

Special Teaching Days– plus insights for educators– about the 2026 Towner Award nominees

Title of the Towner Award nominees	Type of Nonfiction (could be more than one type)	Suggested days/weeks/months to use this title
<u>World Kitchen</u>	Active	World Refugee Day - June 20th World Food Day – October 16th
<u>Jose Feeds the World</u>	Narrative	National Hispanic Heritage Month - Sept 15-Oct 15
<u>Rats to the Rescue</u>	Narrative	World Rat Day – April 4th International Day for Landmine Awareness – April 4th Asian American and Pacific Islander Month - May
<u>Leafy Landmarks</u>	Expository	Arbor Day – last Friday in April National Love A Tree Day – May 16th
<u>School of Magic</u>	Active	National Magic Week - Oct. 25-31 National Magic Day, which is the death anniversary of Harry Houdini - Oct. 31
<u>Capybara</u>	Traditional	World Animal Day – October 4th
<u>Volcanoes</u>	Expository	National Park Week At Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park - April 19th-27th May 18th date of Mt. St. Helens eruption - May 18-22
<u>The Wonders of Biomimicry</u>	Browseable	National Disability Employment Awareness Month (the author, Kathleen Madden, is dyslexic!) - October National Inventors Month - May International Day for Biological Diversity - May 22nd
<u>My Antarctica</u>	Expository	World Snow Day - third Sunday in January Black History Month (the author, Greg Neri, is African American!) - February World Penguin Day - April 25
<u>Snake Milker and Other Animal Jobs</u>	Browsable	Nat. Veterinary Day - Last Sat. Of April Nat. Animal Care & Control Appreciation Week - 2nd full week of April

Types of Nonfiction

Narrative Nonfiction



- Narrative writing style
- Tells a story or conveys an experience
- Real characters, scenes, dialog, narrative arc
- Strong voice and rich, engaging language
- Chronological sequence structure
- Ideal for biographies and historical events

Developed by children's book author Melissa Stewart. For more information, please visit www.melissa-stewart.com.

Active Nonfiction



- Highly interactive and/or teaches skills for engaging in an activity
- How-to guides, field guides, cookbooks, craft books
- Clear, straightforward language
- Expository writing style

Developed by children's book author Melissa Stewart. For more information, please visit www.melissa-stewart.com.

Expository Literature



- Expository writing style
- Specialized topic presented creatively
- Strong voice and rich, engaging language
- Innovative format
- Carefully chosen text structure
- Ideal for STEM concepts

Developed by children's book author Melissa Stewart. For more information, please visit www.melissa-stewart.com.

Browseable Nonfiction



- Eye-catching design, lavishly illustrated
- Short blocks of straightforward text
- Can be read cover to cover or by skipping around
- Great for shared reading
- Expository writing style
- Description text structure

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Traditional Nonfiction



- Survey (all about) books
- Overview of a topic
- Part of a large series
- Clear, straightforward language
- Expository writing style
- Description text structure

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