Invitation to nominate for the 2020 award

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award has the honour to invite you to propose one or several candidates for the 2020 award.

Each year the award jury appoints nominating bodies from all over the world to propose candidates for the award. These organisations and institutions are assumed to have the broadest and most profound knowledge about authors, illustrators, storytellers and/or activities to promote reading in their respective countries or regions.

The invitation to nominate comprises the following parts:

1. Information about the award, nominating bodies and laureates
2. Nomination regulations
3. Nomination form

The last date for submission of nominations is May 15, 2019. The form must be submitted in one of the following ways: on the award website, by e-mail or by ordinary mail.

Your nominations are a significant part in the accumulation of a bank of knowledge of international children’s and young adult literature. It forms the basis for the jury’s task of finding the laureate who, in the spirit of Astrid Lindgren, best promotes reading.

We cordially invite you to take part in the nomination process for the 2020 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

Stockholm, January 2020

Helen Sigeland
Director
Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

Boel Westin
Chairman of the Jury
Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award
1. INFORMATION ABOUT THE AWARD, NOMINATING BODIES AND LAUREATES

1.1 The award
The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is an international award for literature for children and young adults. The award was established by the Swedish government in 2002 to strengthen and increase interest in literature for children and young people around the world and to promote children’s rights.

Presented annually to one or more laureates irrespective of language or nationality, the award can be given to living authors, illustrators, storytellers, and/or to people, projects or organisations promoting reading. The amount of the award is SEK five million, making it the world’s foremost award for children’s and young adult literature and the second largest literary prize in the world.

Astrid Lindgren was born in 1907 and died in 2002 at the age of 94. She is Sweden’s most extensively translated author and her books can be read in 100 languages. A lifelong champion of children’s rights, Astrid Lindgren always maintained that she wrote for the child within her. The statutes of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award stipulate that the laureates’ work must be of the highest artistic quality and should convey the deeply humanistic spirit associated with Astrid Lindgren. The award is for an artist’s entire production rather than individual works.

Laureates are chosen by a jury and the decision is based on nominations from selected nominating bodies around the world. The jury reserves the right to propose its own nominees. Nobody can apply for the award on their own behalf. The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is administered by the Swedish Arts Council, and further information can be found on the award website: www.alma.se/en.

1.2 The nominating bodies
Each year the jury appoints nominating bodies from all over the world to propose candidates for the award. These organisations and institutions are assumed to have the broadest and most profound knowledge about authors, illustrators, storytellers and/or activities to promote reading in their respective countries or regions. The aim is to achieve a global overview of literature for children and young adults of the highest artistic quality.

The jury annually reviews the list of nominating bodies. A list of the organisations invited to submit nominations for the 2020 award can be found on the award website www.alma.se/en.

1.3 Laureates
The 2020 laureate will be announced in March 2020. The 2019 laureate will be announced on April 2 this year. The list of nominated candidates can be found on www.alma.se/en.

Previous laureates:
2018: Jacqueline Woodson, US
2017: Wolf Erlbruch, Germany
2016: Meg Rosoff, United Kingdom/US
2015: PRAESA, South Africa
2014: Barbro Lindgren, Sweden
2013: Isol, Argentina
2012: Guus Kuijer, The Netherlands
2011: Shaun Tan, Australia
2010: Kitty Crowther, Belgium
2009: Tamer Institute, Palestine
2008: Sonya Hartnett, Australia
2007: Banco del Libro, Venezuela
2006: Katherine Paterson, US
2005: Ryōji Arai, Japan and Philip Pullman, UK
2004: Lygia Bojunga, Brazil
2003: Christine Nöstlinger, Austria, and Maurice Sendak, US
2. NOMINATION REGULATIONS

2.1 Who is entitled to submit nominations?
Only the appointed nominating bodies and the jury are entitled to propose candidates.

Nominating bodies may neither nominate themselves, their own projects, nor a project where the nominating body is a co-organiser. A nominating body may not nominate individuals that are part of the management of the organisation in question.

2.2 Who is eligible for nominations?
Nominating bodies may propose authors/illustrators/storytellers whose work for children and young adults is of the highest artistic quality, imbued with the same profound spirit of humanity that characterised Astrid Lindgren. The award is for the entire body of work, not an individual piece.

Nominating bodies may also propose persons, organisations, projects or the like that have carried out exceptional work to promote reading on the part of children and young adults.

The award cannot be given posthumously.

2.3 How many candidates can be nominated?
Each nominating body is entitled to nominate a maximum of four candidates.

- A maximum of two candidates in the category of writing/illustrating/storytelling/promotion of reading from the nominating body’s own country.
- A maximum of two candidates in the category of writing/illustrating/storytelling/promotion of reading from a different country.

2.4 What should a valid nomination comprise?
The nomination form must be completed and signed. The documents to accompany a valid nomination are specified on the nomination form. In the case of a re-nomination, it is sufficient to send in the first page of the nomination form with the name of the re-nominated candidate. Information that relates to new works or contains any other relevant new information should be submitted as well.

2.5 How long is a nomination valid?
A nomination is valid for the year in question. The following year(s) the nominating body may re-nominate the candidate(s), see 2.4.

2.6 Assessment of candidates
All candidates have an equal chance, regardless of the nominating body. A candidate’s chances are not dependent on the number of nominations received for the candidate in question.
2.7 Nomination format
Nomination materials may be filled out on the award website www.alma.se/en, submitted by e-mail or by ordinary mail.

2.8 Nomination language
Invitations and nomination regulations are available in English and Swedish. The nomination form must be submitted in one of these two languages.

2.9 Latest date for nominations
Nominations must reach the Swedish Arts Council by May 15, 2019. The jury maintains the right to reject nominations for the following reasons: late or incomplete nominations, nominations from organisations not approved by the jury or nominations otherwise invalid according to the nomination rules.

2.10 Address
If sent by ordinary mail the nomination letter and additional material should be addressed to:

Swedish Arts Council
Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award Office
Att: Nomination
P.O. Box 27215
Visiting address: Borgvägen 1–5
SE-102 53 Stockholm, Sweden

E-mail: nomination@alma.se

2.11 Public documents
The nominations sent to the Swedish Arts Council are public documents and the list of nominated candidates will be published at www.alma.se/en during autumn 2019.

2.12 Schedule for the nomination process
December: The jury decides upon new nominating bodies
January: Nomination forms are distributed to the nominating bodies
May: The last date for the submission of nominations is May 15, and confirmations of the received nominations are sent to the participating nominating bodies
October: The list of nominated candidates is published, and confirmation letters of approved nominations are sent to the nominated candidates and the nominating bodies
March: Announcement of the laureate(s)
May: Award ceremony

2.13 Contact for further information
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www.alma.se/en