

Project 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 hundreds of new titles donated by North American publishers and choose 90 of their favorites.

Project Goals

- Develop an annual annotated reading list of high-quality new books that young readers enjoy
- Give young readers an opportunity to voice their opinions about books written for them
- Help teachers, librarians, booksellers, families and caregivers, and others find books that will encourage young readers to read more
- Showcase a diversity of cultures, races, gender identities, and abilities, reflected through authors and illustrators of K–6 literature

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

Project Areas

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 Team Leader

ILA members within the United States interested in joining this exciting and worthwhile project are encouraged to apply to become a team leader. To qualify, you must:

- Want to help teachers use children's literature in the classroom
- Have contacts within local school districts in your state
- Live or work within a reasonable distance of participating schools
- Attend both the project's planning session and the project session during the ILA Conference for all three years of your term
- Possess excellent organizational skills
- Adhere to project deadlines

In addition, team leader applicants must not currently be involved in any other Choices project during the term for which they are applying.

As part of ILA's commitment to diversity, representation, and inclusion, we strongly consider the following areas as part of the vetting process:

- Geographical distribution across the states within the region
- Size and type of project participation group (e.g., college/university/school district; urban/suburban/rural; socioeconomic status)
- School networks with student populations reflecting historically underserved students or minoritized groups.

Team Leader Responsibilities

- Commit to a three-year term as a team leader
- Recruit a team of 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
- Recruit a diverse group of field leaders among your participating school network 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 participating school and rotate them for maximum and broadest student access
- Promote both your school network's participation in the project, as well as the benefits to students and schools, and the published reading list throughout your professional network and across social media throughout the year
- Annotate books selected for the Children's Choices list
- Participate in Choices-related project programming and events 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 possess the necessary qualifications, please visit our website (literacyworldwide.org/choices) to fill out the team leader online application form.

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