

Young Reader's Choice Award
Annual Report 2011

We had another successful year with the Young Reader's Choice Award. No one was surprised when Suzanne Colin's Hunger Games won the Senior Division. The surprise was that in both the Junior and Intermediate Divisions, graphic novels won. In the Junior Division, Amulet Book 1: The Stonekeeper by Kazu Kibuishi was the winner and the winner for the Intermediate Division was Rapunzel's Revenge by Shannon and Dean Hale. I am pleased that Kazu Kibuishi will be speaking at the Young Reader's Choice Award luncheon.

We received many votes from teachers and librarians in Oregon. It was with great sadness that I had to inform them of OLA's withdrawal from PNLA and that their students were no longer eligible to participate in the program. I received many compliments on how much they had enjoyed participating in YRCA and how much they valued the program.

We have had some interesting issues with our 2012 list. Three Cups of Tea by Sarah Thomson was placed on the Junior list. No sooner had the list been posted than the news broke about Greg Mortenson. The committee immediately convened via email and after much discussion, decided to keep the book on the list. We decided that great discussions could come from the book about the importance of being critical and evaluating what you read. We thought it would be a great opportunity to talk about the value of volunteering. I have received many emails from teachers and librarians concerned about the book, but for the most part they have agreed that this can be a teachable moment.

The other problem we had was with When the Cherry Blossoms Fell also on the Junior list. No sooner had the list been announced than the publisher of this book was sold and the book went out of print. I have been in contact with the new publisher and they assured me the book is in print. Teachers and librarians in the United States have had difficulty getting this book unless they purchase it from Canada. We decided to add Watching Jimmy to the list. This book is much more accessible in the United States.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the YRCA representatives that work so hard to make these lists and to promote the Young Reader's Choice Award.

Alaska – Jane Baird
Alberta – Jocie Wilson
British Columbia – Maryn Ashdown
Idaho – Joy Lear
Montana – Carole Monlux

Barbra Meisenheimer
Young Reader's Choice Award Chair