

# Teachers' Choices

## Goals

- Develop an annual annotated reading list of new books that young people enjoy
- Help teachers, librarians, booksellers, families and caregivers, and others find books that will encourage young readers to read more
- Help teachers find books that can be used across 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

## Background

Teachers' Choices is an annual project of the International Literacy Association (ILA) that began in 1989. Each year, teachers, reading specialists, and librarians from different regions of the United States select books from new publications (donated by North American publishers) for readers ages 5–14. At least six teachers or librarians in each region read each book.

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

## Team Leaders

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 Trainee/Team Leader

If you would like to become part of 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 and young adult literature in the classroom
- Employment as an educator
- Ability to meet deadlines

Consideration will be given to balance in 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 one or two field leaders who, in turn, will each recruit about 25 teacher reviewers
- Commit to a three-year term as a Trainee/Team Leader
- Receive and inventory 300–400 titles before distributing them to field leaders
- Train field leaders and reviewers to read and evaluate selected titles and complete book rating forms
- Ensure that field leaders collect reviews in a timely fashion
- Publicize the project and the final reading list
- Distribute books at each site and rotate them for maximum teacher access
- Annotate some of the books selected for the Teachers' 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 young adults and possess the necessary qualifications above, please visit our website ([literacyworldwide.org/choices](http://literacyworldwide.org/choices)) to fill out the online team leader application.

For more information, please contact [choices@reading.org](mailto:choices@reading.org).