



Washington Towner Book Award 2023 Nominees

April 4, 2023

This is a press release of the Towner Book Award, sponsored by Washington Library Association School Library Division (WLA), and focused on nonfiction picture books written for second through sixth grade students. The Towner Award is named after Bill Towner, a long-time Seattle librarian and mentor to dozens of teacher librarians. Bill shared his love of literature with thousands of students, and his passion exemplified how caring teachers and librarians can make a difference. The Towner Book Award was launched in his honor in 2013.

During the 2023-2024 school year, Washington State librarians and teachers will introduce and promote the nominated titles below. In the spring, all Washington State students in public and independent schools, from second through sixth grades, are invited to vote for their favorite book if they have listened to or read a minimum of two titles. Teachers and librarians may also vote for their favorite book with instructional value.

The Towner committee is made up of public and school librarians from across Washington State and meets each spring to select the 10 nonfiction picture book nominees. Eligible titles must have been published two years prior. For more information, see <http://www.wla.org/towner-award>.

We are pleased to present the nominations for the 2024 Towner Book Award for Nonfiction Picture Books

Do Bears Poop in the Woods?

Written by Huw Lewis Jones
Illustrated by Sam Caldwell
Published by Thames and Hudson

The Gardener of Alcatraz

Written by Emma Bland Smith
Illustrated by Jennifer Ely
Published by Charlesbridge

Good Eating: The Short Life of Krill

Written by Matt Tilley
Illustrated by Dan Tavis
Published by Tilbury House Publishers

A History of Underwear with Professor Chicken

Written by Hannah Holt
Illustrated by Korwin Briggs
Published by Roaring Book Press

Killer Underwear Invasion: How to Spot Fake News, Disinformation & Conspiracy Theories

Written and illustrated by Elise Gravel
Published by Chronicle Books

Lion Lights: my invention that made peace with lions

Written by Richard Turere and Shelly Pollock
Illustrated by Sonia Marialuce Possentini
Published by Tilbury House Books

Mega-predators of the Past

Written by Melissa Stewart
Illustrated by Howard Gray
Published by Peachtree

Splash! Ethelda Bleibtrey Makes Waves of Change

Written by Elisa Boxer
Illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley
Published by Sleeping Bear Press

The Sweetest Scoop: Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Revolution

Written by Lisa Robinson
Illustrated by Stacy Innerst
Published by Abrams Books

Washed Ashore: Making Art from Ocean Plastic

Written by Kelly Crull
Photos by Kelly Crull
Published by Millbrook Press