



NEEV BOOK AWARD 2019 CITATION

PICTURE BOOKS

The Neev Book Award for distinguished children's literature recognises outstanding writing that leads to a fuller understanding of Indian lives and stories -- books that build empathy and resilience, explore conflict, negotiate identity, and inspire change. This annual award encourages and promotes Indian children's literature globally.

Publishers across India submit titles for consideration. An independent jury uses a rigorous process to establish a shortlist in four categories: Picture Books, Emerging Readers, Junior Readers, and Young Adult. The criteria include the quality of writing, interpretation of theme, development of plot, portrayal of characters, crafting of setting, and the overall presentation of the book. After months of deliberation, the four books chosen for this award are those which best voice the evolution of Indian lives and stories.

The Neev Book Award 2019, for the category of Picture Books, is given to Machher Jhol, written by Richa Jha and illustrated by Sumanta Dey, published by Pickle Yolk Books.

The colorful streets of Kolkata come alive in this heart-warming picture book in which a young boy goes on a quest to surprise his father. The reader cannot help but follow along, only to be surprised as well. Through the masterful interplay between the complex narrative and the rich painterly artwork, the author and the illustrator illuminate the deep social fabric of Indian society.

21 September 2019

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EMERGING READERS

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The Neev Book Award, for the category of Emerging Readers, is given to *When Jiya Met Urmila*, written by Shabnam Minwalla, published by Duckbill Books.

Two children develop a friendship across social, economic, and linguistic divides to tackle a mutual problem while overcoming prejudice. Well-developed characters with distinct voices and a strong plot line make this book a page-turner.

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JUNIOR READERS

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The Neev Book Award 2019, for the category of Junior Readers, is given to *Ahimsa*, written by Supriya Kelkar and published by Scholastic India.

This masterful portrayal of the Indian freedom struggle through the eyes of a child explores multiple perspectives of power and privilege in a sensitive manner. It weaves together historical facts and events to offer insight into social, religious, caste, gender and racial differences.

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YOUNG ADULTS

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The Neev Book Award, for the category of Young Adults, is given to *Year of the Weeds*, written by Siddhartha Sarma, published by Duckbill Books.

This novel offers an insightful critique of the abuses of democracy and capitalism through the lens of the Gond, an indigenous people of India. The author constructs a diverse cast of characters, employing subtle humor. The deep connections between land and ancestors are revealed in a compelling narrative that is clever, sophisticated, and lyrical.

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