

Beloit Daily News  
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Christmas is behind us and the New Year is just days away. Basking in the glow of the holidays, spending time with family and friends, and looking back on what I did (or didn't) accomplish makes me nostalgic. And yet, there is so much to look forward to as well. Making good on that resolution to exercise and eat better, the hope that the Packers will win the Super Bowl, and thinking about that list of things to accomplish (or not!), all make me excited for the future.

I think the media in all of its forms understands this about our human nature. That's why this is the time of year when we start seeing those "year-end" lists – the best movies of the year (*The Force Awakens*, anyone?), the top new technology, and the best images of the year, just to name a few. These lists help us see both our greatness and in some cases our failures. They allow us to both reminisce and plan for the future, and they stir our emotions.

I most enjoy looking back at the top images of the year because I think images truly do speak louder than words. Whether it is devastation, wonder, heartache or joy, images, photos and even illustrations have a way of bringing out the strongest emotions in all of us.

Which of course leads to libraries (you knew I would get to libraries eventually, right?). Images and illustrations are just as thought-provoking and important for children as they are for adults. That's why picture books are a bajillion-dollar industry (yes, I made up that number). If I were to ask you to recall your favorite book from your childhood, chances are you would be thinking of a picture book. Powerful images and illustrations have a tendency to stay with us throughout our lives.

Each year the American Library Association awards the Caldecott Medal for the best illustrated children's book of the year. Join us on Saturday January 9<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3 p.m. for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mock Caldecott event as we celebrate our choices for the top illustrated children's books published in 2015. Learn about the Caldecott Award ([www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)), talk about your favorite illustrated books from the past year, vote for the winner and enter for a chance to win one of the nominated books.

For more information on this event and many others, visit [www.beloitlibrary.org](http://www.beloitlibrary.org) or like us on Facebook. In the meantime, check out these books coming soon to your Beloit Public Library:

*Nebula Awards Showcase 2015: Stories, Excerpts and Poems* edited by Greg Bear. These volumes have been published annually since 1966, reprinting the winning and nominated stories of the Nebula Awards, voted on by the members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. (Book Description)

*We have the Technology: How Biohackers, Foodies, Physicians, and Scientists Are Transforming Human Perception, One Sense at a Time* by Kara Platoni. This book...introduces us to researchers who are changing the way we experience the world, whether creating scents that stimulate the memories of Alzheimer's patients, constructing virtual limbs that approximate a sense of touch, or building augmented reality labs that prepare soldiers for the battlefield. (Book Description)