The Michael L. Printz Award is awarded by the American Library Association for a book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature. It is named for a Topeka, Kansas school librarian who was a long-time active member of the Young Adult Library Service Association.

2012 Winner:

WHERE THINGS COME BACK by Whaley (YA Whaley)
Grades 8 & up
Witty, sardonic Cullen Witter agonizes over the disappearance of his beloved brother, Gabriel, while everyone else in his stiflingly dull Arkansas town thrills to the apparent return of a long-extinct woodpecker. Kidnapping, bromance, arcane religious texts, and ornithology collide in this ground-breaking coming-of-age tale.
HONOR BOOKS:

WHY WE BROKE UP by Handler (YA Handler)
Grades 9 & up
In this beautiful piece of bookmaking, heartbroken movie obsessive Min Green dumps a box of relationship ephemera on ex-love Ed Slaterton’s porch, each item attached to a raging, loving, insecure and regretful letter explaining how each memento contributed to their breakup.

THE RETURNING by Hinwood (YA Hinwood)
Grades 9 & up
A large cast of characters from two fictional kingdoms recover from a drawn-out, brutal war in a portrait both sweeping and specific as it explores the ramifications of the conflict on Cam, the only one who lives to return to his village.

JASPER JONES by Silvey (YA Silvey)
Grades 9 & up
Spurred by the mysterious death of a schoolmate, Charlie confronts racism and his fears as he learns about family, friendship and love in the oppressive heat of small-town 1960s Australia. Silvey weaves themes of freedom and loyalty with moments of humor in this wrenching novel.

If we do not have the book you are looking for, we can have another library send it over for you!
THE SCORPIO RACES by Stiefvater (YA Stiefvater)
Grades 8 & up
A bloody, intoxicating horse race on the Island of Thisby is the backdrop for this atmospheric novel. The heart-pounding story pits two teens against death – to win is to survive.

2011 WINNER:

SHIP BREAKER by Bacigalupi (YA Bacigalupi)
Grades 7 & up
Near a drowned New Orleans ravaged by hurricanes and global warming, Nailer and his young crew eke out a meager existence by scavenging materials on the ship-littered coast.

HONOR BOOKS:

STOLEN by Christopher (YA Christopher)
Grades 9 & up
The rugged Australian outback becomes Gemma’s prison after she is drugged and abducted by a handsome, obsessed stranger in a first novel filled with searing imagery and archetypal characters.
PLEASE IGNORE VERA DIETZ by King (YA King)  
Grades 9 & up  
Vera Dietz wants to be ignored, but the ghost of her ex-best friend won’t leave her alone in this dark comedy that examines relationships, identity, grief and flowcharts.

REVOLVER by Sedgwick (YA Sedgewick)  
Grades 7 & up  
In Sedgwick’s grim, chilling story set in the Arctic Circle, Sig finds his father’s frozen corpse as human predator Wolff arrives seeking retribution and a hidden Gold Rush treasure.

NOTHING by Teller (YA Teller)  
Grades 7 & up  
Pierre Anthon’s nihilism causes his classmates to begin a search for life’s meaning in this bold, unsettling parable translated from Danish.
GOING BOVINE by Bray (YA Bray)
Grades 9 & up
In an attempt to find a cure after being diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jakob's (aka mad cow) disease, Cameron Smith, a disaffected sixteen-year-old boy, sets off on a road trip with a death-obsessed video gaming dwarf he meets in the hospital.

Honor Books:

CHARLES & EMMA: THE DARWIN'S LEAP OF FAITH by Heiligman (YA B Darwin)
Grades 8 & up
To marry or not to marry? This biography starts with Charles Darwin making a list of domestic pros and cons. Despite his reservations, he decided that marriage and family life were worth the risk, and so he married Emma Wedgwood, not knowing that her religious nature would call his science into question.

THE MONSTRUMOLOGIST by Yancey (YA Yancey)
Grades 8-10
In 1888, twelve-year-old Will Henry chronicles his apprenticeship with Dr. Warthrop, a scientist who hunts and studies real-life monsters, as they discover and attempt to destroy a pod of Anthropophagi.
PUNKZILLA by Rapp (YA Rapp)
Grades 9 & up
Fourteen year-old Jamie ("Punkzilla") is coming down from his latest hit of meth and traveling across country by bus to see his brother P, a Memphis playwright dying of cancer. Jamie’s letters to P tell the story of his journey and his recent turn as a military school dropout.

TALES OF THE MADMAN UNDERGROUND: A HISTORICAL ROMANCE, 1973 by Barnes (YA Barnes)
Grades 9 & up
For years, Karl has been part of the Madman Underground - kids forced to attend group therapy during school hours. Karl decides that for his senior year, he is going to get out of the group for good. He is going to act - and be - Normal. But Normal, of course, is relative.

WINNER:

JELLYCOE ROAD by Marchetta (YA Marchetta)
Grades 8 & up
Abandoned by her drug-addicted mother at the age of eleven, high school student Taylor Markham struggles with her identity and family history at a boarding school in Australia.

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Honor Books:

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume II, The Kingdom of Waves by Anderson (YA Anderson)
Grades 9 & up
After escaping a death sentence in the summer of 1775, Octavian and his tutor find shelter but no safe harbor in British-occupied Boston and, persuaded by Lord Dunmore's proclamation offering freedom to slaves who join his counterrevolutionary Royal Ethiopian Regiment, Octavian and his friends soon find themselves engaged in naval raids on the Virginia coastline as the Revolutionary War breaks out in full force.

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks by Lockhart (YA Lockhart)
Grades 7 & up
Sophomore Frankie starts dating senior Matthew Livingston, but when he refuses to talk about the all-male secret society that he and his friends belong to, Frankie infiltrates the society in order to enliven their mediocre pranks.

Nation by Pratchett (YA Pratchett)
Grades 7-10
After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, together with a small band of refugees, set about rebuilding their community and all the things that are important in their lives.
**TENDER MORSELS** by Lanagan (YA Lanagan)
Grades 9 & up
A young woman who has endured unspeakable cruelties is magically granted a safe haven apart from the real world and allowed to raise her two daughters in this alternate reality, until the barrier between her world and the real one begins to break down.

**2008 WINNER:**

**THE WHITE DARKNESS** by McCaughrean (YA McCaughrean)
Grades 9 & up
Taken to Antarctica by the man she thinks of as her uncle for what she believes to be a vacation, Symone - a troubled fourteen-year-old - discovers that he is dangerously obsessed with seeking Symmes's Hole, an opening that supposedly leads into the center of a hollow Earth.

**HONOR BOOKS:**

**DREAMQUAKE: BOOK TWO OF THE DREAM HUNTER DUET** by Knox
Grades 9 & up
Aided by her family and her creation, Nown, Laura investigates the powerful Regulatory Body's involvement in mysterious disappearances and activities and learns, in the process, the true nature of the Place in which dreams are found.
ONE WHOLE AND PERFECT DAY by Clarke (YA Clarke)
Grades 8 & up
As her irritating family prepares to celebrate her grandfather's eightieth birthday, sixteen-year-old Lily yearns for just one whole perfect day together.

REPOSSessed by Jenkins (YA Jenkins)
Grades 9 & up
A fallen angel, tired of being unappreciated while doing his pointless, demeaning job, leaves Hell, enters the body of a seventeen-year-old boy, and tries to experience the full range of human feelings before being caught and punished, while the boy's family and friends puzzle over his changed behavior.

YOUR OWN, SYLVIA: A VERSE PORTRAIT OF SYLVIA PLATH by Hemphill (YA 811.6 HEM)
Grades 8 & up
The author interprets the people, events, influences and art that made up the brief life of Sylvia Plath.
American Born Chinese by Yang (YA G American)
Grades 7 & up
Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture. Presented in comic book format.

Honor Books:

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation; v. 1: The Pox Party by Anderson (YA Anderson)
Grades 9 & up
Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.

An Abundance of Katherines by Green (YA Green)
Grades 9 & up
Having been recently dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, recent high school graduate and former child prodigy Colin sets off on a road trip with his best friend to try to find some new direction in life while also trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships.
SURRENDER by Hartnett (YA Hartnett)  
Grades 9 & up  
As he is dying, a twenty-year-old man known as Gabriel recounts his troubled childhood and his strange relationship with a dangerous counterpart named Finnigan.

THE BOOK THIEF by Zusak (YA Zusak)  
Grades 9 & up  
Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel - a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

2006  
WINNER:  

LOOKING FOR ALASKA by Green (YA Green)  
Grades 9 & up  
Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.

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**Honor Books:**

**Black Juice** by Lanagan  
Grades 9 & up  
Provides glimpses of the dark side of civilization and the beauty of the human spirit through ten short stories that explore significant moments in people's lives, events leading to them, and their consequences.

**I Am the Messenger** by Zusak (YA Zusak)  
Grades 9 & up  
After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, and he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness.

**John Lennon: All I Want Is the Truth, A Photographic Biography** by Partridge (YA B Lennon)  
Grades 9 & up  
The story of one of rock's biggest legends, from his birth during a 1940 World War II air raid on Liverpool, through his turbulent childhood and teen years, to his celebrated life writing, recording, and performing with the Beatles and beyond.
A WREATH FOR EMMETT TILL by Nelson (YA 811.54 NEL)
Grades 9 & up
In 1955, people all over the United States knew that Emmett Louis Till was a fourteen-year-old African American boy lynched for supposedly whistling at a white woman in Mississippi. The brutality of his murder, the open-casket funeral, and the acquittal of the men tried for the crime drew wide media attention.

2005
WINNER:

HOW I LIVE NOW by Rosoff (YA Rosoff)
Grades 8 & up
To get away from her pregnant stepmother in New York City, fifteen-year-old Daisy goes to England to stay with her aunt and cousins, with whom she instantly bonds, but soon war breaks out and rips apart the family while devastating the land.

HONOR BOOKS:

AIRBORN by Oppel (YA Oppel)
Grades 6-10
Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.
CHANDA’S SECRETS by Stratton (YA Stratton)
Grades 8 & up
A girl’s struggle amid the African AIDS pandemic, Chanda, is an astonishingly perceptive girl living in the small city of Bonang, a fictional city in Southern Africa.

LIZZIE BRIGHT AND THE BUCKMINSTER BOY by Schmidt (JF Schmidt)
Grades 6 & up
In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers - and Turner’s - want to change into a tourist spot.

2004
WINNER:

THE FIRST PART LAST by Johnson (YA Johnson)
Grades 8 & up
Bobby’s carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.
HONOR BOOKS:

A NORTHERN LIGHT by Donnelly (YA Donnelly)
Grades 8 & up
In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiance, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest. Based on a true story.

KEESHA’S HOUSE by Frost
Grades 7 & up
Seven teens facing such problems as pregnancy, closeted homosexuality, and abuse each describe in poetic forms what caused them to leave home and where they found home again.

FAT KID RULES THE WORLD by Going (YA Going)
Grades 8 & up
Seventeen-year-old Troy, depressed, suicidal, and weighing nearly 300 pounds, gets a new perspective on life when a homeless teenager who is a genius on guitar wants Troy to be the drummer in his rock band.
**THE EARTH, MY BUTT, AND OTHER BIG ROUND THINGS** by Mackler (YA Mackler)
Grades 7-10
Feeling like she does not fit in with the other members of her family, who are all thin, brilliant, and good-looking, fifteen-year-old Virginia tries to deal with her self-image, her first physical relationship, and her disillusionment with some of the people closest to her.

**2003 WINNER:**

**POSTCARDS FROM NO MAN’S LAND** by Chambers (YA Chambers)
Grades 9 & up
Alternates between two stories - contemporarily, seventeen-year-old Jacob visits Amsterdam - and historically, nineteen-year-old Geertrui relates her experience of British soldiers’ attempts to liberate Holland from the Nazis.

**HONOR BOOKS:**

**THE HOUSE OF THE SCORPION** by Farmer (Summer)
Grades 7 & up
In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.
**MY HEARTBEAT** by Freymann-Weyr  
Grades 8 & up  
As she tries to understand the closeness between her older brother and his best friend, fourteen-year-old Ellen finds her relationship with each of them changing.

**HOLE IN MY LIFE** by Gantos (YA B Gantos)  
Grades 8 & up  
The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer.

**2002 WINNER:**  
**A STEP FROM HEAVEN** by Na (YA Na)  
Grades 9 & up  
A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America.
Honor Books:

**THE ROPEMAKER** by Dickinson
Grades 9 & up
When the magic that protects their Valley starts to fail, Tilja and her companions journey into the evil Empire to find the ancient magician Faheel, who originally cast those spells.

**HEART TO HEART: NEW POEMS INSPIRED BY TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICAN ART** by Abrams (J 811 NEW)
Grades 5 & up
A compilation of poems by Americans writing about American art in the twentieth century, including such writers as Nancy Willard, Jane Yolen, and X.J. Kennedy.

**FREEWILL** by Lynch
Grades 7 & up
A teenager trying to recover from the tragic death of his father and stepmother believes himself to be responsible for the rash of teen suicides occurring in his town.
**TRUE BELIEVER** by Wolff (YA Wolff)
Grades 6 & up
Living in the inner city amidst guns and poverty, fifteen-year-old LaVaughn learns from old and new friends, and inspiring mentors, that life is what you make it - an occasion to rise to.

**2001 Winner:**

**Kit’s Wilderness** by Almond (YA Almond)
Grades 6-9
Thirteen-year-old Kit goes to live with his grandfather in the decaying coal mining town of Stoneygate, England, and finds both the old man and the town haunted by ghosts of the past.

**Honor Books:**

**Many Stones** by Coman
Grades 7 & up
When her sister is murdered while working as a volunteer at a school in South Africa, 16-year-old Berry sets out on a two-week trip to South Africa to attend a memorial service with her estranged father.
The Body of Christopher Creed by Plum-Ucci (YA Plum-Ucci)
Grades 8 & up
Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast.

Angus, Thongs, and Full Frontal Snogging: Confessions of Georgia Nicolson by Rennison (YA Rennison)
Grades 6-9
Presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a fourteen-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.

Stuck in Neutral by Trueman (YA Trueman)
Grades 5-10
Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.
2000
Winner:

**MONSTER** by Myers (YA Myers)
Grades 7-12
While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

**Honor Books:**

**SKELLI** by Almond (JF Almond)
Grades 5-9
Unhappy about his baby sister's illness and the chaos of moving into a dilapidated old house, Michael retreats to the garage and finds a mysterious stranger who is something like a bird and something like an angel.

**SPEAK** by Anderson (YA Anderson)
Grades 8 & up
A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.
HARD LOVE by Wittlinger
Grades 7 & up
After starting to publish a zine in which he writes his secret feelings about his lonely life and his parents' divorce, sixteen-year-old John meets an unusual girl and begins to develop a healthier personality.