

2025 Américas Award For Children's & Young Adult Literature



Call for Submissions

RATIONALE

To encourage and commend authors, illustrators and publishers who produce quality children's and young adult books that portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinx people in the United States, and to provide teachers with recommendations for classroom use, the national Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs ([CLASP](#)) offers up to two annual book awards, together with a commended list of titles.

CRITERIA

Two awards are given each year, one for a picture book and one for a young adult or middle grade book. The awards recognize U.S. published (including Puerto Rico) works of fiction, poetry, folklore, non-fiction, and works in translation that authentically and engagingly portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or the Latinx community in the United States. By linking the Américas, the intent is to reach beyond geographic borders, as well as multicultural-international boundaries, focusing instead upon cultural heritages within the hemisphere. Books will be judged for:

1. Distinctive literary quality

- 1.a. Is the story unique or innovative in its development of characters, setting, plot and other narrative elements?
- 1.b. Is the story engaging for its intended audience?

2. Cultural contextualization

- 2.a. Does the book accurately and sensitively represent a cultural setting, practice, identity, or way of life? Accurately here is defined as with integrity and appropriate nuance, not pure fidelity since there is no one single Latinx experience.
- 2.b. Does the book convey sufficient cultural detail that the reader will gain greater understanding about Latin American, Caribbean or Latinx cultures, histories, and identities?

3. Exceptional aesthetic appeal, where applicable.

4. The Américas Award recognizes the book (as opposed to the individual author or illustrator).

- 4.a. Is the book appealing as a whole?

5. Potential for classroom use

- 5.a. Does the book lend itself to use in multiple subject areas at the primary or secondary level?

5.b. Would the book make a strong addition to a classroom or school library?

ELIGIBILITY

- The book must be published in 2024.
- The title may be for primary or secondary reading levels.
- Language of publication may be English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, or any language indigenous to the Americas.
- The book must be published in the United States (including Puerto Rico) or by a publisher with offices within the U.S.
- Submissions may be fiction, poetry, folklore, or non-fiction.
- A book will only be considered in its first year of publication in the United States. A book originally published in the U.S. in English with a translated edition in a subsequent year will only be eligible the first year of the edition.

PROCESS

To nominate a 2024 copyright title, publishers are invited to submit review copies to the committee members listed below by **January 31, 2025**. There is no entry fee.

The list of award winners, honor books, and commended titles will be announced in May 2025, recognizing works published in 2024.



2024 Américas Award

for Children's and Young Adult Literature

Please send **11 copies of the nominated book** (one to each person) to the Review Committee Members and the Award Coordinators:

REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Ex-officio

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