Suggested newsletter text for local libraries

Sample text can be used as is (with additions for your situation and institution) or can be used as based text for your own newsletter. **Please remember to replace the highlighted areas with the name of your institution!**

(Update April 2, 2024: the text referring to voting for the previous set of nominees has been edited to be strike-out text and should not be included after April 2, 2024.)

LOCAL LIBRARY VERSION

Kids vote, kids decide! [local library name] children and youth can help choose the winners of the California Young Reader Medal *

The [local library name] is letting everyone know that local children and youth can help determine the winner of a prestigious California book prize: the California Young Reader Medal. The children and young adults read book nominations, determine their favorite, and then vote in an online process. The books with the most votes in California are the winners!

Categories include picture books, picture books for older readers, intermediate, middle school, and young adult. There are 5 nominated books in the picture book category and 3 nominations in each of the other categories. This is the 50th anniversary of this California program that encourages love of reading!

Voting processes for the California Young Reader Medal should be guided by a library staff member for submission. All votes are due by April 1, 2025 (postmark deadline for paper mailed ballots). Winners will be announced on May 1, 2025. Information and the voting form is online. Vote — California Young Reader Medal

Primary (Grades K-3)

- ***Are You a Cheeseburger?*** Monica Arnaldo (author/illustrator), Harper Collins, 2021
- ***Luli and the Language of Tea*****,** Andrea Wang (author) & Hyewon Yum (illustrator), Neal Porter 2022
- ***Mel Fell*****,** Corey R. Tabor (author/illustrator), Balzer & Bray (Harper Collins Imprint) 2021
- ***My First Day*****,** Phùng Nguyên Quang and Huynh Kim Liên (authors/illustrators), Penguin Random House 2021
- ***Room for Everyone*****,** Naaz Khan (author) & Mercè López (illustrator), Simon & Schuster 2021

Picture Books for Older Readers (4th Grade and up)

- ***Cougar Crossing: How Hollywood's Celebrity Cougar Helped Build a Bridge for City Wildlife***, Meeg Pincus (author) & Alexander Vidal (illustrator), Beach Lane Books, 2021
- ***Gardner of Alcatraz, a True Story***, Emma Bland Smith (author) & Jenn Ely (illustrator), Charlesbridge Publishing, 2022
- ***Nour's Secret Library***, Wafa Tarnowska (author) & Vali Mintzi (illustrator), Barefoot Books, 2022

Intermediate (Grades 3-6)

- ***New From Here***, Kelly Yang, Simon & Schuster, 2022
- ***The Ogress and the Orphans***, Kelly Barnhill, Algonquin Young Readers (Hachette Book Group), 2022
- ***Three Strike Summer***, Skyler Schrempp, Margaret K. McElderry Books (Simon & Schuster), 2022

Middle School/Junior High (Grades 6-9)

- ***Blackbird Girls***, Anne Blankman, Puffin Books (Penguin Random House), 2020
- ***My Nest of Silence***, Matt Faulkner, Simon & Schuster, 2022
- ***Simon Sort of Says***, Erin Bow, Disney Hyperion, 2023

Young Adult (Grades 9-12)

- ***I Must Betray You***, Ruta Sepetys, Penguin Random House, 2021
- ***Love in English***, Maria E. Andreu, Balzer + Bray (Harper Collins), 2021
- ***Take Me With You When You Go***, David Levithan & Jennifer Niven, Knopf BYR (Penguin), 2021

[Consider putting a sentence here about how patrons get access to the books, and if there is programming centered around the nominees and voting process]

~~**Still time to vote for last year's nominees!** Many children and youth are in the process of reading the 2023-24 nominees as the 2024-25 nominations are announced. Educators and librarians have until April 1, 2024, to submit the ballots for last year's nominees. The list of last year's nominations is on the California Young Reader Medal website. Educators and teachers can guide readers to the online form. Vote — California Young Reader Medal~~

Recommendations for next year currently accepted. Students, librarians, and teachers may make recommendations on the California Young Reader Medal website for consideration next year. Recommended books must have been published within the past four years (2021-2024) by a living author. Books must be works of fiction except for the Picture Books for Older Readers category. Graphic novel recommendations are accepted. Picture books without words are not eligible. Recommend a Title — California Young Reader Medal

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*Alternate headline geared towards teens:

You vote, you decide! [local library name] youth and young adults can help choose the winners of the California Young Reader Medal