For information about the award, please contact Kevin Clement, 2016 Chair
diversityawardchaireven@gmail.com
(757) 410-7139

To submit a nomination, the form can be accessed at

Eligibility
- Book should feature a diverse protagonist (casual or issue-based), a
diverse character that impacts the story, or a diverse subject.
- Book must be published in English by a United States “publisher” in
the year that will be honored. Self-published nominations are
accepted.
- Book can be a stand-alone or a story arc. The last volume of a story
arc must have been published in 2016.
- Book must fall into one of these age divisions: Youth (ages 6-17) or
Adult (ages 18 and up).

Definition of diversity
Differences both visible and invisible that may separate an individual
from the mainstream. The concept of diversity encompasses ac-
ceptance and respect.

Eligibility for the award may be based on color/race, nationality,
disability (mental or physical), feminism, ageism, religion, forced
minority status, and LGBTQ/sexual orientation. (Forced minority
status is when a character not normally considered a minority is
placed in a situation where the character becomes a minority.)

Selection
The VLA Graphic Novel Diversity Award Division Judges select the
winning books. The 2015 committee had three members for each
division: Adult and Youth. There will be five judges on all future division
panels. The Diversity Award Chair acts as a facilitator and collects data
from the judges. The chairperson has no part in the final selection of the
winners.

2015 VLA Graphic Novel Diversity Award Committee
Kevin Clement, Chair
Maryska Connolly-Brown, Youth
Sara Gustafson, Youth
Jason Margolies, Youth
Laura Morales, Adult
Shalor Toncray, Adult
Anthony Wright de Hernandez, Adult
March, Book 2 by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell. Top Shelf Productions. (Race)

March goes far beyond the dry recounting of textbook history by taking the reader along on the freedom rides, lunch counter sit-ins, and demonstrations of the Civil Rights Movement. Lewis and Aydin skilfully weave a narrative that takes the reader on a journey from the streets of Tennessee and Alabama in the 1960s to Washington, DC in 2009, linking two streets of Tennessee and Alabama in the pivotal events: the famous “I Have a Dream” speech of Dr. Martin Luther King and the inaugural speech of President Barak Obama. Powell’s powerful artwork brings to life the most painful and hopeful moments of our nation’s history in bold black and white panels and dynamic facial expression.

Honor Books

March, Book 2

Flutter, Volume Two: Don’t Let Me Die Nervous by Jennie Wood, illustrated by Jeff McComsey and Chris Goodwin. 215 Ink. (Forced Minority)

Honor Girl written and illustrated by Maggie Thrush. Candlewick Press. (LGBTQ+)

Princeless: Raven the Pirate Princess, Book One: Captain Raven and the All-Girl Pirate Crew by Jeremy Whitley, Rosy Higgins and Ted Brandt. Action Lab Entertainment. (Feminism)

Bitch Planet, Volume 1: Extraordinary Machine by Kelly Sue DeConnick, illustrated by Valentine De Landro. Image Comics. (Feminism, LGBTQ+, Race)

Bitch Planet explores a futuristic world that has swapped the glass ceiling for prison bars. Women found to be non-compliant are sent to live the rest of their lives on a prison colony out in space. Any range of offenses can cause a woman to be labeled as such, from murder, to not obeying their husbands, to just existing in a way that does not conform to society’s desires, a category that hits women of color the hardest. Writer Kelly Sue DeConnick intentionally flexes recognizable stereotypes but never reduces her characters to caricatures, and artist Valentine De Landro gives each character strength and individuality.

Honor Books

Flutter, Volume Two: Don’t Let Me Die Nervous

The Infinite Loop by Pierrick Colinet, illustrated by Elsa Charretier. IDW Publishing. (LGBTQ+)

 Princeless: Be Yourself (volume 4 in the Princeless series) written and illustrated by Jeremy Whitley, artwork by Emily Martin, Brett Grunig. Action Lab. (gender)