Stonewall and Schneider Family Award-Winning Book Display

Winter 2020

Savannah Kelly, Research and Instruction Librarian
LGBTQ experiences in children and young adult texts: the Stonewall Awards

Stonewall Book Awards History

The first and most enduring award for GLBT books is the Stonewall Book Awards, sponsored by the American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table. Since Isabel Miller's Patience and Sarah received the first award in 1971, many other books have been honored for exceptional merit relating to the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender experience.

The history of the book awards mirrors the growth of the GLBT publishing industry. Although in the first years of the award the committee had only a handful of books from which to choose, by 1995 they had to select the winners from a list of over 800 eligible titles.

Originally a grassroots acknowledgment honoring hallmark works in GLBT publishing, the Gay Book Award (as it was originally known) became an official American Library Association award in 1986. The next year, its name was changed to the Gay and Lesbian Book Award. Beginning in 1990, the Book Award expanded into two categories: nonfiction and literature. In 1994, the name changed once more to the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Award. In 1999, when the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force became the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table, the name changed yet again to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Book Award. In 2002, the name changed to the Stonewall Book Award-Barbara Gittings Literature Award and the Stonewall Book Award-Israel Fichman Non-Fiction Award. In 2010 the Stonewall Book Awards was expanded again to add a Children and Young Adult Literature Award. In 2012, the Children's and Young Adult Literature Award was renamed the Stonewall Book Award-Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children's and Young Adult Literature Award in honor of the couple's gift to the endowment.

http://www.ala.org/rt/glbtrt/award/stonewall/history
http://www.ala.org/rt/glbtrt/award/stonewall/honored
Left display case: the Stonewall Awards
Featured Books

Beautiful Music for Ugly Children
Kirstin Cronn-Mills
2014 Stonewall Book Award Winner – Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children’s and Young Adult Literature Award

Branded by the Pink Triangle
Ken Setterington
2014 Stonewall Honor Book in Children’s and Young Adult Literature

Two Boys Kissing
David Levithan
2014 Stonewall Honor Book in Children’s and Young Adult Literature
Featured Books (cont.)

**Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out**
Susan Kuklin
2015 Stonewall Honor Book in Children’s and Young Adult Literature

**Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress**
Christine Baldacchino / Illustrated by Isabelle Malenfant
2015 Stonewall Honor Book in Children’s and Young Adult Literature

**This Day in June**
Gayle E. Pitman / Illustrated by Kristyna Litten
2015 Stonewall Book Award Winner – Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children’s and Young Adult Literature Award
Featured Books (cont.)

**The Porcupine of Truth**  
Bill Konigsberg  
2016 Stonewall Book Award Winner – Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children’s and Young Adult Literature Award

**Hurricane Child**  
Kheryn Callender  
2019 Stonewall Book Award Winner – Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children’s and Young Adult Literature Award

**Julian is a Mermaid**  
Jessica Love  
2019 Stonewall Book Award Winner – Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children’s and Young Adult Literature Award
Disability experiences in children and young adult texts: the Schneider Family Awards

Schneider Family Book Award
Dr. Katherine Schneider and her family endowed this American Library Association Award in 2003.

Remarks from Donor Katherine Schneider, Ph.D., L.P., ABPP
On the occasion of the first presentation of the Schneider Family Book Award, June 29, 2004:

When I was growing up, the librarian at the Michigan Library for the Blind was my hero. He sent me books in Braille and on records from the Library of Congress collection. To be here among librarians who daily enrich people’s lives with information in printed, audio, and electronic formats is a dream come true. That special librarian and my mother who read me many books that were not available in Braille or on records whetted my thirst for knowledge. The upshot of that thirst was a Ph.D. from Purdue and a very satisfying thirty-year career as a clinical psychologist.

During my father’s last illness he joked that I would probably give away my inheritance. I agreed I would, so we needed to find a cause we could agree on—and I came up with the Schneider Family Book Award for children’s books about the disability experience. My mother taught the deaf before marriage and worked tirelessly to mainstream their blind child before it was mandated by law. My father worked in the pharmaceutical industry so information about diseases, conditions, and treatments was dinner table conversational material at our house. Extended family members have lived with alcoholism, attention deficit disorder, diabetes, and fibromyalgia.

In the 1950s when I was in grade school, the only media mentions of blind people were of Helen Keller, Louis Braille, and the seven blind men who went to see the elephant. Other disabilities fared no better. Fifty years later we’re here to celebrate the fact that the situation has dramatically improved. The Schneider Family Book Award committee has many wonderful children’s books to consider, which represent the experiences of the one out of seven Americans who have a disability. The disability experience in these wonderful children’s books is a part of a character’s full life, not the focus of the life.

http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/awards/1/allyears
Featured Books

A Mango Shaped Space
Wendy Mass
2004 Schneider Family Book Award – Middle School

The Deaf Musicians
Pete Seeger and Paul DuBois Jacobs / Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie
2007 Schneider Family Book Award – Young Children

Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures
Brian Selznick
2012 Schneider Family Book Award – Middle School
Featured Books (cont.)

- *Back to Front and Upside Down!*
  Claire Alexander
  2013 Schneider Family Book Award – Young Children

- *Handbook for Dragon Slayers*
  Merrie Haskell
  2014 Schneider Family Book Award – Middle School

- *Rain Reign*
  Ann M. Martin
  2015 Schneider Family Book Award – Middle School
Featured Books (cont.)

Girls Like Us
Gail Giles
2015 Schneider Family Book Award – Teen

A Boy and a Jaguar
Alan Rabinowitz / Illustrated by Catia Chien
2015 Schneider Family Book Award – Children’s

El Deafo
Wendy Mass
2015 John Newbery Medal Honor Book
The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B
Teresa Toten
2016 Schneider Family Book Award – Teen

Emmanuel’s Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah
Laurie Ann Thompson / Illustrated by Sean Qualls
2016 Schneider Family Book Award – Children’s