



EBMA Announces the 2022 Jerimiah Ludington Memorial New Voices Award to Jerry Craft

February 1, 2023

The Educational Book and Media Association is pleased to award Jerry Craft the inaugural 2022 Jeremiah Ludington Memorial New Voices Award. The award, named after EBMA's founder, has historically celebrated the lifetime achievement of creators in the educational book world. The New Voices Award was established this year to recognize rising contemporary voices in this all-important industry.

The award will be presented to Jerry Craft on Monday, February 6, 2023, at the EBMA annual meeting in Nassau, Bahamas.

Jerry Craft, the inaugural recipient of this award, is the New York Times bestselling author and illustrator of the graphic novels *New Kid*, *Class Act*, and *School Trip*. *New Kid* is the only book in history to win the John Newbery Medal for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature; the Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature; and the Coretta Scott King Author Award for the most outstanding work by an African American writer.

We've all seen the *New Kid*, like Jordan.
Struggling to fit in.
Making new friends.
Discovering... not everyone is our friend.
Finding our way.
All while we're trying to figure out who we are.
Who we want to be.
And navigating the expectations of those around us.
We've all seen the Drews of the world emerge as *Class Acts*.
Seeking to understand why our friends' home lives look different than ours.
Why our friends' names may sound different.
Why our classmates have never seen a hairstyle like ours.
While we all haven't been to Paris, we've all been on a *School Trip*.
That helped us discover something new.
About the world.
About ourselves.
We're all lucky to have been blessed with these Middle Grade masterpieces...

By Jerry Craft

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