



## Reading the Region 2014-2015: Award Books, Award Programs, and the Latest Winning Titles From Around the PNLA Region

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**Keywords:** *book awards, reading, YRCA, collection development, readers advisory, PNLA region*

**Citation:** Zauha, J. (2015). Reading the Region 2014-2015: Award Books, Award Programs, and the Latest Winning Titles From Around the PNLA Region. *PNLA Quarterly*, 80 (1).

As happens every year in the rich book life of the Pacific Northwest, a significant number of programs and associations highlighted exceptional authors and titles in our region during the 2014-2015 book award season. These state, provincial, and regional award programs are often difficult to identify or track in the profusion of book information on the Web. Unless their award-winners jump up the ladder to gain wider attention, the titles they choose tend to get lost in the shadow of national and international awards that enjoy a much higher profile on the Web and in literary newspapers and magazines.

Since August 2006, PNLA's Reading the Region program has highlighted these regional award winners and published a bibliography of them in *PNLA Quarterly's* conference issue. This makes 2015 our 10th year of celebrating outstanding books from our region. Appropriately, we were joined this year by an emissary from Oregon, a state that was once a cornerstone constituent of PNLA. Carol Reich of the Oregon Library Association asked to join us in Vancouver, WA, crossing the Columbia to share the wonderful award titles from her state. It seemed like old times.

As the list below makes evident, many of the award winning books noted here are written by Pacific Northwest authors or are set in the region. Others are voted in as favorites of readers in the region by programs such as PNLA's own Young Readers Choice Award (YRCA), though their authors or subject matter may not be connected to the region.

This year's award winning books in our region included some real standouts that did traverse the boundary between regional and national attention, such as Idaho author Anthony Doerr's *All the Light We Cannot See*. In addition to winning a PNBA (Pacific Northwest Bookseller's Award), Doerr's book was also named the Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction in April 2015. In addition, our young readers in the region who voted in the YRCA program chose *The Fault in Our Stars*, the wildly popular young adult novel by Indiana author John Green, as the award winning Senior Division title this year.

Representatives from the PNLA board who serve on this program panel each year choose titles to highlight from their state or province and our audience always enjoys an energetic round of quick book talks from passionate readers and promoters of books for all ages. This year, the following talented librarians represented their areas within the PNLA region (and beyond):

- **Alaska:** Mary Jo Joiner, Alaska PNLA Representative, Director, Kenai Community Library, Kenai

- **Alberta:** [Sarah Head](#), Alberta PNLA Representative, Resource Specialist, Lethbridge Public Library; and [Jocie Wilson](#), PNLA Young Reader's Choice Award Chair, Client Services Librarian, Yellowhead Regional Library, Spruce Grove
- **British Columbia:** [Jay Peters](#), PNLA 2nd Vice President/Membership Chair, Coquitlam Public Library, and [Michael Burris](#), PNLA Past President, Executive Director, Public Library InterLINK, Burnaby
- **Idaho:** [Jeannie Standal](#), Idaho PNLA Representative, School Library Consultant, Idaho Commission for Libraries, Boise
- **Montana:** [Carmen Clark](#), Montana PNLA Representative, Reference Librarian, Bozeman Public Library, and [Jan Zauha](#), Past PNLA President, Outreach, Instruction, and Research Librarian, Montana State University, Bozeman
- **Oregon:** [Carol Reich](#), Manager of Strategic Initiatives, Hillsboro Public Library
- **Washington:** [Heidi Chittim](#), Washington PNLA Representative, Circulation Librarian, JFK Library, Eastern Washington University, Cheney



## **REGIONAL AWARDS**

### ***PNLA Young Readers Choice Awards 2014***

***([www.pnla.org/yrca](http://www.pnla.org/yrca))***

- Junior Division (4th-6th Grades): ***Wonder*** by R.J. Palacio
- Intermediate Division (7th-9th Grades): ***Drama*** by Raina Telgemeier, color by Gurihiru, lettering by John Green
- Senior Division (10th – 12th grades): ***The Fault in Our Stars*** by John Green

### ***Pacific Northwest Booksellers Awards 2014***

***([www.pnba.org/2015-book-awards.html](http://www.pnba.org/2015-book-awards.html))***

- ***A Boat, a Whale and a Walrus*** by Renee Erickson (Seattle)
- ***All the Light We Cannot See*** by Anthony Doerr (Boise)
- ***Falling From Horses*** by Molly Glass (Portland)
- ***If Not for This*** by Pete Fromm
- ***Jackaby*** by William Ritter (Springfield, OR)
- ***Strange & Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender*** by Leslye Walton (Seattle)



## **ALASKA**

### **Alaskana Award – Adult Fiction or Non-Fiction ([akla.org/newspoke/](http://akla.org/newspoke/))**

- 2015 Winner: ***Never Alone (Kisima Ingitchuna)*** developed by Cook Inlet Tribal Council and Upper One Games working closely with Inupiat community members and elders

### **Contributions to Literacy in Alaska Award 2015**

***([www.alaskacenterforthebook.org](http://www.alaskacenterforthebook.org))***

- ***My Name is Not Easy*** by Debby Dahl Edwardson



## **ALBERTA**

### **Alberta Readers' Choice Award**

***([www.epl.ca/alberta-readers-choice](http://www.epl.ca/alberta-readers-choice))***

- 2014 Winner: ***Almost a Great Escape: A Found Story*** by Tyler Trafford

### **Book Publishers' Association of Alberta Awards 2014**

***([www.bookpublishers.ab.ca](http://www.bookpublishers.ab.ca))***

- Children's & Young Adult Book Award: ***The Loxleys and the War of 1812***, 2nd ed., by Alan Grant and Mark Zuehlke, illustrations by Claude St. Aubin and Lov-ern Kindzierski
- Scholarly & Academic Book Award: ***The Peace-Athabasca Delta: Portrait of a***

- **Dynamic Ecosystem** by Kevin P. Timoney
- Trade Fiction Book Award: **Love at Last Sight** by Thea Bowering
- Trade Non-Fiction Award: **Disinherited Generations: Our Struggle to Reclaim Treaty Rights for First Nations Women and their Descendants** by Nellie Carlson and Kathleen Steinhauer, as told to Linda Goyette
- Lois Hole Award for Editorial Excellence: **Xwelíqwiya: The Life of a Stó:lō Ma-triarch**, by Rena Point Bolton and Richard Daly, edited by Pamela Holway
- Robert Kroetsch Poetry Book Award: **The Great Black North: Contemporary African Canadian Poetry** edited by Valerie Mason-John and Kevan Anthony Cameron
- Speculative Fiction Award: **One's Aspect to the Sun** by Sherry D. Ramsey
- Education Book Award: **The Great Black North: Contemporary African Canadian Poetry** edited by Valerie Mason-John and Kevan Anthony Cameron

#### Alberta Book Design Awards:

- Book Cover: **The Wages of Relief: Cities and the Unemployed in Prairie Canada, 1929-1939** by Eric Strikwerda, cover design by Marvin Harder
- Book Design: **The Dilettantes by Michael Hingston**, book design by Natalie Oisen
- Book Illustration: **The Loxleys and the War of 1812**, 2nd ed., by Alan Grant and Mark Zuehlke, illustrations by Claude St. Aubin and Lovern Kindzierski

#### Rocky Mountain Book Award (grades 4-7) ([rmba.lethsd.ab.ca](http://rmba.lethsd.ab.ca))

- 2015 Winner: **The Last Train: A Holocaust Story** by Rona Arato

#### Writer's Guild of Alberta: Alberta Literary Awards 2015 ([www.writersguild.ab.ca](http://www.writersguild.ab.ca))

- Georges Bugnet Award for Novel: **Come Back** by Rudy Wiebe
- Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry: **For Tamara** by Sarah Lang
- Wilfrid Eggleston Award for Non-Fiction: **The Social Life of Ink: Culture, Wonder, and Our Relationship with the Written Word** by Ted Bishop
- R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature: **Little You** by Richard Van Camp



#### BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### Red Cedar Book Award 2014/2015 (grades 4-7) ([www.redcedaraward.ca](http://www.redcedaraward.ca))

- Information Book Award: **The Last Train** by Rona Arato
- Fiction: **The Hidden Agenda of Sigrid Sugden** by Jill MacLean

#### BC Book Prizes 2015 ([www.bcbookprizes.ca](http://www.bcbookprizes.ca))

- Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize: **The World Before Us** by Aislinn Hunter
- Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize: **The Sea Among Us: The Amazing Strait of Georgia** by Richard Beamish, Gordon McFarlane (editors)
- Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize: **In the Slender Margin: The Intimate Strangeness of Death and Dying** by Eve Joseph
- Bill Duthie Booksellers' Choice Award: **Live at the Commodore: The Story of Vancouver's Historic Commodore Ballroom** by Aaron Chapman
- Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize: **By the Poplars** by Cecily Nicholson
- Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize: **Dolphin SOS** by Roy Miki and Slavia Miki, illustrated by Julie Flett
- Sheila Egoff Children's Prize: **Rabbit Ears** by Maggie de Vries

#### Chocolate Lily Awards 2015 ([www.chocolatelilyawards.com](http://www.chocolatelilyawards.com))

- Best Picture Book: ***Not Your Typical Dragon*** by Dan Bar-el
- Chapter Book: ***The Metro Dogs of Moscow*** by Rachelle Delaney
- Best Novel (Tie):
  - A Taste of Heaven*** by Meg Tillie
  - The Path of Names*** by Ari Goelman



## IDAHO

### Idaho Library Assoc. Book Award

([www.idaholibraries.org/awards/idahobookaward](http://www.idaholibraries.org/awards/idahobookaward))

2013 Winners (most recent):

- ***As Rugged as the Terrain*** by Priscilla Wegars
- ***Surviving Minidoka*** by Russell Tremayne and Todd Shallat

### 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

([www.pulitzer.org](http://www.pulitzer.org))

- ***All the Light We Cannot See*** by Anthony Doerr



## MONTANA

### Montana Book Award 2014

([www.montanabookaward.org](http://www.montanabookaward.org))

- Winner: ***Fourth of July Creek*** by Smith Henderson

### High Plains Book Awards 2014

([ci.billings.mt.us/index.aspx?nid=1180](http://ci.billings.mt.us/index.aspx?nid=1180))

- Best Nonfiction Book Award Winner: ***Rough Breaks: A Wyoming High Country Memoir*** by Laurie Wagner Buyer
- Best Fiction Book Award Winner: ***Let Him Go*** by Larry Watson
- Best First Book Award Winner: ***Montana*** by Gwen Florio
- Zonta Award for Best Woman Writer: ***Clearwater*** by Kim McCullough
- Best Poetry Book: ***Grey Dog Big Sky*** by Sheryl Noethe
- Art & Photography: ***Karl Bodmer's America Revisited: Landscape Views Over Time*** by W. R. Wood & R. M. Lindholm
- Short Stories: ***Cowboys and East Indians*** by Nina McConigley
- Children's: Baba's Babushka: ***A Magical Ukrainian Wedding*** by Marion Mutala
- Young Adult: ***Black Helicopters*** by Blythe Woolston
- Medicine & Science: ***In the Shadow of the Sabertooth: A Renegade Naturalist Considers Global Warming, the First Americans and the Terrible Beasts of the Pleistocene*** by Doug Peacock

### Treasure State Award (K-12 picture)

([libguides.msun.edu/treasureaward](http://libguides.msun.edu/treasureaward))

- 2015: ***Saving Yasha*** by Lia Kvatun and Liya Pokrovskaya (Photographer)



## OREGON

### Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Award

([ola.memberclicks.net/bccca-home](http://ola.memberclicks.net/bccca-home))

- 2015 Winner: ***Third Grade Angels*** by Jerry Spinelli

### Oregon Book Awards

([www.literary-arts.org](http://www.literary-arts.org))

- Eloise Jarvis McGraw Award for Children's Literature: ***Whistle in the Dark*** by Susan Hill Long
- Frances Fuller Victor Award for General Nonfiction: ***Big Little Man: In Search of My Asian Self*** by Alex Tizon

- Ken Kesey Award for the Novel: ***The Revolution of Every Day*** by Cari Luna
- Leslie Bradshaw Award for Young Readers: ***The Body in the Woods*** by April Henry
- Sarah Winnemucca Award for Creative Nonfiction: ***The Great Floodgates of the Wonderworld*** by Justin Hocking
- Stafford/Hall Award for Poetry: ***Sorrow Arrow*** by Emily Kendal
- Readers Choice Award: ***The Free*** by Willy Vlautin

**Patricia Gallagher Picture Book Award**  
([oregonread.org/patriciagallagher](http://oregonread.org/patriciagallagher))

- 2014-2015 Winner: ***Tarra & Bella: The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends*** by Carol Buckley



**WASHINGTON**

**Children's Choice Picture Book Award ([childrenschoiceaward.wikispaces.com](http://childrenschoiceaward.wikispaces.com))**

- 2015 Winner: ***The Day the Crayons Quit*** by Drew Daywalt, illustrated by Oliver Jeffers

**Evergreen Teen Book Award**  
([www.evergreenbookaward.org/](http://www.evergreenbookaward.org/))

- 2015 Winner: ***The Fault in Our Stars*** by John Green

**Sasquatch Reading Award**  
([sites.google.com/a/wlma.org/wlma/sasquatch-award](http://sites.google.com/a/wlma.org/wlma/sasquatch-award))

- 2015 Winner: ***Wonder*** by R.J. Palacio

**Towner Award (WLMA)**  
([towneraward.wikispaces.com](http://towneraward.wikispaces.com))

- 2015 Winner: ***Barbed Wire Baseball*** by Marissa Moss

**Washington State Book Awards 2014**  
([www.spl.org/audiences/adults/washington-state-book-awards/washington-state-book-award-winners](http://www.spl.org/audiences/adults/washington-state-book-awards/washington-state-book-award-winners))

- Fiction: ***Hild*** by Nicola Griffith
- Poetry: ***Rough Day*** by Ed Skoog
- History/General Nonfiction: ***The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*** by Daniel James Brown
- Biography/Memoir: ***The Family Tree: Three Journeys Into the Heart of the Twentieth Century*** by David Laskin

**Scandiuzzi Children's Book Award Winners:**

- Picture Book: ***What Do You Do With an Idea?*** by Kobi Yamada, illustrated by Mae Besom
- Book for Early Readers: ***And Then, Story Starters*** by M.H. Clark
- Book for Middle Readers: ***The Sasquatch Escape*** by Suzanne Selfors
- Book for Young Adults: ***Jumped In*** by Patrick Flores-Scott

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