



South Asia Book Award

346 Eggers Hall, Syracuse University
Syracuse NY 13244 - (315) 443-2553

www.southasiabookaward.org



2018 South Asia Book Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature

2018 Award Winners

Manjhi Moves a Mountain by Nancy Churnin; illustrated by Danny Popovici (Creston Books, 2017) In 1960, Dashrath Manjhi quietly decided to dedicate his days to making life better and easier for his Indian community. Using only a hammer and a chisel, he made a significant impact that allowed his neighbors to more easily access water, medical care and better schools. (Grades K-3)

Outside In by Jennifer Bradbury (Atheneum Books, 2017) Twelve-year old Ram survives on the streets of Chandigarh, India, winning games of gilli for money. After a game goes wrong, Ram darts deep into the forest, where he encounters a mysterious man, Nek, who creates art with scraps of metal and junk. Can Ram discover a way to keep Nek's sculptures safe? (Grades 4-8)

You Bring the Distant Near by Mitali Perkins (Farrar Straus Giroux Books, 2017) Perkins scoops up readers, traveling across oceans and through time to meet Raneer, Tara, Sonia, Anna, and Chantal as they create new lives in London, New York City, and Ridgeford, New Jersey. Learn what all three generations gain from each other, all in their own voices! (Grades 9-12)

2018 Honor Books

Maharani the Cow by Christy Shoba Sudhir; illustrated by Nancy Raj (Tulika Publishers, 2017). "Maaaaaaa" "Peen!" "Pawmp!" "Move, move..." Can you hear and see Maharani as she lumbers along her Indian city's streets? Sudhir and Raj want to be sure that you do as you learn about Maharani's day. This cow eats, sits, stops, or walks anywhere she pleases! Do you wonder why? (Grades Pre-K-2)

Pashmina by Nidhi Chanani (First Second, 2017). Priyanka Das is perpetually curious about her mother's homeland of India, why she left, and most importantly, who her father is, but Pri's mom is close-lipped on these topics. One day, Pri discovers a mysterious pashmina in a suitcase which, when wrapped around herself, transports her to an idealized version of India, but shadows lurking in the background may hold the answers she seeks. (Grades 3-6)

Ahimsa by Supriya Kelkar (Tu Books, 2017) When ten-year old Anjali's mother is jailed for protesting British rule using non-violent techniques (ahimsa), Anjali must confront her own prejudices and fears to take over her mother's work. Though she is young, Anjali's actions become significant in India's struggle for Independence. (Grades 5-9)

2018 Highly Commended Books

When the Rain Comes by Alma Fullerton; illustrated by Kim LaFave (Pajama Press, 2017) A Sri Lankan girl is excited because today she will learn to plant rice seedlings that are essential to her family and community. When the wind blows, the sky darkens and the rain pours down, it is up to her to save the seedlings, the ox and the cart that delivered them. (Grades PreK-3)

Amina's Voice by Hena Khan (Salaam Reads, 2017) When shy Amina enters sixth grade, she faces many challenges: her best friend is thinking of changing her name to be more "American", her strict uncle is visiting from Pakistan, and her teacher and friends are urging her to sing a solo in the school concert. When her hometown mosque is vandalized, Amina sees the community come together and finally finds her voice as she accepts who she is. (Grades 3-5)

Step Up to the Plate, Maria Singh by Uma Krishnaswami (Tu Books, 2017) Softball, World War II and prejudice come together in an historical fiction title that takes place in Yuba City, CA, in 1945. Fifth-grader Maria, whose father is from India and mother is from Mexico, fights to save her baseball field while helping to fight injustice against her intercultural family. (Grades 4-8)

When Dimple Met Rishi by Sandhya Menon (Simon Pulse, 2017) Dimple is surprised when her parents allow her to attend a special summer coding camp before she heads off to Stanford. Then she finds out the real reason they agreed - her parents want her to meet Rishi, another attendee and son of friends, with the hopes that they will fall in love and marry one day. How both Dimple and Rishi learn to follow their hearts makes for a delightful romantic comedy. (Grades 9-12)

The 2018 South Asia Book Award Recognition Ceremony and Author Roundtable will be held in Houston, TX on November 16-17, 2018

The South Asia National Outreach Consortium (SANOC) is the sponsor of the South Asia Book Award.



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Submissions Now Being Accepted for the 2019 South Asia Book Award

Award Rationale

Each year an increasing number of high-quality children's and young adult books are published that portray South Asia or South Asians living abroad. To encourage and commend authors and publishers who produce such books, and to provide librarians and teachers with recommendations for educational use, the South Asia National Outreach Consortium (SANOC) offers a yearly book award to call attention to outstanding works on South Asia.

Criteria

The committee will review works published in English, from early childhood to secondary reading levels. The culture, people or heritage of South Asia should be the primary focus of the text and accurately and skillfully portray South Asia, the experience of individuals living in South Asia, or of South Asians living in other parts of the world. The countries and islands that make up South Asia are: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the region of Tibet. In determining the award, books will be judged for: 1) literary quality 2) cultural authenticity and 3) potential for classroom use.

Eligibility

The 2019 committee will consider books that fit the SABA criteria (see above) and have been published during the preceding year (between January 1 - December 31, 2018). Each title should have a publication date of 2018, is available for purchase in 2018 and has a copyright date no later than 2018. If a book is published prior to its year of copyright as listed in the book, it shall be considered in its year of copyright as indicated in the book. Consideration will be given to the ease with which teachers and librarians in the United States would be able to order multiple copies.

Submission Process

To nominate a title, publishers are invited to submit review copies to the award committee. Submission deadline is January 31, 2019. Please send one copy of the nominated book to each member of the South Asia Book Award Committee:

Jennifer Burke 6548 Elmer Hill Road Rome, NY 13440	Sarah Sharp 8035 Winston Road Philadelphia, PA 19118	Rachel Weiss Asian Languages & Cultures, UW-Madison 1244 Van Hise Hall 1220 Linden Drive Madison, WI 53706
Jess Meyer 1418 Cap Stone Ridge New Braunfels, TX 78130	Maryann Owen 4821 Wildlife Drive Mt. Pleasant, WI 53403	Emera Bridger Wilson 346 Eggers Hall Syracuse University Syracuse, NY 13244
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