

Project Background

Teachers' Choices is an annual project of the International Literacy Association (ILA) that began in 1989. Each year, teachers, librarians, and reading/literacy specialists from different regions of the United States read hundreds of new titles donated by North American publishers and choose 30 of their favorites for readers ages 5–14. At least six educators in each area read each book.

Project Goals

- Develop an annual annotated reading list of high-quality new books that young people enjoy
- Help educators find books that enrich the curriculum
- Guide young people to books that they might not discover or appreciate without the help of a teacher, librarian, parent, or other adult
- Showcase a diversity of cultures, races, gender identities, and abilities, reflected through authors and illustrators of K–8 literature

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

Project Areas

Teachers' 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:

- Be employed as an educator in a school or university
- Want to help teachers use children's and middle grade 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 one or two field leaders among your participating school network who, in turn, will each recruit about 25 teacher reviewers
- Train field leaders and reviewers to read and evaluate selected titles and complete book rating forms and ensure that field leaders collect reviews in a timely fashion
- Receive and inventory 400–500 titles before distributing them to the field leaders
- Distribute books at each participating school and rotate them for maximum and broadest teacher 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 Teachers' 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 middle grade readers 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.