

Check Out a Winner at the Library

Donna Barba Higuera

The 2022 John Newbery Medal winner was “The Last Cuentista” by Donna Barba Higuera. The Newbery Medal is awarded to an author for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

“The Last Cuentista” is the story of Petra, a 12-year-old girl who, with her family, is one of a small group of people chosen to travel to another planet after a comet destroys Earth. During the 370-year journey, the travelers are placed in a state of suspended animation, but Petra is revived before the trip ends.

When she awakens, she discovers that the children have been “reprogrammed” and the adults have been eliminated, and she knows it’s up to her to become the *cuentista* — the storyteller — like her grandmother was back home. She must keep Earth’s stories alive among this new version of humanity.

Donna Barba Higuera is a Mexican American who was born in California. As a child, she loved reading and making up stories about the names she read on tombstones at the cemetery. Her own grandmother was a storyteller.

Today, Higuera lives in Washington with her family, three dogs and two frogs.

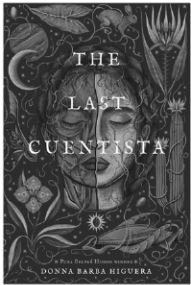


image courtesy Levine Querido



Donna Higuera

Jason Chin

The 2022 Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children was awarded to “Watercress.” It was illustrated by Jason Chin and written by Andrea Wang.

In “Watercress,” Wang tells the story of a young girl whose parents, immigrants from China, stop to gather wild **watercress**, a green leaf vegetable, growing along the side of the road in Ohio, where they live. She can’t understand why they would cut food from a ditch, or buy used furniture, and her family can’t understand why she’s embarrassed by them.

Through Wang’s story and Chin’s illustrations, they weave a way for the family to recognize each other’s experiences and to have empathy for each other.

Jason Chin grew up in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He said he studied Chinese calligraphy and painting while in college and used some of those elements while illustrating “Watercress.”

“Chinese painters use soft edges and empty (or nearly empty) space to convey expansive distance, and I’ve always felt this gives the paintings a dreamlike quality,” he said.

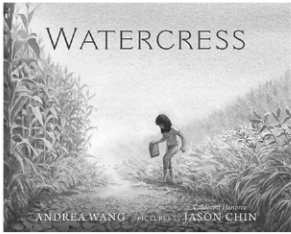
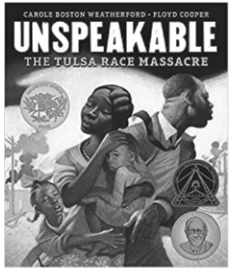


image courtesy Holiday House



Jason Chin



images courtesy Lerner Publishing

Coretta Scott King

The Coretta Scott King Author Book Award winner for 2022 was Carole Boston Weatherford for “Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre.” The illustrator of that book, Floyd Cooper, won the 2022 King Illustrator Book Award.



Carole Boston Weatherford



Floyd Cooper

The Coretta Scott King awards recognize African American authors and illustrators of outstanding books for children and young adults.

Honor Books

There were four Newbery Honor Books for 2022:

- “Red, White and Whole” by Rajani LaRocca
- “A Snake Falls to Earth” by Darcie Little Badger
- “Too Bright to See” by Kyle Lukoff
- “Watercress”

Four Caldecott Honor Books were named:

- “Have You Ever Seen a Flower?” illustrated and written by Shawn Harris
- “Mel Fell,” illustrated and written by Corey R. Tabor
- “Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre”
- “Wonder Walkers,” illustrated and written by Micha Archer

To read more about the many book awards given each year, visit the American Library Association’s Youth Media Award Winners Page, bit.ly/MPALAawards

Try ‘n’ Find

Words that remind us of award-winning books are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward. See if you can find:

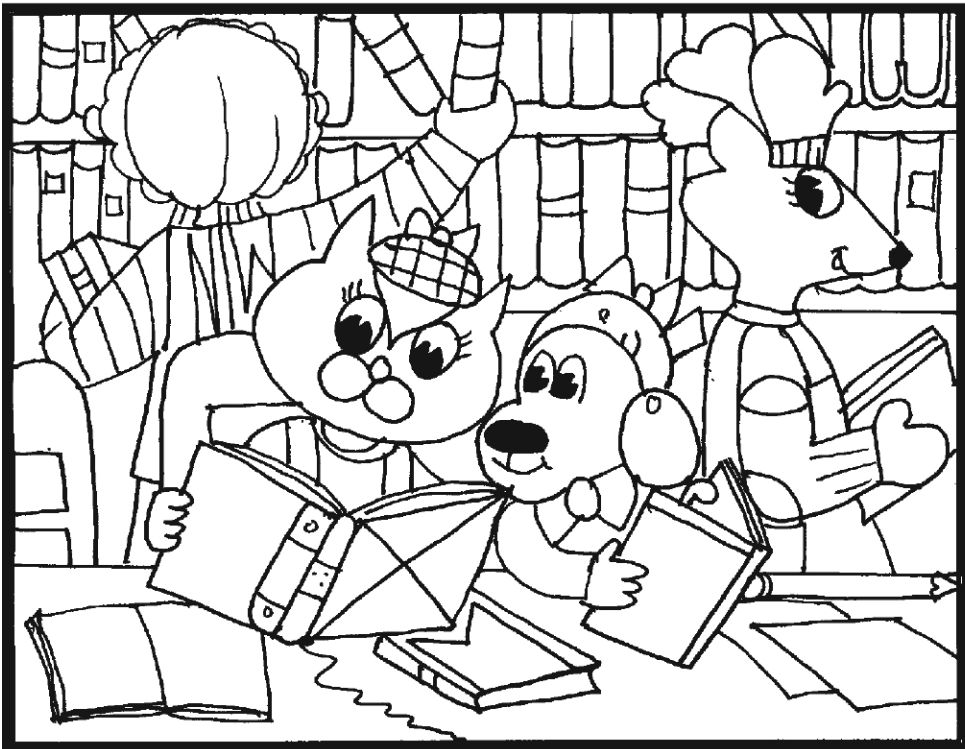
ANNIVERSARY, AUTHOR, AWARD, BOOK, CALDECOTT, CHILDREN, CUENTISTA, HONOR, ILLUSTRATOR, KING, LITERATURE, MEDAL, NEWBERY, PAINTING, STORY, UNSPEAKABLE, WATERCRESS, WINNER.

G Y R A S R E V I N N A V W C
N L R U W O T T O C E D L A C
I A E T R O N O H M B O O K O
T D N H S S E R C R E T A W N
N E N O O L I T E R A T U R E
I M I R A T S I T N E U C D W
A Z W H M S T O R Y H K R R B
P E L B A K A E P S N U Q A E
W S R O T A R T S U L L I W R
O K I N G C H I L D R E N A Y



Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and her friends are doing some research in the library. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



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- man in the moon
- sock
- mitten
- bandage
- kite
- letter M
- acorn
- pocketknife
- pencil
- number 3
- pumpkin
- olive
- heart
- word MINI

Mini Jokes



Brayton: How do you catch a whole school of fish?
Bentram: With bookworms!

Eco Note



An Indonesian crocodile trapped with a tire around its neck for five years has finally been freed by rescuers in a Central Sulawesi river. Conservation workers had tried since 2016 to capture the reptile and free it from the rubber necklace, but a local bird-seller named Tili eventually used chicken as bait and ropes to catch it. Dozens of nearby residents then pitched in to drag the animal to shore and cut the tire from its neck. A local conservation agency said Tili will be given a prize for his daring effort to free the croc.

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For later:

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