

# Young Adults' Choices

## Goals

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

## Background

Young Adults' Choices began in 1987 as an annual project of the International Literacy Association (ILA). Each year, approximately 4,500 students (grades 7–12) from different areas of the United States read and select 30 titles from new books donated by North American publishers.

Previous Young Adults' Choices annotated lists are available at <https://literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/reading-lists/young-adults-choices-reading-list>

## Team Leaders

Young Adults' 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
- Knowledge of young adult literature
- Interest in helping teachers use young adult literature in the classroom
- 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 & Exhibits
- 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 at least 2,500 students in grades 7–12 (Please note that all students don't have to be from your school, and there must be both high school and middle school students on the team.)
- Commit to a three-year term as a Trainee/Team Leader
- Meet with teachers, librarians, supervisors, and principals to implement the program
- Publicize the project and the final reading list
- Designate an individual (teacher, librarian, etc.) at each school site who will be responsible for handling book distribution within his or her school
- Receive and inventory:
  - First year: two copies of each book (500–600 books; 250–300 titles)
  - Second year: five copies of each book (1,250–1,500 books; 250–300 titles)
  - Third year: three copies of each book (750–900 books; 250–300 titles)
- Distribute books at each site and rotate them for maximum student access
- Annotate some of the books selected for the Young Adults' Choices list
- Participate in project activities at the ILA Conference & Exhibits
- Communicate closely with program cochairs, including reporting periodically on project progress

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

For more information, please contact the Executive Office at [exec@reading.org](mailto:exec@reading.org).