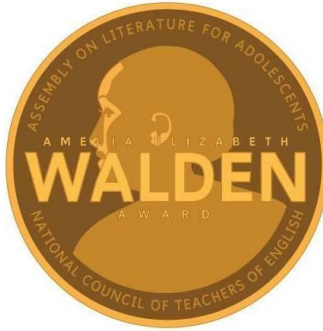


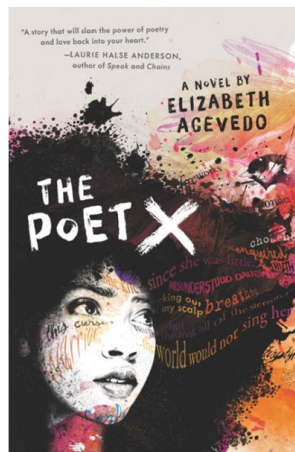


## **2019 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award Winner & Finalists Announced**

The Assembly on Literature for Adolescents (ALAN) of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) is pleased and proud to announce the 2019 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award for Young Adult Fiction winner and finalists. Established in 2008 to honor the wishes of young adult author Amelia Elizabeth Walden, the award allows for the sum of \$5,000 to be presented annually to the author of a young adult title selected by the ALAN Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award Committee as demonstrating a positive approach to life, widespread teen appeal, and literary merit.

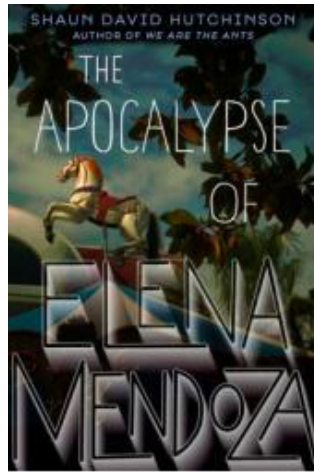
The 2019 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award winner is:

***The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo  
(Harper Teen / HarperCollins Publishers)**

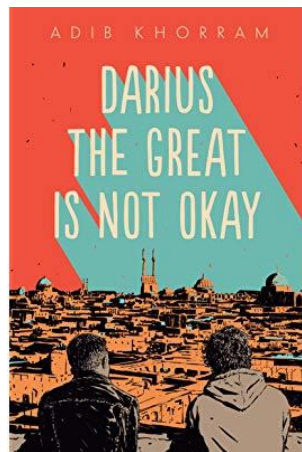


The 2019 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award finalists are:

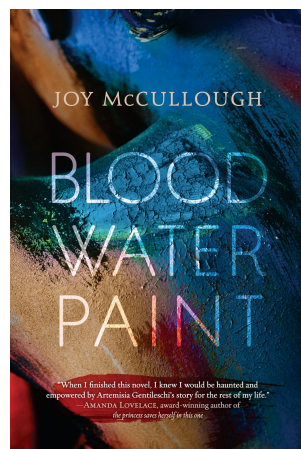
***The Apocalypse of Elena Mendoza* by Shaun David Hutchinson  
(Simon Pulse / Simon & Schuster)**



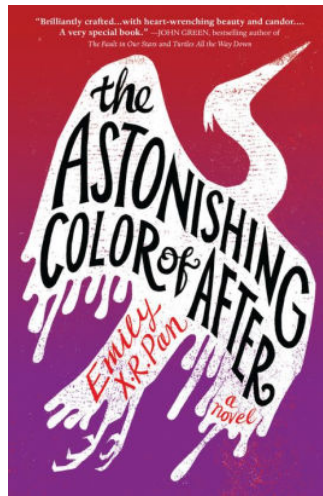
***Darius the Great is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram  
(Dial Books / Penguin Young Readers)**



***Blood, Water, Paint* by Joy McCullough  
(Dutton Books for Young Readers / Penguin Young Readers)**



***The Astonishing Color of After* by Emily X. R. Pan**  
**(Little, Brown and Company / Hachette Book Group)**



The winning title and finalists will be honored at the 2019 ALAN Workshop on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore, MD, and the authors will be invited to participate in a panel discussion.

The 2019 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Committee would like to thank: the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Foundation, the ALAN Executive Council, the ALAN Board of Directors, NCTE, and the many publishers who submitted titles for consideration.

The 2019 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Committee considered nearly 300 young adult titles throughout the process. The committee was comprised of eleven members representing the university, K-12 school, and library communities. They are:

Wendy Stephens, Committee Chair  
School Library Program Chair  
Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville AL

Beth Scanlon, Past Committee Chair  
ELA Teacher, Literacy Coach  
Cypress Creek High School, Orlando, FL

Sheila Benson  
Associate Professor, English Education  
University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls IA

Robert Bittner  
SSHRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

Jodi Blair  
Head Librarian  
Alcoa High School, Alcoa, TN

Sarah Mulhern Gross  
Teacher  
High Technology High School, Lincroft, NJ

Marie LeJeune  
Professor of Literacy  
Western Oregon University, Monmouth, OR

Kerry Neuberger  
Composition I & II, Eng 9, Model Teacher  
Garner-Hayfield-Ventura High School, Garner, IA

Jennifer Paulsen  
Teacher  
Holmes Junior High, Cedar Falls, IA

Beth Shaum  
K-8 Librarian  
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, Ann Arbor, MI

Marisa Tassinari  
School Librarian  
East Windsor High School, East Windsor CT

For more information on the award, please visit **ALAN Online: The Official Site of the  
Assembly on Literature for Adolescents**  
<http://www.alan-ya.org/awards/walden-award/>