

## Coretta Scott King

The Coretta Scott King award is awarded to African American authors and illustrators to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King for their work in civil rights and human equality. The award is given out annually by the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table which is a branch of The American Library Association.

Originally when the award was first established in 1969 it was only awarded to authors, but in 1979 the board added an award for illustrators as well. In order to qualify for the award the author/illustrator must be African American and the book must be geared towards young adults and children and must represent/depict African American experiences. In order to be considered for the Coretta Scott King Award the work must include a strong plot, have accurate details, characters that show growth over the span of the book, have been written in the year prior to the submission and must have been written in The United States. Books that focus on motivating readers and encouraging them to be responsible citizens in a pluralistic society are sought after for this award.

In order to be considered for the award a form can be filled out online or mailed in. A finished copy of the book must be submitted and will not be returned. All submissions must be made by December 1 of the year prior to the award, so the deadline for the 2012 award is December 1, 2011.

The winner of the award receives a bronze ribbon. An author or illustrator can also receive an honor ribbon which is pewter. Occasionally, books that receive the pewter honor ribbon can be revised and receive a bronze and black seal. I am a bit ashamed to say that I do not recognize many of the winners on the list over the past few years. A couple of titles I do know that have received the award are *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis, *The Road to Memphis* by Mildred D. Taylor and *A Story of Yong Harriet Tubman* by Jerry Pinkney Minty. I noticed that the following authors received the award more than once in the past 20 years -Christopher Paul Curtis, Mildred Taylor and Ashley Bryan.

The most common theme I see among the winning books is that they show struggles and challenges that young African Americans both now and in the past have been or are faced with. These challenges vary greatly from slavery, to discrimination, to being a young parent or even troubles in school. Overall, the winning books present the reader a story that presents a problem and how the character/s of the book handle the given situation.

Web Resources:

<http://aalbc.com/books/related.htm>

<http://www.clickinks.com/All-About-the-Coretta-Scott-King-Award.html>

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/emiert/cskbookawards/slction.cfm>

Scott O'Dell Award

