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Newbery Medal Award Winners 1954-1968

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NEWBERY MEDAL AWARD WINNERS

1954-1968

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The John Newbery Medal Award winners from the years 1954-1968 cover a wide range of subjects. Biography, fantasy, adventure, family life and growing up books are among the winners.

Four of the books are historical fiction. Elizabeth Speare authored both The Bronze Bow and The Witch of Blackbird Pond. The Bronze Bow takes place in Galilee during the time of Christ. It contains a great deal of period content, as well as such real characters as Simon the Zealot and Jesus of Nazareth. The Witch of Blackbird Pond takes place in colonial Connecticut and is particularly effective in showing social and religious practices of the day. Spain is the setting for Elizabeth de Trevino's I, Juan de Pareja. The main character of the book was a Negro slave, owned by the famous Spanish painter Valazquez. The people in this book really existed but the events are primarily products of the author's imagination. Rifles for Watie deals with a young man fighting in the far western theater of the Civil War. The historical aspects of the novel are well researched.

The only biography to win the Newbery Medal since the inception of the award in 1922 is Carry On, Mr. Bowditch by Jean Latham. It is the life story of Nathaniel Bowditch, a brilliant mathematician and navigator.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle is a fantasy-science fiction novel. It gives a positive image of women and intellectually gifted children.

Several "growing up" books won the Newbery Medal in the years from 1954-1968. Joseph Krungold wrote two growing up books for boys; Onion John and . . . And Now Miguel are told in first person and are concerned with maturation. Shadow of a Bull by Maia Wojciechowska deals with a boy that is expected to become a bullfighter

but gives it upto become a doctor. It's Like This Cat by Emily Neville is about a boy growing up in New York City. Irene Hunt's Up a Road Slowly tells of a girl's experiences living in a small community.

Miracles on Maple Hill by Virginia Sorenson is about the life of a family that has recently moved to the country. The biggest "miracle" was th change in Dad who had just returned from a prisoner of war camp.

Adventure stories during this period of time range from a girl living alone for eighteen years in Scott O'Dell's Island of the Blue Dolphins to children running away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg. The Wheel on the School by Meindert DeJong tells of an entire School's effort to bring storks to their little village.

The only book about a Negro is I, Juan de Paraja and although he is a slave, his race is presented in a favorable manner.

Nine of the fifteen books are male oriented. A Wrinkle in Time, Island of the Blue Dolphins, From the Mixed Up Files. . ., and The Witch of Blackbird Pond show females in a positive manner. The Wheel on the School is blatantly derogatory toward women; however, the elderly and the handicapped are shown in a positive manner.

NEWBERRY AWARD WINNING BOOKS

1954--1968

- de Trevino, Elizabeth Borton. I, Juan de Pareja. New York: Farrar, 1965.
- DeJong, Meindert. The Wheel on the School. New York: Harper, 1954.
- Hunt, Irene. Up A Road Slowly. Chicago: Follett, 1966.
- Keith, Harold. Rifles for Watie. New York: Crowell, 1957.
- Konigsburg, E. L. From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. New York: Atheneum, 1967.
- Krumgold, Joseph. . . . And Now Miguel. New York: Crowell, 1953.
- _____. Onion John. New York: Crowell, 1959.
- Latham, Jean. Carry on, Mr. Bowditch. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1955.
- L'Engle, Madeleine. A Wrinkle in Time. New York: Farrar, 1962.
- Neville, Emily. It's Like This, Cat. New York: Harper, 1963.
- O'Dell, Scott. Island of the Blue Dolphins. New York: Dell, 1960.
- Sorenson, Virginia. Miracles on Maple Hill. New York: Harcourt, 1956.
- Speare, Elizabeth George. The Bronze Bow. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1961.
- _____. The Witch of Blackbird Pond. New York: Dell, 1958.
- Wojciechowska, Maia. Shadow of A Bull. New York: Atheneum, 1964.