

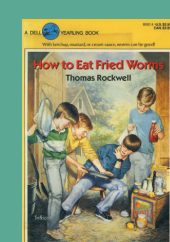


## What is the California Young Reader Medal?

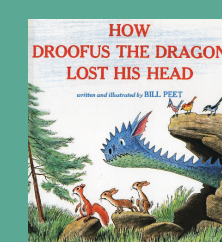
The California Young Reader Medal (CYRM) has been encouraging recreational reading of popular fiction by young people since 1974. Millions of California children have nominated, read, and voted for the winners of the medal. School and public libraries have shared the books with their patrons and collected the votes since the very beginning. The California Library Association is

one of four sponsoring professional organizations along with the California Reading Association, the California Association of Teachers of English, and the California School Library Association.

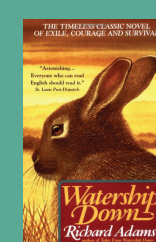
### Interesting Facts:



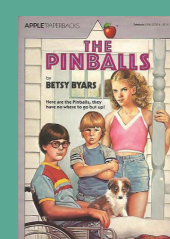
1975 - First Winner  
Intermediate category only  
*How to Eat Fried Worms*  
by Thomas Rockwell



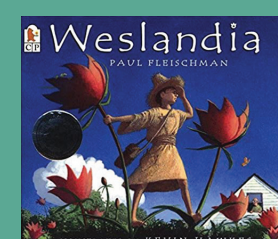
1976 - Primary category only  
*How Droopus the Dragon Lost His Head*  
by Bill Peet



1977 - First Young Adult winner  
*Watership Down*  
by Richard Adams



1980 - Middle School category added- First winner  
*Pinballs*  
by Betsy Byars



2000 - Picture Books for Older Readers category added First winner  
*Weslandia*  
by Paul Fleishman and Illustrated by Kevin Hawkes

## How Does the CYRM Committee Work and How Can I Apply?

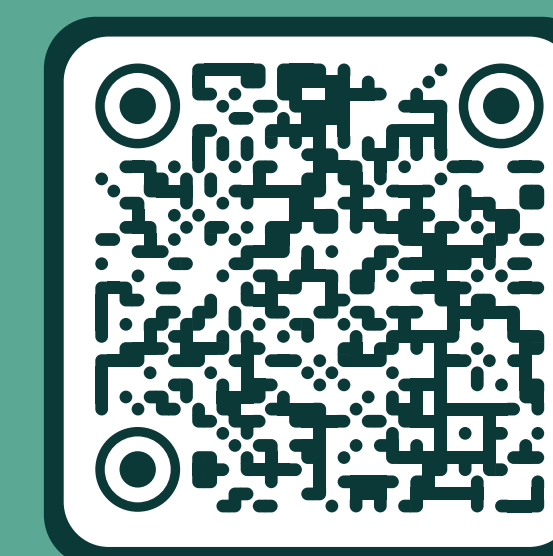
- Each year, students, teachers, librarians and committee members send recommendations of their favorite books to the CYRM committee.
- The committee members read the nominated books and then meet to discuss the merits of each book and their appeal to children.
- Finally, the committee decides upon a well-balanced list of nominees.
- California children and teens can read the nominated books from May through March and vote for their favorites.
- It is a 3-year commitment for committee members.
- There are 5 book categories: Primary (K-3rd grades), Intermediate (3rd-6th grades), Middle School/Junior High (6th-9th grades), Young Adult (9th-12th grades) and Picture Books for Older Readers (4th+).
- Apply to be on the committee through the website. You must be a member of one of the sponsoring organizations including CLA, be able to attend multiple meetings each year and your organization's conference, complete other committee work as assigned and do lots of READING!

## How Do I Promote CYRM at My Public Library?

Although participation in voting for the California Young Reader Medal typically takes place in a classroom or school library setting, public libraries can find creative ways to take part in this unique and exciting process where California children and teens choose the winning titles.

Your public library can promote and participate in the following ways:

- Include CYRM information on your web site – with instructions on how to participate at your library.
- Create a display using posters of nominated books, the books themselves, ballots, and a ballot box.
- Produce bookmarks of the nominated books or have a bookmark contest for children.
- Reserve a set of Primary category and Picture Books For Older Readers category books for children to read and vote on in the library.
- Present a Storytime or class visit featuring the Primary category books. Children vote for their favorite book on the spot. Book talk the nominees at class visits for older students.
- Start a CYRM club or book club. Give certificates or prizes to students who read all the nominated books in a category and vote.
- Ask your Friends of the Library group to purchase multiple copies of the nominated books for members of your CYRM club to check out. Use the books as prizes.
- Promote to local schools via email or flyer. Have a drawing for schools who agree to participate using the nominated books as prizes.
- Contact local school library staff and work together to organize a promotional presentation for teachers about CYRM and the nominated books.
- Use the CYRM seals to mark the nominated and winning books.



Please visit the CYRM website at  
[californiayoungreadermedal.org](http://californiayoungreadermedal.org)

Presented by Contra Costa County Library  
and Santa Clara City Library

