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2016 Massachusetts Book Awards Announced

Massachusetts Center for the Book (MCB) has announced the winners of the 2016 Massachusetts Book Awards, with plans to launch promotion of winning titles at Boston Book Festival on October 15. Recognizing significant works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and children's/young adult literature published by Commonwealth residents or about Massachusetts subjects, the 16th annual awards program is nationally regarded as one of the most select state programs.

"Once again, we received hundreds of submissions from authors, agents, editors and publishers," reported Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director of MCB. "The quantity and quality of the books is truly notable. Reflective of our robust literary culture, the 'MassBooks' underscore the unique characteristics of a Commonwealth that can boast a strong and accomplished community of writers, illustrators, and scholars."

The 2016 Fiction Award-winner is Paul Tremblay's *A Head Full of Ghosts*, and the Nonfiction winner is *Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter* by Kate Clifford Larson. *Immortality*, by Alan Feldman, won the 2016 Poetry Award. The winning selection from the Young Adult/Middle Reader category is Ali Benjamin's *The Thing About Jellyfish* and *Ketzel, the Cat who Composed*, by Leslea Newman, received the top Picture Book Award.

Massachusetts Center for the Book awarded Honors designation to the following Fiction finalists: Jabari Asim's *Only the Strong*; Matthew Neill Null's *Honey from the Lion*; and B. A. Shapiro's *The Muralist*. The Honors Nonfiction finalists are Jay Atkinson's *Massacre on the Merrimack: Hannah Duston's Captivity and Revenge in Colonial America*; Joseph J. Ellis' *The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution, 1783-1789*; and *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough. Poetry collections receiving Honors awards are *Incarnate Grace* by Moira Linehan; *Mistaking Each Other for Ghosts* by Lawrence Raab; and *Stable* by David R. Surette.

In the Young Adult/Middle Reader category, Honors titles include M. T. Anderson's *Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad*; Holly Black's *The Darkest Part of the Forest*; and Marika McCoola's *Baba Yaga's*

Assistant. Honors Picture Book and Early Reader titles are *Ling & Ting: Together in All Weather* by Grace Lin; *Growing Up Pedro* by Matt Tavares; and *You Nest Here With Me* by Jane Yolen and Heidi Stemple.

Reading advisors and judges from the library community across the state long-listed must-read books in each category; this select list was promoted recently by Mass Center for the Book in the Pavilion of States at National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. The top award winners have since been named with three honors titles in each division.

Along with Boston Book Festival and the annual conference of the New England Library Association (Oct 16–18), Massachusetts Center for the Book will be promoting the 2016 Mass Book Award winners in libraries, bookstores and through social media. Winners and honorees will be celebrated at a public State House ceremony and reception on December 6th. For information about the event, contact the Center at bookawards@massbook.org.

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