

Children's Choices

Goals

- Give young readers an opportunity to voice their opinions about books written for them
- Develop an annual annotated reading list of new books that young readers enjoy
- Help teachers, librarians, booksellers, parents, and others find books that will encourage young readers to read more

Background

Children's Choices began as an annual joint project of the International Literacy Association (ILA) and the Children's Book Council (CBC) in 1974. Each year, approximately 12,500 children (grades K–6) from different regions of the United States read and choose 100 favorites from books donated by North American children's book publishers.

Previous Children's Choices annotated lists are available at <https://literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/reading-lists/childrens-choices-reading-list>

Team Leaders

Children's Choices Team Leaders are selected from five areas of the United States:

- *Area 1:* Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington
- *Area 2:* Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont
- *Area 3:* Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas
- *Area 4:* Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming
- *Area 5:* Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

Becoming a Trainee/Team Leader

If you would like to join this exciting and worthwhile project as a Trainee/Team Leader, please note that ILA looks for individuals with the following qualifications:

- ILA membership
- No current involvement with any other ILA book project
- Excellent organizational skills
- Contacts within local school districts in the applicant's state
- Access to participating schools (within a reasonable distance)
- Training session attendance during the ILA Conference
- Interest in helping teachers use children's literature in the classroom
- Employment as an educator
- Ability to meet deadlines

Consideration will be given to balance the selection of Team Leaders in:

- Geographical distribution across the states within the region
- Size and type of project participation group (e.g., college/university/school district; urban/suburban/rural; ethnic population)

Trainee/Team Leader Responsibilities:

- Recruit a team of exactly 2,500 young readers: 1,000 readers in grades K–2, 750 readers in grades 3–4, and 750 readers in grades 5–6 (This balance is fixed so that each team has the same number of participants at each reading level.)
- Commit to a three-year term as a Trainee/Team Leader
- Recruit field leaders and ensure that they collect reviews in a timely fashion
- Receive and inventory 800–900 titles before distributing them to the field leaders
- Distribute books at each site and rotate them for maximum student access
- Publicize the project and the final reading list
- Annotate some of the books selected for the Children’s Choices list
- Participate in project activities at the ILA Conference
- Communicate closely with program cochairs, including reporting periodically on project progress

If you are committed to high-quality literature for children and are able to reach the necessary number of students, please visit our website (literacyworldwide.org/choices) to fill out the online application.

For more information, please contact choices@reading.org.