

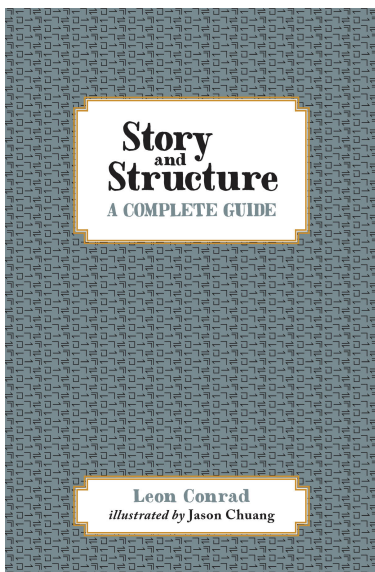


Independent Publishers of New England

2022 IPNE Book Awards

Winners and Finalists

Informational Nonfiction



Winner

Story and Structure: A Complete Guide

Author: Leon Conrad

Illustrator: Jason Chuang

Book design: Studio Monachino

Publisher: Aladdin's Cave Publishing

Using just six primary symbols, author Leon Conrad outlines eighteen story structures, both showing how these structures optimally solve the problems which give rise to them and offering insights into story as a dynamic force of life. Our judges called this book incredibly ambitious and surprisingly accessible — and expressed the hope that it would be marketed so as to bring scholarly audiences into the conversation.

Finalists

Lovable: How Women Can Heal Their Sensitive Hearts and Love as Their True Selves

Author: Andrea Paquette

Publisher: Peter E. Randall Publisher

This guide is for women who feel they've been playing a role all their lives rather than realizing their authentic selves. Nurse-practitioner Andrea Paquette interweaves stories of emotional neglect in childhood, explores the coping mechanisms that can later arise, and offers strategies for deep healing. Our judges pronounced the book clear, cohesive, and well-organized. Easy to absorb. Well-supportive of the material.

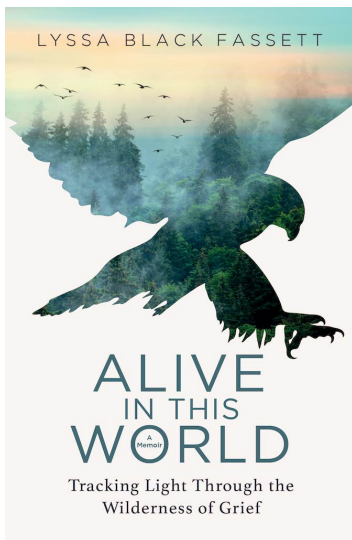
Feed Our Students Well: 18 Customer Service Concepts for Public School Food Service

Author: Kelly E. Middleton

Publisher: Wheatmark

The school cafeteria as a place of respite from busy school life? Where the quality of the food is so fine that parents of younger kids prefer not to send meals from home? Where older kids themselves prefer to eat? Superintendent Kelly E. Middleton brings his expertise to bear on the sorry state of food service in our public schools. Our judges called his vision wise, far-sighted, and generous — and his accompanying plan detailed, specific, and concrete.

Narrative Nonfiction



Winner

Alive in This World: Tracking Light Through the Wilderness of Grief

Author: Lyssa Black Fassett

Publisher: Darbytree

In this aching memoir of loss, author Lyssa Black Fassett grapples with the sudden death of her 22-year-old son, taking us along with her on a journey from broken to wholly renewed in remarkable and unexpected ways. Our judges called the writing vivid, the path rich and deep, the emotional journey relatable and immersive.

Finalists

Black, White, and Gray All Over: A Black Man's Odyssey in Life and Law Enforcement

Author: Frederick Douglass Reynolds

Growing up, Frederick Reynolds seemed at times destined for a life on the wrong side of the law. Turning instead to embrace the law, Reynolds brought his streetwise experience to bear on his work as he made his way from raw recruit to seasoned detective. Though Reynolds garnered commendation after commendation and multiple awards for the quality of his judgment and leadership, the trauma of that work took its toll on his personal life. Our judges called Reynold's odyssey compelling.

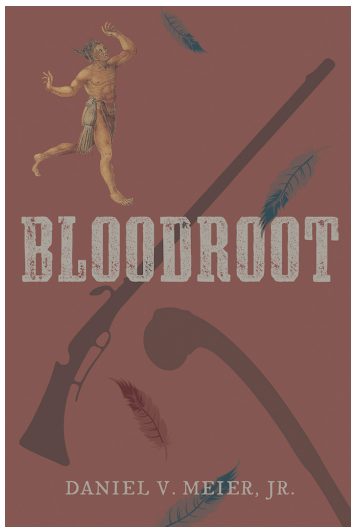
Every Life a Story: Natalie Jacobson Reporting

Author: Natalie Jacobson

Publisher: Peter E. Randall Publisher

After a life spent telling other people's stories, Natalie Jacobson now tells her own. Her story takes us behind the scenes of broadcast television and inside the life of a woman who made her way from an immigrant childhood to become the first woman to anchor the evening news in Boston. Our judges called the book breezy and informative.

Genre Fiction



Winner

Bloodroot

Author: Daniel V. Meier, Jr.

Publisher: BQB Publishing

Author Daniel Meier's novel immerses readers in a gripping struggle for survival in America's earliest settlement, at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1609, for a story in which all the beauty, and all the horror, of that time are vividly portrayed. Our judges called this novel deeply researched, extremely well crafted, engrossing. A story long to remember.

Finalists

All Men Glad and Wise

Author: Laura C. Stevenson

Publisher: Rootstock Publishing

Part coming-of-age tale, part cozy mystery, and set on the cusp of the 1920s, Laura Stevenson's novel explores a time of tremendous social change on the great estates: the inequities of service jobs, the quandaries of grooms as technology advances, and the patriarchal assumptions that excludes women from valued work — and from riding astride. Our judges said this story drew them in and carried them along.

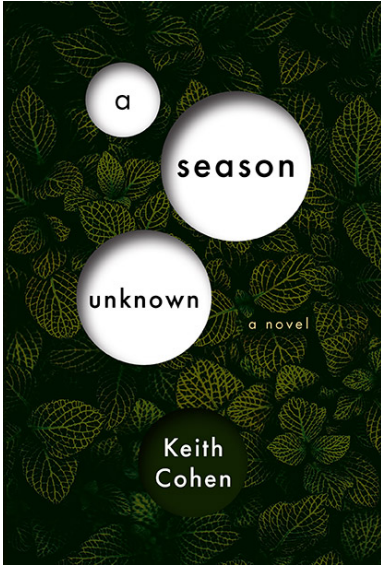
Horondo Burning

Author: Michael Freed-Thall

Publisher: Rootstock Publishing

Set in the Russian Empire's Pale of Settlement, author Michael Freed-Thall's novel explores the turbulent history of the late 19th century that led to the migration of one-and-a-half million Jews from czarist Russia to America. The novel is a love letter to literature, freedom, and survival. Our judges called the reading experience immersive and illustrative; the prose, clear; the characters, well-drawn.

Literary Fiction



Winner

A Season Unknown

Author: Keith Cohen

Publisher: k + p press

In this moving debut novel, author Keith Cohen explores the unique and unexplained connections that are possible between human and animal. And the urgent need, if we're to save the earth, for us to realign our relationship with the natural world. Our judges called the concept original; the premise, strong and unique; the story, magical. A tale for our times. One to be read and reread, one to savor.

Finalist

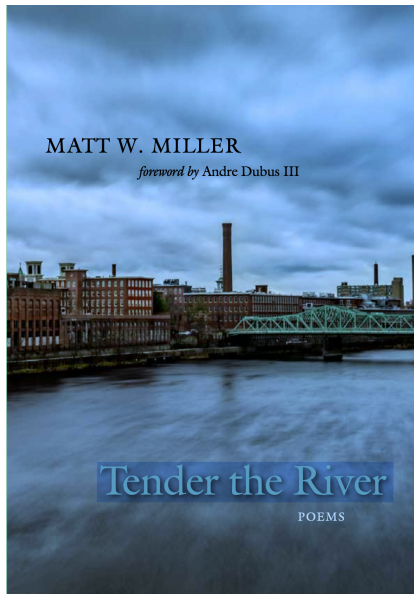
When Lions Roar

Author: Karen Leigh Gruber

Publisher: Silk Dragon Press

Set in South Africa as the country is reeling from the aftershocks of apartheid, author Karen Leigh Gruber's novel delves into the story of two women from different lands, different cultures, each struggling to survive. Our judges called this a beautifully crafted story that resonates.

Poetry



Winner

Tender the River

Author: Matt W. Miller

Publisher: Texas Review Press

Poet Matt Miller’s collection captures in verse the history and legacy of the Merrimack River Valley, from the earliest settlements of indigenous tribes, to the European settlers who arrived to supplant them, to its identity as the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution, and beyond, down to the present day. Our judges called the work a “sensitive and deft weaving of intimate narrative, physical landscape, and social history that both clings and tears.” A work that is whole and vivid, nuanced and deliberate, intimate and inviting.

Finalist

Adrift: The Love and Loss of Living with Dementia

Author: Gary Rainford

Publisher: North Country Press

In this collection of moments that marked the journey, poet Gary Rainford explores the terrible scourge that is dementia — and along the way, reflects upon the human condition. Our judges called the poetry beautiful and poignant, a haunting portrayal of the gut-wrenching impact of illness, loss, and death.

Children's Picture Books



Winner

Forever Home

Author: Cathy Stenquist

Illustrator: Erica Leigh

Publisher: Cathy Stenquist Books

Author Cathy Stenquist's debut picture book tells the heartwarming story of two orphaned kittens, rescued from a life of want, and the way in which they slowly come to trust their new lives. Our judges called the rhyme nicely done; the story arc strong and satisfyingly resolved; the perspective fresh, unique, and engaging.

Finalist

Oceans Alive!

Book Two in the Daniel McFly Series

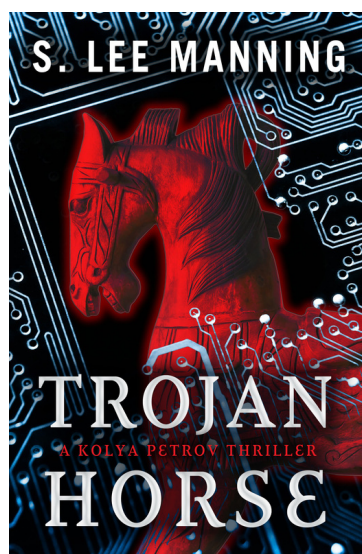
Author: Sheryl Davis

Illustrator: Daniel Fiore

Publisher: Pierce Press/Gigglequick Books

In this latest installment of the Daniel McDougal McDouglas McFly series, author Sheryl Davis explores ways in which we can all help protect our seas. Our judges commended the inviting manner in which this critical subject is explored, the clear call to action, and the useful suggestions for kids themselves to become actively involved in being a part of the solution.

Design



Book of the Year

Winner

Trojan Horse A Kolya Petrov Thriller

Author: S. Lee Manning

Book design: Eddie Vincent, Encircle Publications

Cover design: Deirdre Wait, High Pines Creative, Inc.

Publisher: Encircle Publications

Our judges called the cover design dramatic, one that perfectly reflects genre and tone, inviting the reader in; and the interior layout, crisp and clean. For an overall effect that's bold and professional.

Finalist

June First

Author: Lori Michelle Hawks

Book and cover design: Lori Michelle Hawks and
Mohamed Daamouche

Illustrations: Olha Melnyk

Our judges called these illustrations gorgeous — bright and cheerful and charming — perfect for young readers.

Fiction

Bloodroot

Author: Daniel V. Meier, Jr.

Publisher: BQB Publishing

Nonfiction

Story and Structure: A Complete Guide

Author: Leon Conrad

Illustrator: Jason Chuang

Book design: Studio Monachino

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