

CALDECOTT MEDAL

ELEMENTARY LIBRARY LESSON

Guides your entire lesson

Great for introducing
Mock Caldecott!

Updated for 2026

Grades 2-5



WHAT IS THE CALDECOTT MEDAL?

- Award given to books for children
- “Children” can be up to age 14
- Caldecott Medal is for the book’s artwork
- Almost always given to picture books

Teacher Name _____

Caldecott Medal Winner

RECOMMENDED

SCAVENGER HUNT

How many of these pictures and facts can you find?

In what year does the Caldecott Medal turn 100 years old?

What call number does our library use for picture books?

What color is a Caldecott Medal?

Caldecott Medal Winners (2011 – 2020)

Caldecott Medal Winners List:
Joseph Had a Little Overcoat
So You Want to Be President!
The Three Pigs (Wiesner, 2002)
My Friend Rabbit (Rohmann, 2005)
The Man Who Walked Between
Kitten's First Full Moon (Henkes, 2004)
The Hello, Goodbye Window (Justi Ficksam (Wiesner, 2007)
The Invention of Hugo Cabret (Selznick)
The House in the Night (Swanson, 2010)
The Lion & the Mouse (Pinkney, 2010)

Teacher Name _____

Let's draw a box of crayons!

SCAVENGER HUNT

Can you find all the pictures?

pencil doodling

LET'S TALK ABOUT...THE CALDECOTT!

Today in the library, we learned about the Caldecott Medal! Here are some things I learned...

Caldecott Quiz

1. What is the Caldecott Medal given for?
2. In what year was the first Caldecott Medal awarded?

Caldecott Awards (gold seal)

Recommended Caldecott Winning Books

- The Undeclared (Alexander, 2020)
- We Are Water Protectors (Lindstrom, 2021)
- Watercress (Wang, 2022)
- Hot Dog (Salati, 2023)

Mrs. READER PANTS

won the Caldecott Medal for a little boy playing in the snow.

with white frosting

THIS CALDECOTT-THEMED RESOURCE INCLUDES:

HOW TO QUALIFY

- Book is intended for children ages 0-14
- Book was published in the year before the award is given

WINNERS AND HONORS

- There is only one Caldecott winner each year.
- The winner gets a gold seal on the front cover of the book. This seal will always appear on the book's cover from now on.
- There are also "second place" winners. These are called Caldecott Honor books.
- There can be one or more Caldecott Honor books. These books also get a seal on the cover, but the Honor seal is silver.



2-part presentation (whole-group lesson + scrolling slideshow)



2 scavenger hunt activities + answer key



Printable Recommended Reads list




Standards-aligned lesson plan (AASL, CCSS, and TEKS) + "I Can" Statements

PART I - WHOLE-GROUP LESSON

A read-aloud is optional for this lesson. If you choose to read aloud, I recommend reading the most recent Caldecott winner.

These slides introduce students to the Caldecott Award. It includes recent winners, criteria for the award, the difference between winners and honors, and who selects the winners.




WHAT IS THE CALDECOTT MEDAL?

- Award given to books for children
- "Children" can be up to age 14
- Caldecott Medal is for the book's artwork

to picture books

ARTWORK

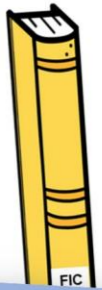
- Artwork may include drawings, paintings, photographs, woodcuts, colored pencils, digital art, mixed media, and more.
- **Mixed media** is a mix of different art forms. For example, the illustrations may be a mix of photographs and drawings.
- The Caldecott is NOT given for the book's words. There are other awards for the words.



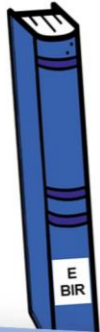
PART II - SCROLLING SLIDES

PICTURE BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

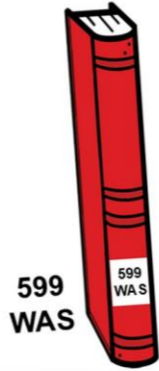
Based on the spine label, which of these books is most likely a picture book in our library?



OR



OR



(next slide)

The slides in Part II need to be set on a timer (instructions with visuals included).

The scrolling slides include fun facts, trivia, Would-You-Rathers, and vocabulary words related to the Caldecott Medal and recent winners.

PICTURE BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Based on the spine label, which of these books is most likely a picture book in our library?

ANSWER: The blue book!

The top of the call number is the letter E.

E books are picture books. The E can stand for "Easy," but picture books are not always "easy" reads. Many librarians prefer to call them "Everyone" books.

Students watch the slideshow to find the images and information included in the differentiated Scavenger Hunt activities.

RECOMMENDED READS

Caldecott Medal Winners 2000-2026



Caldecott Medal Winners (2000 – 2010)

Joseph Had a Little Overcoat (Taback, 2000)
So You Want to Be President? (St. George, 2001)
The Three Pigs (Wiesner, 2002)
My Friend Rabbit (Rohmann, 2003)
The Man Who Walked Between the Towers (Gerstein, 2004)
Kitten's First Full Moon (Henkes, 2005)
The Hello, Goodbye Window (Juster, 2006)
Flotsam (Wiesner, 2007)
The Invention of Solitaire (Selznick, 2008)
The House in the Woods (Jurga, 2009)
The Lion & the Witch (Cress, 2010)

Caldecott Medal Winners (2011 – 2020)

A Sick Day for Amos McGee (Steinbeck, 2011)
A Ball for Daisy (Raschka, 2012)
This Is Not My Hat (Klassen, 2013)
Locomotive (Floca, 2014)
The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend (Cooper, 2015)
Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear (Blackall, 2016)
Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat (Stephens, 2017)
Wolf in the Snow (Cordell, 2018)
Hello Lighthouse (Blackall, 2019)
The Undefeated (Alexander, 2020)

Caldecott Medal Winners (2021 – Present)

**EDITABLE
TEXT**



This is an editable list of all the Caldecott winners since 2000.

The list is updated annually shortly after the new winners are announced. This is usually at the end of January or early February.

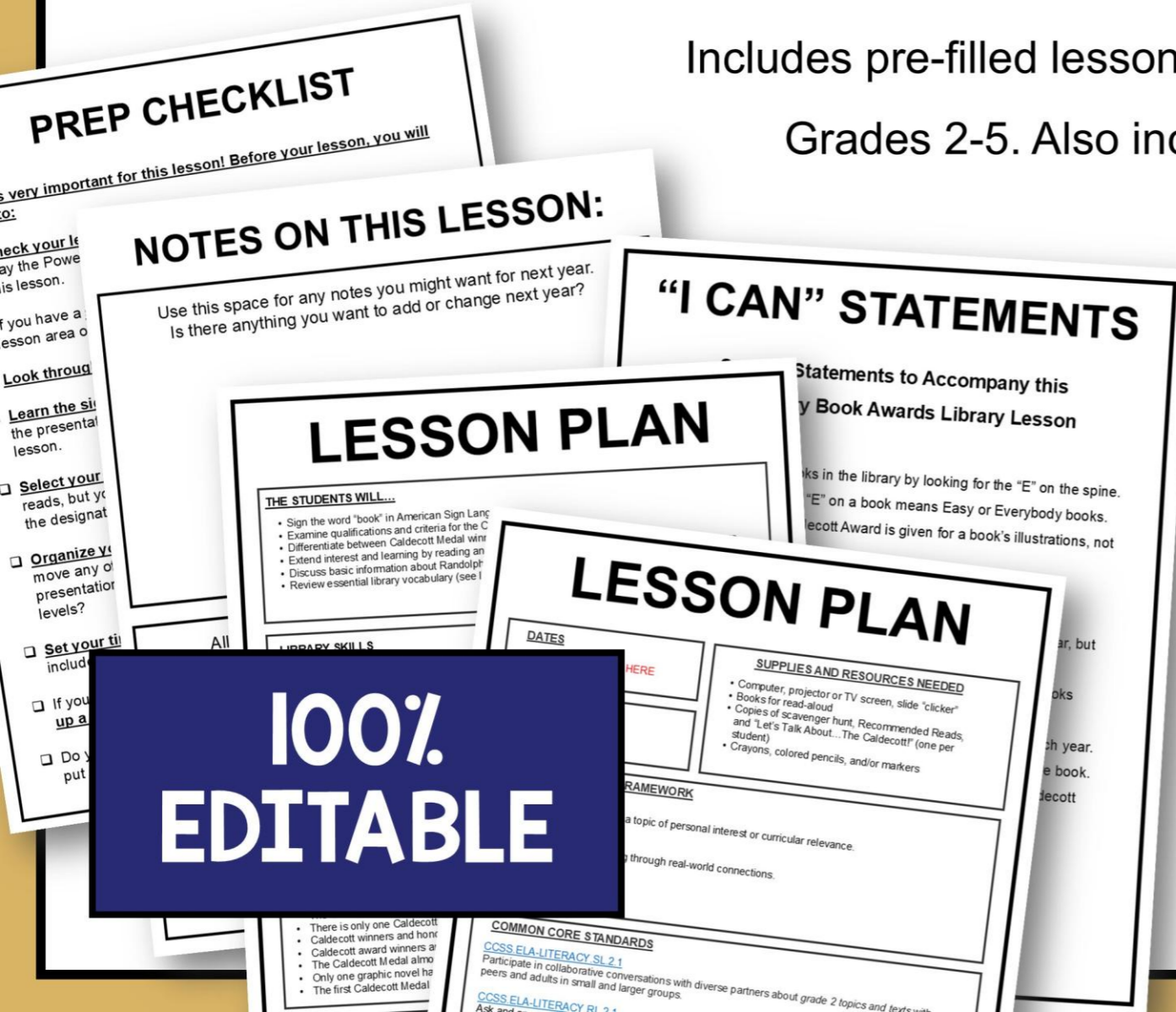
Use it for your own reference, add it to book displays, or send it to teachers or home to parents!

EDITABLE LESSON PLAN

Includes pre-filled lesson plan with AASL, CCSS, and TEKS standards for Grades 2-5. Also includes 12 "I Can" Statements for this lesson.

The Notes page is a place where you can make notes to yourself for next year, or whenever you teach this lesson again.

100% editable to make it as easy and useful as possible!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Is this lesson ready
to use TODAY?**

Mostly, yes! There are a few slides that are customizable to your library.

If you need a lesson in a pinch, you can just skip over or delete those slides in the lesson.

Is this lesson editable?

Yes – all text in all parts of the lesson presentation and printables are editable in PPT and Google Slides.

PDFs are editable in Canva and Adobe Acrobat Pro.

**Can I use this to introduce
Mock Caldecott?**

This lesson is PERFECT for introducing Mock Caldecott!

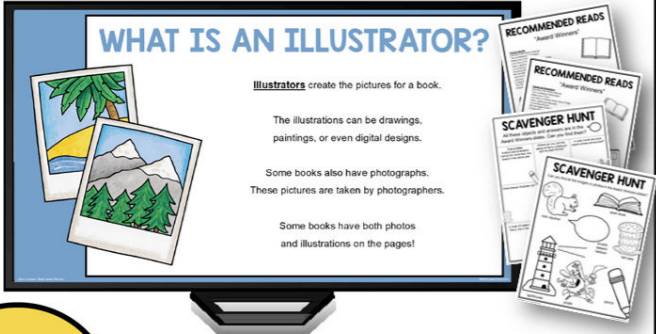
Students will learn about criteria for the award and some recent winners. Criteria is particularly important for Mock Caldecott. You want to make sure the titles students select are eligible to win.

MORE ELEMENTARY LIBRARY LESSONS

Love this Library Lesson? I have a lot more! All follow the same format as this Caldecott Library Lesson. The lessons below are all designed for 50-minute classes or two 25-minute classes.

INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES

BOOK AWARDS LIBRARY LESSON




GRADES K-5

Updated for 2026!

11th READER PANTS

INCLUDES GOOGLE™ SLIDES

ELEMENTARY LIBRARY LESSON



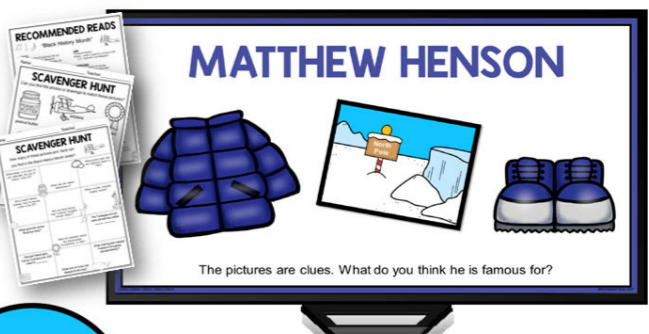
GRADES K-5

"Snow and Ice"

11th READER PANTS

INCLUDES GOOGLE™ SLIDES

ELEMENTARY LIBRARY LESSON



GRADES 2-5

"Black History Month"

11th READER PANTS