2017 South Asia Book Award for Children’s and Young Adult Literature
2017 Award Winners

**Maya**
by Mahak Jain;
illustrated by Elly MacKay
(Owlkids Books, 2016)
The loss of her father and a blackout in her Indian city combine to distress Maya. Her mother’s bedtime tale of a legendary banyan tree kindles the child’s imagination, bringing her comfort and soothing memories of her father. Alluring illustrations of the lush dream landscape and animals Maya visualizes will engage readers.

**What Elephants Know**
by Eric Dinerstein
(Disney-Hyperion, 2016)
In the Nepalese Borderlands, twelve-year-old orphan Nandu realizes his destiny as a “mahout” (elephant driver). Through a vivid jungle setting and Nandu’s first-person narration, this story reveals the rich diversity of the natural world and the connection between humans and animals.
The South Asia Book Award is given annually for up to two outstanding works of literature, from early childhood to secondary reading levels, which accurately and skillfully portrays South Asia or South Asians in the diasporas, that is the experience of individuals living in South Asia, or of South Asians living in other parts of the world. This year four Honor Books and five Highly Commended Books were recognized by the award committee for their contribution to this body of literature on the region.

2017 Honor Books

**Book Uncle and Me**
by Uma Krishnaswami; illustrated by Julianna Swaney
(Groundwood Books, 2016)

**A Long Pitch Home**
by Natalie Dias Lorenzi
(Charlesbridge, 2016)

http://southasiabookaward.org/