

# Teaching with Book Series: What Newbery Winners Reveal About Student Engagement



## [Get the Google Slides here.](#)

The Google Slides contain the charts and questions that help students analyze the charts. They also include slides that help students compare and contrast the different versions of *Doctor Dolittle*.



# Books in Series Newbery Winners from 1999-2024

Year	Title	Author	Number in Series
1999	Holes	Louis Sachar	1 of 2
2000	Bud, Not Buddy	Christopher Paul Curtis	NA
2001	A Year Down Yonder	Richard Peck	2 of 3
2002	A Single Shard	Linda Sue Park	NA
2003	Crispin: The Cross of Lead	Avi	1 of 3
2004	The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread	Kate DiCamillo	NA
2005	Kira-Kira	Cynthia Kadohata	NA
2006	Criss Cross	Lynne Rae Perkins	NA
2007	The Higher Power of Lucky	Susan Patron	1 of 3
2008	Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village	Laura Amy Schlitz	NA
2009	The Graveyard Book	Neil Gaiman	1 of 2
2010	When You Reach Me	Rebecca Stead	NA
2011	Moon over Manifest	Clare Vanderpool	NA
2012	Dead End in Norvelt	Jack Gantos	1 of 2
2013	The One and Only Ivan	Katherine Applegate	NA
2014	Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures	Kate DiCamillo	NA
2015	The Crossover	Kwame Alexander	1 of 2
2016	Last Stop on Market Street	Matt de la Peña	NA
2017	The Girl Who Drank the Moon	Kelly Barnhill	NA
2018	Hello, Universe	Erin Entrada Kelly	NA
2019	Merci Suárez Changes Gears	Meg Medina	NA
2020	New Kid	Jerry Craft	1 of 2
2021	When You Trap a Tiger	Tae Keller	NA
2022	The Last Cuentista	Donna Barba Higuera	NA
2023	Freewater	Amina Luqman-Dawson	NA
2024	The Eyes and the Impossible	Dave Eggers	NA

# Books in a Series Questions

Based on the information on the chart, what conclusions can you make?

Approximately what percentage of Newbery Award Winners in the last 20 years are part of a series?

Of the books in a series, is it more likely that the author decided to create a series after or before the success of the Newbery winner?

Why are books in a series popular?

Do you prefer books in a series or standalone books? Explain your reasons for this.



# Books in a Series Questions – Sample Answers

## Question 1:

Based on the information on the chart, what conclusions can you make?

### Sample Answer:

Many Newbery Medal winners are standalone books, but a few are part of a series. This shows that while series are popular with readers, the award committee often chooses books that can stand alone. However, when a book in a series does win, it's usually the first in the set.

## Question 2:

Approximately what percentage of Newbery Award Winners in the last 20 years are part of a series?

### Sample Answer:

Out of the 26 winners from 1999 to 2024, **10 books** are part of a series. That's about **38%**, which means a little more than one-third of the winners are connected to other books.

## Question 3:

Of the books in a series, is it more likely that the author decided to create a series after or before the success of the Newbery winner?

### Sample Answer:

It's a mix, but in many cases, the Newbery-winning book was the **first in the series**, and the author continued the story afterward. This suggests that winning the award may have encouraged the author to expand the story into a series.

## Question 4:

Why are books in a series popular?

### Sample Answer:

Books in a series are popular because readers get to spend more time with characters they love. Series also build suspense and make you want to keep reading to find out what happens next. They're great for building reading stamina and creating emotional connections.

## Question 5:

Do you prefer books in a series or standalone books? Explain your reasons for this.

### Sample Answer:

I prefer books in a series because I like getting attached to characters and following them through different adventures. It feels like I'm part of their world. Standalone books are good too, but sometimes I wish they had a sequel so the story wouldn't end so quickly.



# Ratings for Newbery Winners from 1999-2024

Year	Title	Author	<u>Rating on Goodreads</u>	Rating on Amazon	Rating on Barnes & Noble	Rating on Wal-Mart
1999	Holes	Louis Sachar				
2000	Bud, Not Buddy	Christopher Paul Curtis				
2001	A Year Down Yonder	Richard Peck				
2002	A Single Shard	Linda Sue Park				
2003	Crispin: The Cross of Lead	Avi				
2004	The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread	Kate DiCamillo				
2005	Kira-Kira	Cynthia Kadohata				
2006	Criss Cross	Lynne Rae Perkins				
2007	The Higher Power of Lucky	Susan Patron				
2008	Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village	Laura Amy Schlitz				
2009	The Graveyard Book	Neil Gaiman				
2010	When You Reach Me	Rebecca Stead				
2011	Moon over Manifest	Clare Vanderpool				
2012	Dead End in Norvelt	Jack Gantos				
2013	The One and Only Ivan	Katherine Applegate				
2014	Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures	Kate DiCamillo				
2015	The Crossover	Kwame Alexander				
2016	Last Stop on Market Street	Matt de la Peña				
2017	The Girl Who Drank the Moon	Kelly Barnhill				
2018	Hello, Universe	Erin Entrada Kelly				
2019	Merci Suárez Changes Gears	Meg Medina				
2020	New Kid	Jerry Craft				
2021	When You Trap a Tiger	Tae Keller				
2022	The Last Cuentista	Donna Barba Higuera				
2023	Freewater	Amina Luqman-Dawson				
2024	The Eyes and the Impossible	Dave Eggers				

# Ratings for Newbery Winners from 1999-2024

## Sample Answer Key - Ratings Change Daily

Year	Title	Author	<u>Rating on Goodreads</u>	Rating on Amazon	Rating on Barnes & Noble	Rating on Wal-Mart
1999	Holes	Louis Sachar	4.01	4.7	4.6	4.4
2000	Bud, Not Buddy	Christopher Paul Curtis	3.97	4.6	4.4	4.4
2001	A Year Down Yonder	Richard Peck	4.13	4.7	4.1	4.5
2002	A Single Shard	Linda Sue Park	3.95	4.6	4.1	4.6
2003	Crispin: The Cross of Lead	Avi	3.65	4.3	4.0	3.9
2004	The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread	Kate DiCamillo	4.07	4.6	4.5	4.2
2005	Kira-Kira	Cynthia Kadohata	3.97	4.4	4.5	4.3
2006	Criss Cross	Lynne Rae Perkins	3.36	3.5	3.3	3.9
2007	The Higher Power of Lucky	Susan Patron	3.58	4.6	3.9	3.9
2008	Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village	Laura Amy Schlitz	3.67	4.6	4.3	4.3
2009	The Graveyard Book	Neil Gaiman	4.15	4.1	4.2	4.3
2010	When You Reach Me	Rebecca Stead	4.09	4.6	4.3	4.3
2011	Moon over Manifest	Clare Vanderpool	4.04	4.6	4.2	4.2
2012	Dead End in Norvelt	Jack Gantos	3.72	4.3	4.1	4.0
2013	The One and Only Ivan	Katherine Applegate	4.27	4.7	4.6	4.4
2014	Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures	Kate DiCamillo	3.88	4.5	4.3	4.3
2015	The Crossover	Kwame Alexander	4.22	4.7	4.5	4.5
2016	Last Stop on Market Street	Matt de la Peña	4.30	4.5	4.7	4.5
2017	The Girl Who Drank the Moon	Kelly Barnhill	4.11	4.7	5	4.5
2018	Hello, Universe	Erin Entrada Kelly	3.92	4.6	5	4.3
2019	Merci Suárez Changes Gears	Meg Medina	4.18	4.6	4.6	4.1
2020	New Kid	Jerry Craft	4.15	4.9	4.8	4.8
2021	When You Trap a Tiger	Tae Keller	4.14	4.8	4.7	4.7
2022	The Last Cuentista	Donna Barba Higuera	4.05	4.8	4.7	4.7
2023	Freewater	Amina Luqman-Dawson	4.16	4.8	4.7	4.7
2024	The Eyes and the Impossible	Dave Eggers	4.23	4.7	4.6	4.6

# Newbery Medal Winner Questions

How many books from the last 20 Newbery Award Winners had consistent ratings of 4.0 or higher for all websites?

Does being a Newbery Winner make a book an instant hit? Explain why or why not.

Is the Newbery Medal Winner list a good place to find a great book to read? Explain why or why not.

Based on ratings alone, which title would be the best to read?

Do you have a favorite book that did not win a Newbery Medal? What is the title? Write a paragraph explaining why it should have received the Newbery Medal?



# Newbery Medal Winner Questions – Sample Answers

## Question 1:

How many books from the last 20 Newbery Award Winners had consistent ratings of 4.0 or higher for all websites?

### Sample Answer:

Out of the last 20 Newbery Medal winners, **14 books** had consistent ratings of **4.0 or higher** across Goodreads, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Walmart. This shows that most winners are well-liked by readers, but not all are universally loved.

## Question 2:

Does being a Newbery Winner make a book an instant hit? Explain why or why not.

### Sample Answer:

Not always. While some Newbery winners like *The One and Only Ivan* and *New Kid* became instant favorites, others like *Criss Cross* and *Kira-Kira* received lower ratings on Goodreads. Winning the award brings attention, but it doesn't guarantee every reader will enjoy the book. Personal taste and genre matter too.

## Question 3:

Is the Newbery Medal Winner list a good place to find a great book to read? Explain why or why not.

### Sample Answer:

Yes, it's a great starting point! Most Newbery winners are well-written and offer strong themes, diverse characters, and meaningful stories. However, not every book will appeal to every reader. It's helpful to read reviews or summaries first to find one that matches your interests.

## Question 4:

Based on ratings alone, which title would be the best to read?

### Sample Answer:

Based on ratings, *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate stands out. It has a **4.4 on Goodreads** and **4.9 or higher** on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Walmart. That's a strong sign that many readers loved it!

## Question 5:

Do you have a favorite book that did not win a Newbery Medal? What is the title? Write a paragraph explaining why it should have received the Newbery Medal.

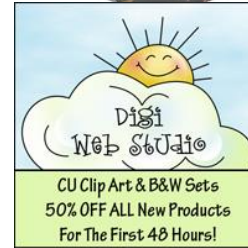
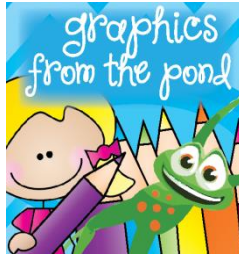
### Sample Answer:

One of my favorite books is *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. It didn't win the Newbery Medal, but I think it should have. The story is powerful and emotional, showing how kindness can change lives. Auggie's journey helps readers understand empathy and inclusion. The writing is heartfelt, and the multiple perspectives make it even more meaningful. It's the kind of book that sticks with you long after you finish it.



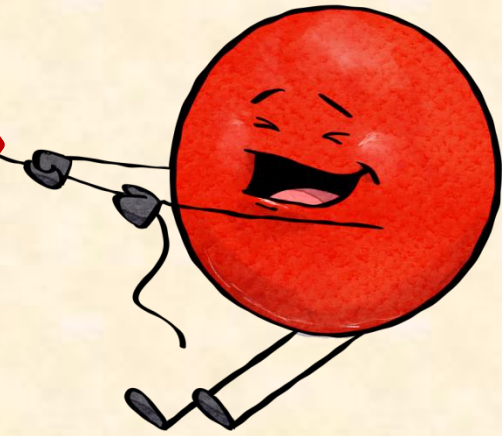


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