2024 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.

2024 Winner:

Slater, Dashka
Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account and the Teenagers Whose Lives It Changed
YA 371.829 Sl, Gr. 9 and up
When a high school student started a private Instagram account that used racist and sexist memes to make his friends laugh, he thought it was "edgy" humor. Then a few other kids found out about the account and soon, everyone knew. Unfortunately, no one in the small town of Albany, CA was safe from the repercussions of the account's discovery. In the end, no one was laughing. And everyone was left asking: "where does accountability end for online speech that harms? And what does accountability even mean?"

2024 Finalists:

Aberg-Riger, Ariel
America Redux: Visual Stories from Our Dynamic History
YA 973 Ab, Gr. 8 and up
Through Aberg-Riger's mix of writing and collage, we learn about aspects of American History that are often not discussed, and she does not shy away from difficult topics. The exploitation of BIPOC individuals is front and center as she shows how this exploitation helped build our country.

Pham, Thien
Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam
YA GN B Pham Ph, YA B Pham Ph, or YA 959.704 Pham Ph
Gr. 9 and up
In this captivating graphic memoir, Thein and his family embark on a poignant journey to the United States. Seamlessly weaving together themes of food, family, and resilience, Pham's narrative will resonate deeply with readers.

Mufleh, Luma
From Here
YA B Mufleh Mu or YA 305.90691 Mufleh Mu Gr. 9 and up
Mufleh's journey as a gay teenager navigating a religious family's expectations is powerfully relatable for many teens. Through her courageous decision to journey to the United States, the narrative beautifully showcases her unwavering bravery and resilience.
Edinger, Monica and Lesley Younge

Nearer My Freedom: The Interesting Life of Olaudah Equiano by Himself
YA B Equiano Ed or YA 306.36209 Equiano Ed Gr. 7 and up

Told in found verse, using Equiano's own writings, this book spans his life from childhood through his enslavement and travels as a free man.

"YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults", American Library Association, February 4, 2008.
http://www.ala.org/yalsa/nonfiction (Accessed April 23, 2024)

Young Adult Librarian
McCully-Mōiliʻili Public Library
Hawaii State Public Library System
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