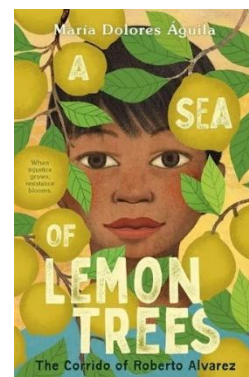




NCTE CHARLOTTE HUCK AWARD® FOR OUTSTANDING FICTION FOR CHILDREN 2026 WINNER LIST

The award was established in 2014 to promote and recognize excellence in the writing of fiction for children that has the potential to transform their lives by inviting compassion, imagination, and wonder. The award commemorates the work of educator Charlotte Huck and her focus on the importance of bringing books and children together in significant ways.

2026 Winner: *A Sea of Lemon Trees: The Corrido of Roberto Alvarez* by María Dolores Águila (Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan)



Honor Books:

- *The Trouble with Heroes* by Kate Messner (Bloomsbury Children's Books, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing)
- *All the Blues in the Sky* by Renée Watson (Bloomsbury Children's Books, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing)
- *Don't Cause Trouble* by Arree Chung (Henry Holt and Co., BYR Paperbacks, an imprint of Macmillan)
- *Kwesi and Nana Ruby Learn to Swim* by Kobina Commeh, illustrated by Bárbara Quintino (Barefoot Books)
- *The Playdate* by Uje Brandelius, illustrated by Clara Dackenberg (Lantana Publishing)

Recommended Books:

- *One Can* by Lana Button and Eric Walters, illustrated by Isabelle Malenfant (Groundwood Books)
- *The Interpreter* by Olivia Abtahi, illustrated by Monica Arnaldo (Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Random House)
- *We Go Slow* by Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie, illustrated by Aaron Becker (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster)
- *A Place for Us* by James E. Ransome (Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House)
- *Rez Kid* by Andrea Landry, illustrated by Isabella Fassler (Kids Can Press)
- *Popo the Xolo* by Paloma Angelina Lopez, illustrated by Abraham Matias (Charlesbridge)
- *Maybe Just Ask Me!* by Katie Mazeika (Beach Lane Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster)
- *Dear New Friend* by Taraneh Matloob, illustrated by Alida Massari (Red Comet Press)



National Council of
Teachers of English