The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (a.k.a. The ALMA) is the largest children’s and young adult literature award in the world, granting an amount of 5 million SEK (Swedish Krona) to the winner(s).

Every year, the nominees of this award are announced at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October. This past October 15th when the new 2016 nominees were announced, I was there.

ALMA Peeps: the deciders. (From left to right, back row: Lennart Eng, Anna Höglund, Stefan Casta, Annika Edlund, Mats Kempe, Henry Ascher, Lena Kårelund. Front, from left: Maria Lassén-Seger, Katarina Kieri, Chairman Boel Westin, Johan Palmberg, and Elina Druker.)

The list of nominees is extensive (I’ve listed them below, with links where possible), with 215 people and organizations on the list, from 59 different countries. This singular fact I think suits Lindgren’s legacy well, especially once you’ve investigated those who have made the list.

It’s inclusive, international and impressive.

This award is particularly interesting because it doesn’t serve to recognize just one type of skill, as most awards do (i.e. writers, or illustrators, etc.). The Astrid Lindgren Award, which was first organized by the Swedish government in 2003 (one year after Lindgren’s death), acknowledges:

- writers,
- illustrators,
- organizations,
- librarians,
• storytellers
  – anyone and any organization committed to literacy of the young.

The award is presented by H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden and the Swedish Minister for Culture in Stockholm. In 2016, the event will happen April 5th, during the Bologna Children’s Book Fair (where it will also be announced).

Astrid Lindgren is most known for her Pippi Longstocking stories, but she’s written many other stories that are beloved. She wrote what she wanted to read, often drawing from her childhood memories and fantasies and the Swedish landscape.

Lindgren is the third most translated children’s book author, beaten only by Hans Christian Andersen and the Grimm Brothers. From the official ALMA website:

Astrid Lindgren is one of Sweden’s most important authors [Unquestionably!]. Her works have been translated into more than 90 languages [WOW!]. She renewed children’s literature and combined artistic integrity with commitment to the rights of children and young people. [I’d like someone to say that about me some day.]

Astrid Lindgren died in 2002 at the age of 94, but her stories will live forever. To honour her memory and to promote interest in children’s and young adult literature around the world, the Swedish government founded an international award in her name, the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. [This is really cool.]

Below is the 2016 list of nominated candidates. I grabbed this list directly from the ALMA website, here. For anyone wanting to find out what all is happening in the world of literacy worldwide, this is your list.

I think you’ll find these potential laureates very inspiring. I do!

A & A Book Trust
Organisation
India

Abuelas Cuentacuentos: the Storytelling Grandmothers
Organisation
Argentina

A.C.C.E.S.
Organisation
France

Aakeson, Kim Fupz
Author
Denmark

Abdagi? Kike, Mirsad
Author
Bosnia and Herzegovina

**ACEV (Anne Cocuk Eğitim Vakf?)**
Organisation
Turkey

Ahlberg, Allan
Author
United Kingdom

**Al Musallam, Abdulaziz**
Author
United Arab Emirates

**Albertine**
Illustrator
Switzerland

Alemagna, Beatrice
Author/illustrator
Italy

**All of Poland Reads to Kids**
Organisation
Poland

**Almond, David**
Author
United Kingdom

**Anveshi Research Centre for Women’s Studies**
Organisation
India

Arkhipova, Anastasia
Illustrator
Russian Federation

Azzopardi, Andreas
Author
Malta

**Baek, Heena**
Illustrator
Republic of Korea
Baniasadi, Mohammed Ali
Illustrator
Iran

Bányai, István
Illustrator
United States

Berner, Rotraut Susanne
Illustrator
Germany

Biblionef
Organisation
South Africa

Blake, Quentin
Illustrator
United Kingdom

Blau, Aljoscha
Author/illustrator
Germany

Bo, Jin
Author
China

Bond, Ruskin
Author
India

Book Aid International
Organisation
United Kingdom

Book Art Center (BAC)
Organisation
Georgia

Briggs, Raymond
Author/illustrator
United Kingdom

Bringsværd, Tor Åge
Author
Norway

Brøgger, Lilian
Illustrator
Denmark

Bunanta, Murti/Kelompok Pecinta Bacaan Anak (KPBA)
Oral storyteller/Organisation
Indonesia

Canadian Children’s Book Centre
Organisation
Canada

Carle, Eric
Author/illustrator
United States

Chambers, Aidan
Author
United Kingdom

Chambers, Aidan & Nancy
Promoters of reading
United Kingdom

Children’s Literature New England (CLNE) & The Examined Life (EXL)
Organisations
United States

Cielena, Mara
Author
Latvia

Cie?lak, Ola
Illustrator
Poland

Cneut, Carll
Illustrator
Belgium

Colfer, Eoin
Author
Ireland
Cooperativa Culturale Giannino Stoppani
Organisation
Italy

Cowley, Joy
Promoter of reading
New Zealand

Csukás, István
Author
Hungary

Da Coll, Ivar
Author/illustrator
Colombia

Dahle, Gro
Author
Norway

Daly, Niki
Illustrator
South Africa

Davitashvili, Natalie
Author
Georgia

Dematons, Charlotte
Illustrator
Netherlands

Dezső, Andrea
Illustrator
United States

Dodd, Lynley
Author/illustrator
New Zealand

Douzou, Olivier
Author/illustrator
France

Dubosarsky, Ursula
Author
Australia

Eeg, Harald Rosenløw
Author
Norway

Ekman, Fam
Author/illustrator
Norway

Ellis, Sarah
Author
Canada

Erdogan, Fatih
Author
Turkey

Eriksson, Eva
Illustrator
Sweden

Erlbruch, Wolf
Illustrator
Germany

Fanelli, Sara
Author/illustrator
Italy

Fernández Paz, Agustín
Author
Spain

Fombelle, Timothée de
Author
France

Foreman, Michael
Author/illustrator
United Kingdom

Foreningen !les
Organisation
Norway
Friends of African Village Libraries (FAVL)
Organisation
United States

Future Library
Organisation
Greece

Gaiman, Neil
Author
United Kingdom/United States

The German Nicaraguan Library and the Bibliobús Bertolt Brecht
Organisation
Nicaragua

Geelen, Harrie
Author/illustrator
Netherlands

Gestel, Peter van
Author
Netherlands

Givargizov, Arthur
Author
Russian Federation

Gleeson, Libby
Author
Australia

Gleitzman, Morris
Author
Australia/United Kingdom

Godon, Ingrid
Illustrator
Belgium

Gonzalez, Maria Teresa Maia
Author
Portugal

Grobler, Piet
Illustrator
South Africa

**Gunnarsdóttir, Kristín Helga**  
Author  
Iceland

**Gwang, So Yong**  
Promoter of reading/oral storyteller  
D.P.R. Korea

**Hallworth, Grace**  
Author/oral storyteller  
United Kingdom

**Havukainen, Aino & Sami Toivonen**  
Author/illustrator  
Finland

**Hébert, Marie-Francine**  
Author  
Canada

**Hellgren, Joanna**  
Author/illustrator  
Sweden

**Hellsing, Lennart**  
Author  
Sweden

**Herbauts, Anne**  
Author/illustrator  
Belgium

**Hole, Stian**  
Author/illustrator  
Norway

**Hughes, Shirley**  
Author/illustrator  
United Kingdom

**International Youth Library**  
Organisation  
Germany
Jeffers, Oliver
Author/illustrator
United Kingdom

Jensen, Louis
Author
Denmark

Jonge, Harm de
Author
Netherlands

Jónsdóttir, Áslaug
Author/illustrator
Iceland

Kaldhol, Marit
Author
Norway

Kalman, Maira
Author/illustrator
United States

Karrebæk, Dorte
Illustrator
Denmark

Kasparavicius, Kestutis
Author/illustrator
Lithuania

Katha
Organisation
India

Kivirähk, Andrus
Author
Estonia

Komagata, Katsumi
Author/illustrator
Japan

Kršenkov? Brkovi?, Dragana
Author
Montenegro

Kunnas, Mauri
Author/illustrator
Finland

Kwon, Yoon-duck
Illustrator
Republic of Korea

Labor Ateliergemeinschaft
Organisation
Germany

Lambrelli, Lily
Author/oral storyteller
Greece

Lampedusa Library/Silent Books
Organisation
Italy

Lapeña-Bonifacio, Amelia
Author
Philippines

Lavachery, Thomas
Author
Belgium

Leeuwen, Joke van
Author/illustrator
Netherlands

Le Guin, Ursula
Author
United States

Lester, Alison
Author
Australia

Letterbox Club
Organisation
United Kingdom
Liao, Jimmy
Author/illustrator
Taiwan

Lieshout, Ted van
Author
Netherlands

Lindström, Eva
Author/illustrator
Sweden

Lowry, Lois
Author
United States

Lubaev, Sergey
Illustrator
Russian Federation

Lubuto Library Partners
Organisation
Zambia

Luján, Jorge
Author
Argentina

Lukk-Toompere, Regina
Illustrator
Estonia

Magallanes, Alejandro
Author/illustrator
Mexico

Marchetta, Melina
Author
Australia

Marek, Veronika
Author/illustrator
Hungary

Masini, Beatrice
Author
Astrid Lindgren Award
by Chazda Albright - GreatStorybook.com - http://greatstorybook.com

Italy

Matsuoka, Kyoko
Promoter of reading
Japan

Meek Spencer, Margaret
Promoter of reading
United Kingdom

Mello, Roger
Author/illustrator
Brazil

Mesghali, Farshid
Illustrator
Iran

Mecemuseum (The Hungarian Fairy Tale and Story Museum)
Organisation
Hungary

Mirhadi, Touran
Promoter of reading
Iran

Modan, Rutu
Author/illustrator
Israel

Moeyaert, Bart
Author
Belgium

Moradi Kermani, Houshang
Author
Iran

Morpurgo, Michael
Author
United Kingdom

Mourlevat, Jean-Claude
Author
France
Moursund, Gry
Illustrator
Norway

Muggenthaler, Eva
Author/illustrator
Germany

Murail, Marie-Aude
Author
France

Nadja (Nadja Fejto)
Illustrator
France

Naidoo, Beverley
Author
South Africa

Negrin, Fabian
Illustrator
Italy

Ness, Patrick
Author
United Kingdom

Nikl, Petr
Author/illustrator
Czech Republic

Nimr, Sonia
Author
Palestine

Nopola, Sinikka & Tiina
Authors
Finland

Nyhus, Svein
Author/illustrator
Norway

Odriozola, Elena
Illustrator
Spain

Olujić, Grozdana
Author
Serbia

Ottley-Mitchell, Carol
Author
Saint Kitts and Nevis

Pacheco, Gabriel
Illustrator
Mexico

Paegele, Anita
Illustrator
Latvia

Paljetak, Luko
Author
Croatia

Pardi, Charlotte
Illustrator
Denmark

Parvela, Timo
Author
Finland

Pateraki, Giolanda
Author
Greece

Patte, Geneviève
Promoter of reading
France

Pellowski, Anne
Oral storyteller
United States

Petersons, Reinis
Illustrator
Latvia
Pienkowski, Jan
Illustrator
United Kingdom/Poland

Place, Francois
Illustrator
France

Prado, Miguelanxo
Illustrator
Spain

Pratham Books
Organisation
India

Pressler, Mirjam
Author
Germany

Rahimizadeh, Pejman
Illustrator
Iran

Rahmandoust, Mostafa
Author
Iran

Rascal
Oral storyteller
Belgium

Raud, Piret
Author
Estonia

Richter, Jutta
Author
Germany

Riff, Hélène
Illustrator
France

Room to Read
Organisation
United States

Rosoff, Meg
Author
United Kingdom

Rozman Roza, Andrej
Author/oral storyteller/promoter of reading
Slovenia

Ršumovi?, Ljubivoje
Author
Serbia

Rueda, Claudia
Author/illustrator
Colombia

Rungulis, M?ris
Author
Latvia

Rönns, Christel
Illustrator
Finland

Sandman Lilius, Irmelin
Author/illustrator
Finland

Šari?, Muhidin
Author
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Satrapi, Marjane
Author/illustrator
France/Iran

Sedgwick, Marcus
Author
United Kingdom

Sertbarut (Ba?e?), Miyase
Author
Turkey
Sfar, Joann
Author/illustrator
France

Sharafeddine, Fatima
Author
Lebanon

Shihab Nye, Naomi
Author
United States

Sierra i Fabra, Jordi
Author
Spain

Sís, Peter
Illustrator
United States

Škerl, Peter
Illustrator
Slovenia

Solberg, Lisa Aisato N’jie
Author/illustrator
Norway

Sta Romana-Cruz, Neni
Author/Promoter of reading
Philippines

Stark, Ulf
Author
Sweden

Stoutt, Elmore
Oral storyteller
British Virgin Islands

Str?kowska-Zaremba, Ma?gorzata
Author
Poland

Strid, Jakob Martin
Illustrator
Denmark

Tara Books
Organisation
India

Teller, Janne
Author
Denmark

Tiainen, Marja-Leena
Author
Finland

Tidholm, Anna-Clara
Author/illustrator
Sweden

Tidholm, Thomas
Author
Sweden

Topuria, Tea
Author
Georgia

Torseter, Øyvind
Illustrator
Norway

Trivizas, Eugene
Author
Greece

Tullio Altan, Fransesco
Illustrator
Italy

Törnqvist, Marit
Illustrator
Netherlands

Ungerer, Tomi
Author/illustrator
France
Wabbes, Marie
Author/illustrator
Belgium

Vangheli, Spiridon
Author
Moldova

Wegelius, Jakob
Author/illustrator
Sweden

Welsh-Rabady, Renate
Author
Austria

Verplancke, Klaas
Illustrator
Belgium

Wiesner, David
Illustrator
United States

Wikland, Ilon
Illustrator
Sweden

Wilson, Jacqueline
Author
United Kingdom

Zak, Monica
Author/Oral storyteller/Promoter of reading
Sweden

Zexin, Chen
Illustrator
China

Zusak, Markus
Author
Australia

Zwerger, Lisbeth
Illustrator
Austria

Keep creating, no matter what.

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