



The Mythopoeic Society

PRESS RELEASE: June 2, 2026



Finalists for the 2026 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature

Holly Black, *The Charlatan Duology* (also known as the Book of Night series) (Tor Books, 2022–2025)
Martin Cahill, *Audition for the Fox* (Tachyon, 2025)
Lev Grossman, *The Bright Sword* (Viking, 2024)
T. Kingfisher, *Snake-Eater* (47North, 2025)
Jared Pechaček, *The West Passage* (Tordotcom, 2024)
Samantha Sotto Yambao, *Water Moon* (Del Rey, 2025)
Emily Tesh, *The Incandescent* (Tor, 2025)

Finalists for the 2026 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Young Adult Literature

K. Ancrum, *The Corruption of Hollis Brown* (HarperCollins, 2025)
Amber McBride, *The Leaving Room* (Feiwel & Friends, 2025)
Margaret Owen, Little Thieves series (Henry Holt and Co., 2021–2025)
Vanessa L. Torres, *On the Wings of La Noche* (Knopf, 2025)

Finalists for the 2026 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature

Aubrey Hartman, *The Undead Fox of Deadwood Forest* (Little, Brown, 2025)
Sachiko Kashiwaba, *The Village Beyond the Mist*, translated by Avery Fischer Udagawa (Yonder, 2025)
Victor Piñeiro, *The Island of Forgotten Gods* (Sourcebooks Young Readers, 2025)
David A. Robertson, *The Misewa Saga* (Tundra 2021–2025)

Finalists for the 2026 Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies

Anahit Behrooz, *Mapping Middle-earth: Environmental and Political Narratives in J. R. R. Tolkien's Cartographies* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2024)
Michael D. C. Drout, *The Tower and the Ruin: J.R.R. Tolkien's Creation* (Norton, 2025)
Verlyn Flieger, *A Real Taste for Fairy-Stories* (Walking Tree, 2025)
Thomas P. Hillman, *Pity, Power, and Tolkien's Ring: To Rule the Fate of Many* (Kent State UP, 2023)
Giuseppe Pezzini, *Tolkien and the Mystery of Literary Creation* (Cambridge UP, 2025)
Hamish Williams, *J.R.R. Tolkien's Utopianism and the Classics* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2023)

Finalists for the 2026 Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Myth and Fantasy Studies

Patrick Curry, *Art and Enchantment: How Wonder Works* (Routledge, 2023)
Sophus Helle, *Enheduanna: The Complete Poems of the World's First Author* (Yale UP, 2023)
Adam Roberts, *Fantasy: A Short History* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2025)
Paul R. Rovang, *The Archetype of the Dying and Rising God in World Mythology* (Lexington, 2023)
Dennis Wilson Wise, editor, *Speculative Poetry and the Modern Alliterative Revival: A Critical Anthology* (Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2023)

The **Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature** is given to the fantasy novel, multi-volume, or single-author story collection for adults published during 2024–2025 that best exemplifies the spirit of the Inklings. Books are eligible for two years after publication if not selected as a finalist during the first year of eligibility. Books from a series are eligible if they stand on their own; otherwise, the series becomes eligible the year its final volume appears. The **Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Young Adult Literature** honors books for Young Adult readers (ages 13–18), and the **Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature** honors books for younger readers

(ages 12 or younger). Rules for eligibility are otherwise the same as for the Adult literature award. The category of borderline books will be determined by their intended audience as named by the publisher and author .

The **Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies** is given to books on Tolkien, Lewis, and/or Williams that make significant contributions to Inklings scholarship. For this award, books first published during the last three years (2023–2025) are eligible, including finalists for previous years. The **Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Myth and Fantasy Studies** is given to scholarly books on other specific authors in the Inklings tradition, or to more general works on the genres of myth and fantasy. The period of eligibility is three years, as for the Inklings Studies award.

The winners of this year's awards will be announced at Mythcon 54, "Get Your Fantasy Kicks on Route 66!," which runs July 24-27, 2026, in Weatherford, Oklahoma. A complete list of Mythopoeic Award winners is available on the Society web site: www.mythsoc.org/awards.htm. The finalists for the literature awards, text of recent acceptance speeches, and selected book reviews are also listed in this on-line section. For more information about the Mythopoeic Awards, please contact the Awards Administrator: Dennis Wise, awards@mythsoc.org.