2023 YALSA’s Award for Excellence in Nonfiction

YALSA’s Award for Excellence in Nonfiction honors the best nonfiction book published for young adults (ages 12-18) during a Nov. 1 – Oct. 31 publishing year. YALSA—The Young Adults Library Services Association—is a division of the American Library Association. Some titles may be available in e-formats. Check the catalog or ask a librarian for assistance.

2023 Winner:

Smith, Tommie, Derrick Barnes, and illustrations by Dawud Anyabwile
Victory. Stand!: Raising My Fist for Justice
YA B Smith Sm or YA 796.42092
Gr. 8 and up
In this stunningly illustrated graphic memoir, 1968 Olympic gold medalist Tommie Smith recounts how his love of running and his passion for activism resulted in one of the most enduring images in sports history and the fight for civil rights.

2023 Finalists:

Dyson, Michael Eric and Marc Favreau
Unequal: A Story of America
YA 323.1196 Dy, Gr. 7 and up
Dedicated to revealing the history of systemic racial inequality and segregation in the United States, Dyson and Favreau connect important historical events to the current day. Included stories go beyond those of the most well-known activists to broaden the reader’s understanding of Black Americans’ fight for equality, while imploring the reader to use lessons from history to build a better future.

Henley, Ariel
A Face for Picasso: Coming of Age with Crouzon Syndrome
YA B Henley He or YA 617.52 He
Gr. 9 and up
Ariel Henley, diagnosed with Crouzon syndrome shortly after birth, details the many grueling surgeries she faced with her twin sister and her tumultuous feelings toward the art of Pablo Picasso. Henley tells of navigating the condition, being an outsider, and facing intentional and casual cruelty as a young adult.

Jarrow, Gail
American Murderer: The Parasite that Haunted the South
YA 616.9654 Ja, Gr. 6 and up
Jarrow takes a close look at hookworm, the parasitic scourge that sickened and killed millions of Americans at the turn of the 20th century. Primary sources and archival photos are used to scrupulously detail how the discovery of the parasite led to a public health movement aimed at eradicating the hookworm, and how efforts to defeat similar organisms continue today.

Ogle, Rex
Abuela, Don’t Forget Me
YA B Ogle Og or YA 306.8745 Ogle Og
Gr. 9 and up
Touching on topics including domestic abuse, homelessness, racism, homophobia, and poverty, Ogle demonstrates how the unconditional love of his Abuela saved his life. Ogle’s powerful and moving verse memoir pays tribute to a grandmother now suffering from dementia.

"Nonfiction Award", American Library Association, February 27, 2012.
http://www.ala.org/yalsa/nonfiction-award
(Accessed May 25, 2023)
Document ID: 187c009d-e15d-bb34-61f5-79d761195c7c

Compiled by Jan T. Kamiya
Young Adult Librarian
McCully-Mōlī‘ili Public Library
Hawaii State Public Library System
May 2023
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