

Children's Literature Assembly Research Award

(Rev. 4/2026)

Description

The Children's Literature Assembly Research Award provides grants of \$1,000 for original research addressing significant questions related to the field of children's literature, and a complimentary year of CLA membership. Up to two grants may be awarded depending upon the availability of funds. Projects may be carried out using any research method or approach so long as the focus of the project is related to the field of children's literature.

General Guidelines

Elected board members and CLA officers are precluded from applying to CLA monetary awards, including this CLA Research Award. CLA members in volunteer positions, committee members, etc. are welcome to apply. Successful applicants may reapply every three years. Priority is given to individuals who have not previously won this financial award or the Bonnie Campbell Hill financial award within the past five years. CLA membership is not required to apply for the Research Award. If the awardee is a current member of CLA their subsequent year of CLA membership will be complimentary. If the applicant is not yet a member of CLA, upon receipt of the award at the NCTE Annual Convention they will receive a complimentary CLA membership for one year.

All research award applications must be typed and submitted as **one complete Word document file**. Please **do not** send your application as a PDF. Your Word file should be titled as follows:

CLAResearchAward_2026_[applicant'slastnameinitial]

For example, if René Rodríguez submitted an application, he would title his file:
CLAResearchAward_2026_RodríguezR

If there are co-applicants for one research proposal, include only one of the applicants' names in the file name. Please use the templates provided on pp. 3-5 of this document.

Submit all complete applications to Emmaline Ellis, the Chair of the Children's Literature Research Award, using the email address EEllis@wcupa.edu. **Applications are due on September 1, 2026.**

Incomplete applications, applications that do not adhere to the format requested and/or applications submitted after September 1 will not be considered.

Projects must be completed within two years. Grant recipients should submit a progress report to the CLA Research Award Committee Chair, Emmaline Ellis, by the following September and/or

a summary of the project upon completion. Adjustments in report deadlines may be made at the discretion of the Chair of the Endowment Fund Committee.

CLA's *Journal of Children's Literature* should be given the right of first refusal on any manuscripts based on this funded research. **All manuscripts and products resulting from this funding should clearly acknowledge funding was received from the Children's Literature Assembly of the National Council of Teachers of English.**

Please contact Emmaline Ellis (EEllis@wcupa.edu) if you have any questions regarding this award and/or the application process.

HOW TO APPLY

Do not include the applicant's name, institutional affiliation, or any other personal information that will identify the applicant on any part of the Proposal other than the Cover Page.

Proposal Documents to Submit

1. **Cover Page(s)**: Please complete one page for each investigator. See p. 4 of this document for the Cover Page Template.
2. **Research Project Title and Description**: This is the title and description of the proposed research. Please be as specific as possible; however, proposals longer than 2,000 words (excluding references and appendices) will not be considered. See p. 5 for more details.
3. **Budget Page**: See pgs. 6-7 for your Budget Page Template. Please note that institutional overhead, indirect costs, and reimbursements will not be covered under this research award. Your budget should be explicitly connected to your project and detailed so that we understand how the funds will be used with regard to your proposed study.

Please submit these documents on separate pages but as a single Word document file. Remember, applicants must submit their complete application to Emmaline Ellis (EEllis@wcupa.edu) no later than September 1, 2026. Incomplete applications, applications that do not adhere to the format requested, and/or applications submitted after September 1 will not be considered.

Review Procedures and Evaluation Criteria

All applications are blind reviewed by three children's literature scholars who serve on the Endowment Fund Committee, the Children's Literature Assembly Board, or are CLA members.

Each reviewer will evaluate the research proposal by considering its theoretical and/or methodological strength, its specificity, and its clarity in each target area (see p.5: *perceived importance, research questions, methodology, and likely influence*). Additionally, each reviewer will designate proposed research budgets as either Acceptable or Unacceptable. The Endowment Fund Committee will then convene in August to consider the reviewers' evaluations and determine the awardee(s).

All applicants will be notified of the outcome by or on October 1; the winner will be publicly announced at the CLA Breakfast at the annual NCTE Convention held in November. Awardees will receive a ticket to the CLA Breakfast and a certificate.

Cover Page Template

All applicants must include a complete cover page. If co-applicants are applying, each applicant must submit a completed cover page. Thus, if you have three applicants for the same research proposal, you will have three separate cover pages.

First and last name:

Complete mailing address:

Preferred phone number:

E-mail address:

Institutional affiliation:

Position/title:

Please complete the following information.

Current CLA Membership

_____ YES Expiration of my membership (mm/dd/yyyy):

_____ NO

CLA membership is not required to apply for the Research Award.

Research Timeframe

Proposed support start date (mm/dd/yyyy):

Proposed support end date (mm/dd/yyyy):

Research Project Title and Description

Please be sure to include the title of your research at the top of this part of your application. When writing your research proposal narrative, respond to the four questions listed below.

1. *What is the perceived importance of this study?*
Using theoretical or empirical research, discuss why this study is needed.
2. *What questions will guide this research?*
Explicitly state your research questions. Include these questions at the end of your discussion of perceived importance if appropriate.
3. *How will this study be conducted?*
Describe your research methodology in as much detail as possible. What theories are guiding this research? Where will this research occur? Who will participate and why? What data will be collected? How will it be both collected and analyzed? Feel free to use subheadings such as “Research site”, “Participants”, “Data Sources and Procedures”, and “Data Analysis Methods” if desired. Also, include a detailed timeline or action-plan if it will help reviewers understand your research proposal.
4. *What is the likely influence of this study on the field of children’s literature?*
Discuss the potential contribution of your research findings to the field of children’s literature.

Also, include a **reference section** at the end of this section. Provide complete bibliographic information (APA 7th Ed.) for all sources cited. To accommodate the blind review process, if applicants’ publications are cited in an identifiable way, then applicants should substitute the word “Author” in the citations (Author, 2023) and references [Author. (2023).]. While proposals should not exceed 2,000 words, the reference section does not count toward the total word count.

Allowable Expenses:	travel, materials & supplies, research assistance, software, etc.
Non-allowable Expenses:	institutional overhead, compensation for researcher, reimbursement for previous expenses, etc.

BUDGET PAGE

Please provide a brief justification for each of the items listed below.

A. Personnel

\$

Justification:

B. Materials and Supplies

\$

Justification:

C. Software and Equipment

\$

Justification:

D. Travel

\$

Justification:

E. Other

\$

Justification:

Total Budget Request:

\$