



BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter

Learn a New Language with the Pronunciator App!

BY JOSH SABO, IT SERVICES COORDINATOR

According to *Business Insider*, 80% of people fail to keep their New Year's resolutions by the second week in February. If you are one of the lucky few who make it further, congratulations! However, if you are like most of us who have already lost the battle of self-improvement, do not fret! Learning a new language is an excellent way to fulfill your resolution. The Huntsville Public Library offers free access to a language learning tool called Pronunciator!

The app offers courses for over 163 different languages and users can personalize it to fit their needs. There are several different daily lessons, a main course, and learning guides. It's very user-friendly and can be accessed at the library or from home on any device with an internet connection.

Here's how:

- 1) Go to **www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com** and scroll down to near the bottom of the homepage. Click the Pronunciator link below the Pronunciator icon.
- 2) Next, you can either register for an account to track your progress or simply click 'instant access' to use Pronunciator without saving or tracking your progress.

3) If you want to register an account, enter a valid email address to use as your username. Then choose a password.

4) Now you can access Pronunciator!

1219 13th Street
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-5472

Monday-Friday
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
& 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.


@huntsvillelib


Huntsville_Public_Library


HuntsvillePublicLibrary


myhuntsvillelibrary.com



If you have any questions, you can contact Josh Sabo or Jalpa Shah at **(936) 291-5485** or come see us during our normal business hours.

Happy Learning! ¡Feliz aprendizaje! Viel Spaß beim Lernen!
Bon apprentissage! Buon apprendimento! 學習快!
kujifunza kwa furaha!

THE BEST OF THE BEST IN SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY: THE NEBULA AND HUGO AWARDS

BY KARSTON VAN TRONK, CIRCULATION

I have written here before, very briefly, about the importance of science fiction and fantasy as literature. From *1984* and *Ender's Game* to *Lord of the Rings* and *Game of Thrones*, these stories have a heavy hand in shaping the vision of our collective future and how we view our present, our relationships with others, and the social constructs and organizations we create. It is appropriate, then, that assigned to these genres are two of the most important American literary awards, the Nebula and the Hugo. Both founded during the post-golden age glow of the '50s and '60s (during the "New Wave of Sci-Fi" some would argue was just as golden as the '40s, '30s, and early '50s), these awards were first given during a rich time in the history of English language speculative fiction. The "Big Three" sci-fi writers (Heinlein, Asimov, and Clarke) were producing some of their best work, and magazines like *Amazing Stories*, *Analog Science Fiction and Fact*, and *Galaxy Science Fiction* were at their height.

The Nebula Award is to fiction as the Golden Globes are to film. The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) founded the award in 1966 (when they were just the Science Fiction Writers of America) to recognize the best science fiction and fantasy of the previous year. The categories are few, consisting of only "Best Novel," "Best Novella," "Best Novelette," and "Best Short Story." Though "Best Script" was briefly awarded from 1974 to 1978 and again from 2000 to 2009, no permanent categories were added until 2018 saw the addition of "Best Game Writing." Two sub-awards, the Andre Norton Award for Middle Grade and Young Adult Fiction and the Ray Bradbury Award for Dramatic Presentation, were also given until 2020, when they were both retroactively designated as full Nebulas.

If the Nebula is to science fiction and fantasy as the Golden Globes are to film, then the Hugo Award is the Oscar. First awarded in 1953 and then every year since 1955, the award is named for Hugo Gernsback, the founder and publisher of the first science fiction magazine "Amazing Stories." Gernsback's contributions to the genre as a publisher were so significant he is often known as the "Father of Science Fiction." His namesake award is given by the World Science Fiction Society, an organization devoted to the award, at an annual convention called the World Science Fiction Convention (or Worldcon for those in the know).

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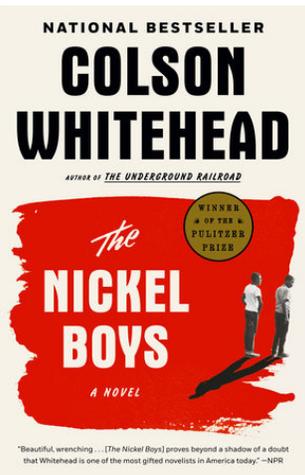
AWARD-WINNING BOOKS TO DISCOVER

BY MARY KOKOT, REFERENCE AND ADULT SERVICES

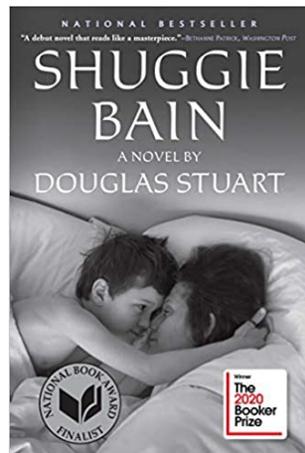
Sometimes it's easy to discover a book that's worth the time you invest in reading it. Maybe it's a book club recommendation, a best-seller, a new release by one of your favorite authors, or even something you chance upon when browsing the library shelves. If you're stuck, however, and looking for a good read, think about books that have won awards.



One of the best-known awards is the Pulitzer Prize. Awarded by Columbia University each year since 1917, the winning works are chosen by a board of jurors for Journalism, Letters, Music, and Drama. The prizes for Letters include Nonfiction, Poetry, Biography or Autobiography, History, and Fiction. I tend to focus on fiction, but all the award-winning books are excellent. The 2021 Pulitzer for Fiction went to *Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead.

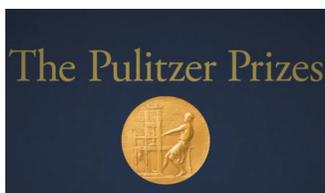


The Booker Prize, formerly known as the Booker Prize for Fiction and the Man Booker Prize, is a literary prize awarded each year since 1969 for the best novel written in English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland. The prize is the English-speaking world's most important literary award and has the power to transform the fortunes of authors and publishers. *Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stuart is this year's choice and the next book on my list to read.

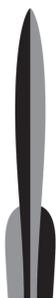


The PEN/Faulkner Award was founded by writers in 1980 to honor their peers and is now the largest juried award for fiction in the United States. The award was named for William Faulkner, who used his Nobel Prize funds to create an award for young writers, and is affiliated with the international writers' organization, PEN (Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists, and Novelists). The 2020 award went to Chloe Aridjis for her book, *Sea Monsters*.

This is but a short list of book awards. There are book awards with a focus on writers from specific countries, women writers, promising new authors as well as awards honoring deceased authors, excellent debut works of fiction, etc. Also, don't forget to check out what the finalists for each award have written. There's a wealth of good books and new authors to explore just by visiting the Huntsville Public Library.



THE NEBULA AND HUGO AWARDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2



HUGO AWARD™

There are many categories for the Hugos. All of the Nebula categories are represented, as well as categories for artists, editors and publishers, fan creations, screen presentations, semi-professional works, and comics. The most prized, though, is the award for best novel. A book awarded the Hugo for best novel is a must-read. If there is such a thing as a sci-fi canon, then winners of the Hugo make up the bulk.

Works are eligible for a Hugo if they were written in or translated to English during the previous year. Unless there is a tie, six nominees are selected for each category. Both the nominations and the final voting are done by attending members of the convention. An interesting note about the voting process is that members are instructed to vote "no award" if they feel no nominees are worthy of the award. Some notable winners are *Starship Troopers* and *Stranger in a Strange Land* by Robert A. Heinlein, *Dune* by Frank Herbert, and *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* by J.K. Rowling.

Writer and editor Brian Aldiss makes a point in his book, *Trillion Year Spree: The History of Science Fiction*, that the peer-selected panel vote for the Nebula Award provides a better measure of artistic merit while the wider voter pool for the Hugo Award provides a measure of reader popularity, though he also notes the winners often overlap. These double crown winners are often the best of the best and reach popularity and acclaim outside the genre, remaining in print for decades. This list of dual winners contains some of the best literature of the 20th and, so far, the 21st centuries. Some of these books are *Dune* by Frank Herbert, *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Forever War* by Joe Haldeman, *Neuromancer* by William Gibson, *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card, and *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman. The entire list of double crown novels includes only twenty-five books.

Thankfully, the pandemic of 2020 did not stop the awards. This year the Hugo was awarded to *A Memory Called Empire* by Arkady Martine and the Nebula went to *A Song for a New Day* by Sarah Pinsker.

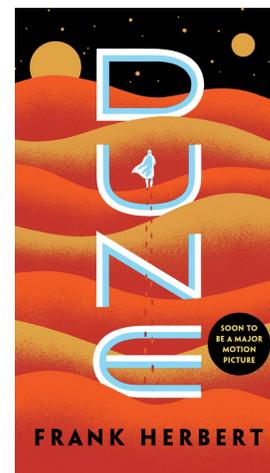
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THE NEBULA AND HUGO AWARDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Here is a list of some of the winners you can pick up here in the Huntsville Public Library.

- *A Memory Called Empire* by Arkady Martine - Hugo Award
- *A Song for a New Day* by Sarah Pinsker - Nebula Award
- *Stranger in a Strange Land* by Robert A. Heinlein - Hugo Award
- *Starship Troopers* by Robert A. Heinlein - Hugo Award
- *Dune* by Frank Herbert - **Hugo Award and Nebula Award**
- *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes - Nebula Award
- *Ancillary Justice* by Ann Leckie - **Hugo Award and Nebula Award**
- *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman - Hugo Award
- *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* by Susanna Clarke - Hugo Award
- *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman - **Hugo Award and Nebula Award**
- *Red Mars* by Kim Stanley Robinson - Nebula Award
- *Uprooted* by Naomi Novik - Nebula Award



You may also request any book not on this list through our InterLibrary Loan program.



A New Decade for Public Libraries

BY BAILLIE PRETZER, CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR

As we find ourselves settling into 2021, it's only natural to reflect on the formidable challenges 2020 presented to our families and communities and appreciate how we've prevailed through them. If the COVID-19 pandemic taught us anything, it is that social interaction is critical to our success as a people. Institutions throughout the world have recognized the negative effects of isolation and sought new methods of community outreach. Specifically, public libraries have found creative ways to continue providing community resources so individuals can remain safely connected and engaged. Examples include curbside pick-ups, virtual library cards, themed book boxes, podcasts, and even expanding digital resource collections - all of which have dramatically increased the accessibility of services to the public. What's more, cities across the United States, as well as Canada, have adopted the use of book-bikes that can each hold up to 150 books, thus safely bringing the library to communities who otherwise may have experienced a shortage of library services.

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A New Decade for Libraries, Continued From Page 5

Book clubs, book festivals, and meet-the-author events have gone virtual as well, transcending geographical boundaries and social limitations while reaching an entirely new collective group of people. For example, Dallas, Texas libraries are serving more than just civilians. Several branches have opened their doors to the local police departments to provide proper social distancing as investigative operations continue.

SERVICES WE OFFER:

Here at Huntsville Public Library, we have worked hard to maintain the services available to our patrons throughout the community and continue to update our catalog both in-house and online. Mary Kokot, our Adult Public Services Coordinator, moved the adult monthly book club to Zoom so patrons can still advance their knowledge through discussion after enjoying the books they have read.



Our library staff also created take-home craft kits that can be picked up for the children so they can continue reaping the benefits of a public library. Launched in Summer 2020, our Virtual Summer Reading Program for children saw immediate success. Presently under development are two new book clubs for both teens and tweens, and other opportunities for young adults to socialize, connect, and even potentially earn volunteer hours. As the year progresses and we continue to adapt to the times, we look forward to adding to the services and programs we offer, as well as reinstating old favorites such as Storytime and Mother Goose Lapsit.



In the New York Times article, “Libraries Must Change,” New York Public Library president Anthony Marx correctly states libraries must continue to “offer all people...free access to the tools and knowledge [needed] to open doors of opportunity and be productive members of society” as social distancing ordinances remain in effect for many Americans. The beautiful thing about libraries is they are living, breathing institutions, which continuously evolve to meet the needs of the communities they serve. As a critical component of public infrastructure, how we can serve our communities are practically limitless and the COVID-19 pandemic has only begun to shed a light on all the possibilities that lie ahead.

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A New Decade for Libraries, Continued From Page 6

Virtual Book Festivals You Can Attend This Spring:

information found on <https://www.bookreporter.com/book-festivals>

March 2021

AWP Conference & Bookfair

Dates: March 3-7

Southwest Florida Reading Festival

Date: March 6

Tucson Festival of Books

Dates: March 6-7

Virginia Festival of the Book

Dates: March 13-26

Palm Beach Book Festival

Dates: March 19-20

Sleuthfest

Dates: March 19-21

Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival

Dates: March 24-28

April 2021

San Antonio Book Festival

Date: April 9-11

Newburyport Literary Festival

Dates: April 23-25

Annapolis Book Festival

Dates: April 24-25

May 2021

Bay Area Book Festival

Dates: May 1-9

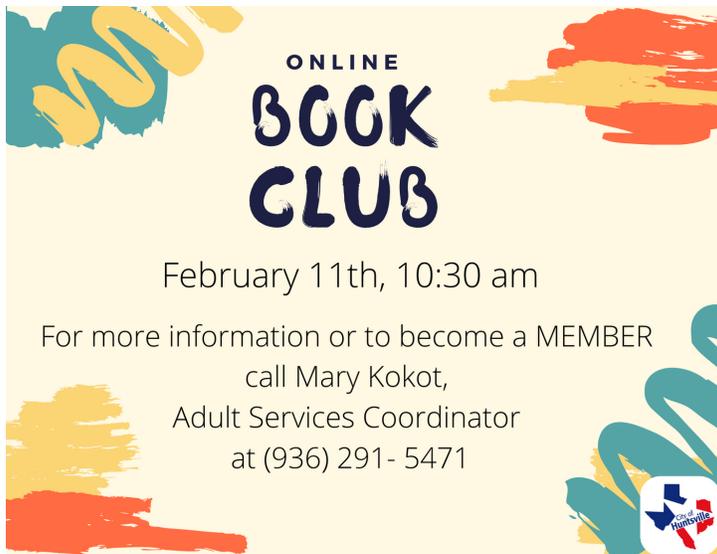
Podcasts to tune in to:

The Librarian Is In,
from New York Public Library, where new titles are discussed.

Anything But Silent,
from the British Library, where authors are interviewed and the innovations with books and literature occurring in pop culture, such as video games, are discussed.



Things Happening at the Huntsville Public Library:



**ONLINE
BOOK
CLUB**

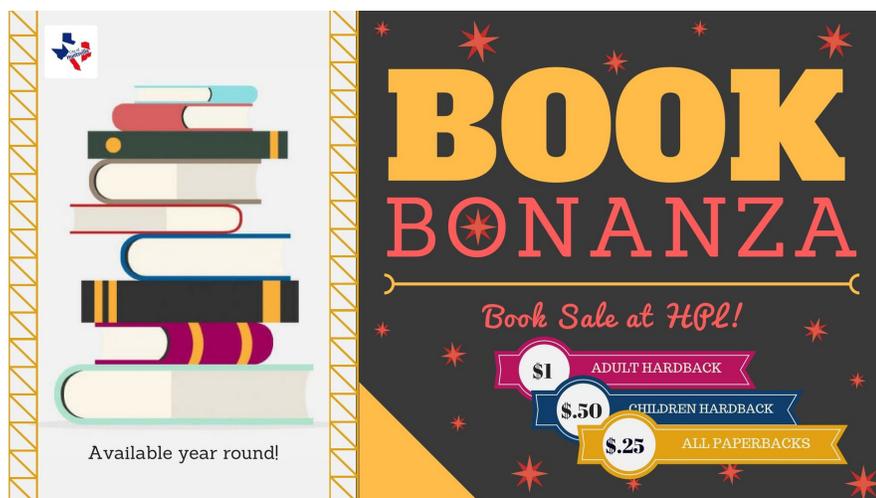
February 11th, 10:30 am

For more information or to become a MEMBER
call Mary Kokot,
Adult Services Coordinator
at (936) 291- 5471



This month we will be reading *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman!

We always have books for sale during library hours!



Available year round!

**BOOK
BONANZA**

Book Sale at HPL!

\$1	ADULT HARBACK
\$.50	CHILDREN HARBACK
\$.25	ALL PAPERBACKS



Come check out our new literacy STEM/STEAM kits! We have everything from coding and mathematics to nature exploration & more!