



American Indian Library Association

Dear Publisher,

The American Indian Library Association (AILA) is proud to announce that the winners of our **American Indian Youth Literature Awards (AIYLA)** will be featured at the American Library Association's Midwinter Youth Media Awards in 2022. AIYLA identifies and honors the very best writing and illustrations for youth by and about Native Americans and Indigenous peoples of North America. The award encourages authors, illustrators, editors, publishers, and tribal entities to create materials that present Indigenous North American peoples in the fullness of their humanity.

We are now conducting preliminary evaluations of qualifying titles published **after October 1st, 2019** to be considered for the 2022 awards. Please consult our updated Criteria (<https://ailanet.org/activities/american-indian-youth-literature-award/>) to see which of your recent publications may be eligible. If you have any questions about eligibility, please contact the jury chair, Vanessa Centeno, Ailaawards2022@gmail.com.

Nominations are encouraged in fiction or nonfiction and may include graphic novels; for picture books, the award is for both author *and* illustrator (i.e., both author and illustrator must identify as Indigenous). Authors/illustrators may win the American Indian Youth Literature Award in the categories Best Picture Book, Best Middle Grade Book, and Best Young Adult Book. In addition, up to five awards may be selected as Honors books in each category. Please note, the Awards represent the ideals of our multiple communities, and we consider Native authors and illustrators to be role models for young people. For that reason, AILA does not endorse authors who appropriate other cultures or who behave in ways that dishonor others. **We request all authors/illustrators provide a biographical statement addressing their affiliation with or recognition by the Native community of which they claim to be a part.**

In 2022, AILA is soliciting submissions by Indigenous authors and illustrators throughout North America, including central Latin America, Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii. We encourage Indigenous languages or bilingual text however the committee's common language is English.

Please send one copy of each title submitted for consideration no later than October 31, 2021, to the following jury members. Thank you for supporting the American Indian Youth Literature Awards. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Centeno (Vigil)
Ailaawards2022@gmail.com