About the award
In the summer of 2002, several past presidents of ISLMA discussed the need for a K-3 children’s book award. The ISLMA Board established a work group to investigate creation of such an award. In April 2003, ISLMA approved the establishment and support of the Monarch Award: The Illinois’ K-3 Reader’s Choice Award. The name Monarch was chosen because of its familiarity to K-3 children and to symbolize the growth, change and freedom that becoming a reader brings. The Monarch is designed to encourage children to read critically and become familiar with children’s books, authors and illustrators. The program is open to all K-3 age children in Illinois.

How to participate
Inside you will find the 2023 Monarch Award list. You may read as many of the titles on the list as you like at your own reading pace, but you must read at least 5 books in order to vote. Once you have finished a book, check it off your list. Once you’ve read as many of the books as you plan to read, write your top three favorite titles on your ballot. Be sure to list them in order. The book you write on the number one line will be the book you are voting for to win the 2023 Monarch Award. Ballots need to be submitted no later than February 10, 2023. You can turn this form in to any Peoria Public Library location once you’re finished. Or, you can participate in the challenge at www.peoriapubliclibrary.beanstack.com
By turning in this ballot you agree that you read or listened to at least 3 of the books on the 2023 Monarch Award list. Below, please list, in order, your 3 favorite books and write (or have someone write for you) a 2 sentence review of why you enjoyed this book. Once you're finished turn this in at any Peoria Public Library location by February 10, 2023 for your vote to be submitted or submit this ballot to programmingdept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us. The winner of the 2023 Monarch Award will be announced in March 2023.

My vote for the 2023 Award is: ____________________________
written by: ____________________________________________
I like this book because: ________________________________
____________________________
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