. We've got to get to the bottom of this but it was the most shocking piece of news. So I'm happy it's not true in Seattle. So I would like all the poets who contributed to WA 129 to please come down to the stage and while they're doing that let me tell you first of all you must own this book. I insist from time to time a book comes along that deserves recognition but defies categorization in order to recognize the merit of such books. The Washington Center for the book has created a special award this year to honor Washington 129. This anthology is tremendous and joyous. It is an accomplishment that includes poems by 129 poets from across Washington state. The poems were selected by former Washington poet laureate Todd Marshall. I'm so sorry he couldn't be here tonight. His leadership during his tenure as poet laureate brought together voices in a way that now has a tangible lasting impact. Every poet in this project deserves to be honored. And we have someone here tonight to receive the award. I'm happy to present the Washington State Book Award. WASHINGTON voices to Jeff Dodd from Sage Hill Press

[00:28:59] This is an awkward moment they pulled the guy from behind the computer to come and say a few words. Well this is a book with quite a history I think the unspoken history of course is the native elders and peoples who populated this land for many centuries. The the founders of our will became our state and the 129 years of history that preceded the publication of this book. And so there are many people to thank. Todd and I sat at a desk at Gonzaga University about three and a half years ago and he said is it possible and I said well all things are possible but it's going to take a lot. And so particularly we'd like to thank Washington humanities the Washington Arts Commission both of whom were willing to work with a very tiny press in Spokane on the east side a very small printer a great dog press in Spokane Washington and they were willing to put up with patience and

forbearance as we Ringold 129 poets I'd like to think. Meghan Robinson who is a student at Gonzaga who designed the interior as I worked on the exterior and some of the editorial roles. I think the Seattle Public Library for hosting this and the Center for the book all the wonderful work that went into this and goes into many many other publications and events in our state. So thanks so much

[00:30:26] Autumn on the Oyster Bay by Lynn Dagne and the fur branch heavy with last night's rain bows deeply to applauding gulls salutes a heron. She pokes and prods the low tide mud while raccoons clam now onto the youth categories beginning with the finalists and Books for Young Adults breakfast with Neruda by Laura Ahmo

[00:31:16] Michael a homeless teen living out of his station wagon meets Shelley a chain smoking classmate with a mysterious past mandatory community service brings them together cleaning their high school while they bond over reading the poetry of Pablo Neruda the impossible light by Lily Myers fifteen year old Ivey's dad has a new girlfriend. Her mom is vanishing into depression and her best friend treats her like a baby. She finds solace in the controlled black and white world of mass but develops an unhealthy obsession with her weight in this sensitive beautiful novel in verse. The arsonist by Stephanie Oaks Eva Draiman died in an East German prison during the Cold War leaving behind only her diary. Fast forward to today and social outcast Molly Mavity and Kuwaiti American peper Youssef are two unlikely friends suddenly tasked with solving the mystery of her murder. In this suspenseful humorous and affecting novel girls like me by Nina Pak a bush band show is pregnant and living without her best friend Gray for the first time. She can't stop thinking about the events that led her to this point. Paca Bush creates unforgettable affecting characters while representing queer and pregnant teens a segment of the population never before portrayed in young adult literature. The girl who wouldn't die.

[00:33:11] By Randall Platt hard hitting and unforgettable.

[00:33:22] The girl who wouldn't die is the story of a 6 of 16 year old April Goldstein and the extraordinary measures she takes to survive resist and find hope in Warsaw Poland during World War II. And the winner for young adult literature is the arsonist by Stephanie

[00:33:55] Oh my gosh. Well I wrote a speech because I'm a writer and I don't know how to talk. Oh gosh. OK. This is an incredible honor. Thank you so much. I'm so proud to be nominated with all of these great authors in this category. So I wanted to tell you why I wrote this book.

[00:34:14] I wrote this book in many ways for the kids that I grew up around. And for the kid that I used to be. Let me tell you a story about that kid when I was in the third grade. I found a book on a shelf in my classroom library that contained pictures and biographies of every president of the United States. I was a very poor reader and wouldn't read a book on my own for another four or five years. Thanks Harry Potter but even without absorbing many of the words I immediately had a realization I wanted to see my picture in that book for the rest of third grade. I told everyone my classmates my parents my friends when I told a co-worker of my moms she didn't smile at my precociousness like everyone else had. Instead she told me how unlikely my dream was impossible. I'm not sure what she

saw in me that made her so confident. Maybe it was because I was a girl or because I was poor or because I had a hard time in school or because I came from a place where presidents simply do not grow. It was the first time that anyone had taken stock of my personhood and found me lacking the first time I became aware of the load. I already carried when I started teaching. I met students who also carried invisible loads heavier than mine.

[00:35:32] Which made them work. I have to work twice as hard. I grew angry for them for the failings of our country and our school systems and our politicians angry that it's possible in our world for any random outsider to look through certain windows in certain neighborhoods and accurately guess who can and cannot succeed simply because of the conditions of their birth part of the anger fuelled elements of the arsonist pepper one of the three main characters dreams of becoming the president. It's an impossible goal. He is poor has a hard time in school comes from a place where presidents do not grow. Molly is hamstrung by the conditions of her birth parents with mental illness and Eva was born into a society that does not accept free speech particularly from young precocious women writing for teenagers feels immediate and critical in a way that other writing doesn't always for me. Teenagers exist in a transitional space and I like to believe that any book that meets you when you were a teenager is capable of teaching you both about your present and your possible future. Our world and the people in charge of it may not care about all of its citizens but books books can teach any of us that we are capable of more than anyone imagines. And as for me I may not have become president yet

[00:36:55] But I did accomplish my dreams. Thank you

[00:37:12] Finalists from middle grade books for readers age 8 to 12 outside in by Jennifer Bradbury Ram survives on the streets and only by happenstance encounters an artist a story of unlikely friendship introduces readers to the amazing Chandy Gahr rock garden a place Bradbury visited when she lived in India. Interwoven stories from Indian mythology transport the reader to a very specific time and place the many reflections of Miss Jane Demming by J Anderson Cooper. Jane is taking a steamship around South America to get to Seattle but just a few years after the Civil War. Seattle isn't what Jane expects this exciting story provides a window into what it might have been like to arrive in Washington before it became a state. Wedgie and gizmo by Suzanne cell fur's. Gizmo might be a guinea pig but he's a guinea pig who dreams of world domination. When he suddenly has to share his living space with wedgie a cape wearing corgi of more enthusiasm than intelligence he must learn to adjust to his new roommate and vice versa. The Forbidden temptation of baseball by Dorian Jones Yang. 12 year old Leon is visiting America on an educational mission from China. He's determined to study hard and make his family proud. But it isn't easy. American customs are strange his brother is always angry and the language is hard.

[00:39:24] But there's also a magical new game called Baseball and the winner for middle grade is the many reflections of Miss Jane Demming Vijay.

[00:39:46] I also prepared a thing because I'm a writer.



[00:39:51] I am deeply honored to receive the award tonight especially considering that Jane Demming almost wasn't written at all.

[00:39:58] I pitched the idea to my editor as believe it or not mail order brides and space and she said well what if you lose the space part.

[00:40:08] And I said I kind of want them to go to space. And she said well she kept asking me questions like Why what is it about this story that really draws you in. And I started to describe some of the research I had done for you know a completely different reason. And I kind of talked about both of them Mercer immigration expeditions and how guys like Aisyah Mercer tried to convince people Bacchis to come to Washington Territory by telling them it had a Mediterranean climate. So all of them back in New York Harbor were getting on a boat thinking palm trees and sandy beaches and they got here not that and especially guys like Mercer were telling all these civil war widows and orphans about all of these opportunities. Be a teacher be a seamstress start a little grocery store. But here he was telling all of the guys that were lumberjacks and minders who were hoping to get married who were giving him lots of money to help these women come out here. Oh yeah I'm bringing you a bunch of wives. They're going to Russia want to get married right off the boat. So as soon as I talked about this to my editor and explain kind of how this mismatch of expectations how the women expected one thing the men expected something completely different and what it was like when they met on that wharf. She's like oh yeah that story that's your story right there. You write that. And so we have.

[00:41:32] We have James ending and because I can't help but think people do want to think all the nice folks here at Seattle Public to help me with some of the research particularly the folks in special collections also the special collections folks at the University of Washington and also I think Q2 Cecile Hansen who is chair of the Duwamish Tribe for her kind insights into the cultural representation of the Indigenous characters in this book. And thank you all for coming here tonight.

[00:42:10] Next the finalists for early readers for books ages 6 to 8. KING And Kayla in the case of the missing dog treats by Dorothy Hillas said Butler a new pair of sleuths is in town when freshly baked dog treats go missing. Kayla and her dog King are on the case. Full color illustrations accompany accessible text in a large font to engage emerging readers in a classic whodunit dog. Fans will love that the story is told from King's perspective Zoe and Sassafras dragons and marshmallows by Asia Citroën when a sick baby dragon visits Zoe's barn. She learns a family secret and must figure out how to help her magical visitor.

[00:43:15] But with the help of her cat sassafras and the scientific method Zoe is more than up to the task and the winner is Zoe in Sassafras dragons and marshmallow her a lot of people.

[00:43:42] So I thought I would tell you guys a couple fun facts about my story because I love hearing those. So first I got my master's degree in science education from the University of Washington. So that's why the science is there I was a science teacher for many years so very passionate about teaching kids about inquiry science or childhood science so that's why that's woven into each of the

stories. Second fact is that I love to rule doll growing up. I still do. So I had a Roald Dahl quote in every book same coat same place. So if you read it you can try and find it. Third is that this is very much a family affair. My husband helps me bounce ideas off of him and my daughter actually writes all of the scientific journal entries for Zowie so if you're reading it and you see really authentic kid writing it is indeed true. Kids writing. And finally my daughter makes cameos in each of the books sometimes by name sometimes by person and in this book she is one of Zoe's friends who she's asking Zoe to pets at Blizzard so you can keep an eye out for that too. Thank you so much.

[00:44:53] And now the finalists for the picture book category little Wolf's first Houweling by Lena Magy Covey's Norske and Kate Harvey McGee. It's little Will's first chance to howl at the moon and big Wolf shows him the proper form when it's Little Wolf's turn. However he can't help embellishing. Yellowstone Park is the backdrop for this joyous story celebrating Fathers Son affection the discipline of craft and creative improvisation.

[00:45:35] The book of mistakes by Corvina Lukan everyone smudges their art once in a while.

[00:45:52] It's what you do next that counts. Debut author and artist Karena Lukan explodes onto the picture book scene with a simultaneously beautiful and approachable demonstration that what at first might seem like a mistake can result in the best kind of creativity Shawn love sharks Spike Curtis manly sharks Shawn loves them he loves their streamlined shape and sharp teeth even mimic shark behavior at recess. Chasing his favorite prey Stacey the tables are turned when the students pick animals for their predator report and Shawn and gets the leopard seal and Stacey gets the great white shark Frank. The seven leg spider by Mikael Razy Frank the spider loves making beautiful webs jumping wiggling scurrying and most of all. Pranking silly humans most of all he loves his eight legs until one day he wakes up missing one. Suddenly his perception of himself changes can he still be a spider with only seven legs.

[00:47:21] And the winner tonight is Shawn loves shark spy Curtis Hamm.

[00:47:39] I also have written something and I guess all of us just have to wait while I read it. So a few weeks ago I've received an email from a woman I didn't know. She has a 6 year old daughter named Tia and it seems fitting to read it here. Here's what the mother wrote. I took you to the library yesterday. She picked out three books but wanted a fourth. I told her we should play a blind game. She would walk along the children's section with her eyes closed pick a book at random and have to read it. She thought it was a great idea. The book she chose had a blue cover and was about sharks so she threw a fit and wouldn't read it. It was for boys blah blah blah. That's what the mother says after some discussion she decided begrudgingly that she would keep the book in as soon as we got in the car. She read the book and loved it. After she finished scenes she said Mommy the moral of the story is that even if you don't think you were going to like something you should just go with it because you might actually end up liking it.

[00:48:57] And the mother says I thought she was explaining the moral of the blind game but it was actually the moral of the blue book about sharks. What are the chances so readers find our books in

so many different ways but this really is an amazing coincidence. Tear randomly chose a book and was certain she didn't want to read it. And in that book Shawn randomly chosen animal and was certain he didn't want to learn about it. Yet Shawn t both ended up pleased with their choices Shawn loves sharks is about more than that but it's not for me to explain it to you. We put our own experiences wounds and passions into the stories we create. But then each reader decides whether the stories speak to them or not. It's nice when that works out so well with Tia and with this award and just wanted to say thank you to everyone who made these awards possible. And also this wonderful ceremony. And please please vote in November.

[00:50:08] Thank you.

[00:50:23] Could we have one more round of applause for both the finalists and the winners. Keep reading. Thank you all for coming.

[00:50:46] This podcast was presented by The Seattle Public Library and Foundation and made possible by your contributions to the Seattle Public Library Foundation. Thanks for listening.