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**BANK STREET CHILDREN'S BOOK COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES ITS
2026 YOUTH CHOICE AWARD**

New York, NY—May 6, 2026—The Children's Book Committee (CBC), a division of the Center for Children's Literature at Bank Street College of Education, announced its annual [2026 Robie Harris Youth Choice Award](#), which honors a book of outstanding literary merit on sensitive subjects written for a youth audience.

Selected by the members of the [CBC's Young Ambassadors Program](#)—a group of dedicated teen readers who read and review books—this award is dedicated to the late children's book author and educator Robie H. Harris, GSE '70. Throughout her renowned career, Harris celebrated the challenges of childhood in her work and used the power of stories to help youth validate their feelings and emotions.

The 2026 Robie Harris Youth Choice Award has been presented to *All the Noise at Once* by DeAndra Davis, a young adult novel about an autistic high school football player named Aiden who is sent reeling by the unjust arrest of his supportive older brother, Brandon.

"*All the Noise at Once* is the rarest kind of debut—a book that knows precisely what it is, who it is for, and why it matters. The characterization and emotional architecture of this novel resonated with young readers' experiences, even in places where a reader's story may differ," said 17-year-old Quade, chair of the 2026 Robie Harris Youth Choice Award. "Aiden arrives on the page fully formed. His autism, his Blackness, his athleticism—all of them present, all of them in tension, all of them real. Davis penned a middle grade/young adult crossover novel that trusts each part of the characters, plot, and style equally. This book exhibits faith in young readers to understand sensitive topics through a new lens, and that is what distinguished writing looks like."

He added, "We chose this book as a committee, not because an adult told us it mattered, but because every member of this committee lived it on every page. The 2026 Robie Harris Youth Choice Award is our way of saying: we saw it, all at once and out loud."

Mary Anne Wolpert, executive member of the Children's Book Committee and mentor to the Young Ambassadors, said, "The 2026 Young Ambassadors, a diverse group of avid readers ranging in age from middle grade through college, met online and deliberated over several weeks to make a final vote for the selection of this year's Robie Harris Youth Choice Award. The final decision had full committee consensus and was unanimous."

The [Young Reviewers](#) program comprises children from toddlers through high school students around the United States who read and review books that are currently being considered by the CBC for its annual [Best Books of the Year list](#). Started more than 20 years ago, the program supports the CBC's longstanding mission to evaluate books for children, parents, librarians, and educators by focusing on how books can affect young readers. The [Young Ambassadors](#) arm of this group includes prolific teen reviewers with a longstanding commitment to literary analysis who advocate for developing a love of reading within their communities. Youth interested in becoming a young reviewer can email youngreviewers@bankstreet.edu or visit bankstreet.edu/young-reviewers-program.

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About Robie H. Harris

Robie H. Harris graduated from Bank Street Graduate School of Education in 1970. She was the author of more than 30 books for children and was widely recognized for her authentic and honest storytelling. Her best-known books, *It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, and Sexual Health* (1994) and *It's So Amazing: A Book About Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families* (1999), made her among the most censored authors in the United States.

About the Children's Book Committee

The Children's Book Committee strives to guide librarians, educators, parents, grandparents, and other interested adults to the best books for children published each year. The list includes more than 600 titles chosen by reviewers for literary quality and excellence of presentation, as well as the potential emotional impact of the books on young readers. Other criteria include credibility of characterization and plot, authenticity of time and place, age suitability, positive treatment of ethnic and religious differences, and the absence of stereotypes.

About the Center for Children's Literature

The mission of the Center for Children's Literature is to create, identify, and advocate for the highest quality literature for all children from infancy through adolescence. The center ensures that such literature is readily accessible to every child, and fosters in parents, educators, and policymakers a commitment to the principle that good literature is fundamental to literacy. The center provides workshops, guides, and content for learning and social-emotional/aesthetic development at all levels of childhood education. Learn more at bankstreet.edu/center-for-childrens-literature.

About Bank Street College of Education

Bank Street College of Education is a recognized leader in early childhood education, teacher and leader preparation, and the development of innovative practice in school systems across the country. For one hundred years, Bank Street's focus has been improving the education of children and their teachers by applying to the education process all available knowledge about learning and growth, and by connecting teaching and learning meaningfully to the outside world. Learn more about Bank Street's Children's Programs, Graduate School of Education, and the Bank Street Education Center at bankstreet.edu.