2012 CLA Young Adult Book Award

The Notables Session
CLA Conference 2012, Ottawa

Presented by Carol Rigby, YABA Jury Chair
About the Award & the Jury
About the Award

- Outstanding Canadian title in English appealing to teens ages 13-18
- Written by a Canadian or a landed immigrant
- Published in Canada first
- Fiction, short stories or graphic novel
- Shortlist of 10
- One winner
- Up to two honour books
About the Jury

2011-2012 members by length of term:
• Carol Rigby, Chair
• Barb Janicek
• Kim Hebig
• Stephanie Vollick
• Carmelita Cousins
Being a jury member can seem overwhelming…

Stephanie described the situation on her blog back in January — while my husband grumbles about being a YA book orphan.
Some general publishing trends observed in 2011

- Large increase in self-published submissions, including e-books, but seldom reaching the quality of books from recognized publishers
- “Issue” books are still popular: family situation, self-esteem, social inequity, bullying, peer relations, substance use
- Relatively little straight “genre” fiction — mysteries, horror, romance, SF, historical novels. Stories may have elements of these but blended into a larger framework or combining several. Fantasy is the strongest genre.
- Lots of material dealing with the environment & a dystopian view of the future, with or without a fantasy twist
The 2012 Shortlist

In alphabetical order by title.....
All Good Children
by Catherine Austen

2012 Award Winner
Published by Orca
First nomination

Trend: Dystopian fiction
Fanatics
by William Bell

Published by Random House
Author was Award winner in 2007 for The Blue Helmet and in 2002 for Stones; multiple nominee

Trend: strong male character
The Gathering
by Kelley Armstrong

Published by Random House
First nomination for this popular author

Trend: Paranormal elements, in this case shape-shifters or werecreatures
Held
by Edeet Ravel

Published by Annick Press
First nomination

Trend: Stories ripped from the headlines, multimedia approach
Karma
by Cathy Ostlere

Honour Book 2012
Published by Penguin Canada
First nomination

Trend: Verse novels
My Beating Teenage Heart
by C. K. Kelly Martin

Published by Random House
First nomination

Trend: Issue novel: sibling death & suicidal impulses
Once Every Never
by Lesley Livingston

Published by Penguin Canada
Author won Award in 2010 for Wondrous Strange

Trend: Learn history through time travel
This Dark Endeavour
by Kenneth Oppel

2012 Honour Book
Published by HarperCollins Canada
Last year’s double award winner for *Half-Brother*; nominated several times

Trend: New twists on classic stories: in this case, *Frankenstein*
The Town that Drowned, by Riel Nason

Published by Goose Lane Press
First nomination for Riel Nason

Trends: Including characters with special needs: the 60’s perception of autism
The Woefield Poultry Collective
by Susan Juby

Published by Harper Collins
Nominated for Another Kind of Cowboy in 2008

Trend: Cross-over adult novels of interest to teens
Questions?

For further discussion of this year’s submitted titles, or a view of our longlist, please contact me at: cerigby@xplornet.com

You might also enjoy Stephanie Vollick’s teen reading blog with YA lit reviews, Libraries and Young Adults, at: http://libraryyya.wordpress.com/

Consider joining the CLASY network of CLA!
Thank you for your interest

Thanks to LSC for sponsoring the Award & to TD for sponsoring the award reception.

For more information about the Award please visit the CLA website and check the book awards pages