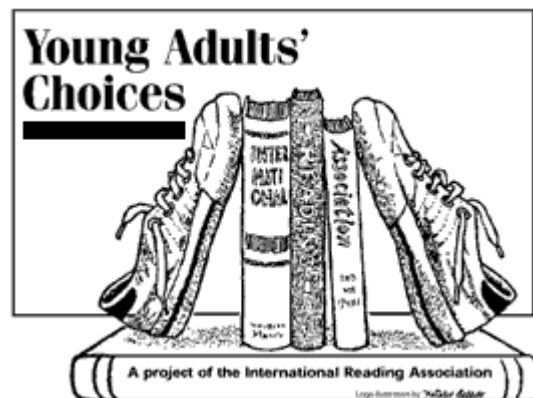


# THE YOUNG ADULTS' CHOICES PROJECT



International Reading Association  
800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139  
Newark, DE 19714-8139

## About the Young Adults' Choices Project

Young Adults' Choices is sponsored by the International Reading Association. The project has three goals:

- ◆ to develop an annual annotated reading list of new books that will encourage young adults to read;
- ◆ to help teachers, librarians, booksellers, parents, and others find books that young readers will enjoy;
- ◆ to provide middle and secondary school students with an opportunity to voice their opinions about the books being written for them.

How are these goals reached? Each year approximately 4,500 students in grades 7 to 12 read books that have been selected from new publications donated by North American publishers. A book must have received at least two positive reviews to be included in the collection under consideration. The student readers come from different regions of the United States and are grouped in teams according to their geographic area. Each team's participation in the project is coordinated by an adult Team Leader. Throughout the year, students read the books and vote for their choices—their “Young Adults' Choices.” IRA tabulates the results, and top vote-getters appear on the annual list of approximately 30 titles that is published by the International Reading Association.

This list becomes a guide for teachers, media centers, parents—and of course for other students nationwide. After all, these are the books chosen by their peers as the “the best of the year.” On each list there is a wide variety of titles, including both fiction and nonfiction, with many of the publications featuring illustrations as well. It is an important list for readers as well as for the authors and publishers.

## **Becoming a Trainee/Team Leader**

Perhaps you would like to become part of this exciting and worthwhile project. There are several criteria for being selected. First you must have access to a large number of students in grades 7-12 (at least 2,500-3,000). Of course, they do not all have to be in “your” school, and there should be both middle and high schools involved in your team.

The persons chosen as Trainees/Team Leaders must have the following qualifications:

- membership in IRA but no current involvement with any other IRA book-listing project
- knowledge of young adult literature
- interest in helping teachers use young adult literature in the classroom
- organizational skills
- contacts with local school districts in the state
- access within a reasonable distance to participating schools
- attendance at IRA Annual Convention training session
- employment as an educator
- ability to meet deadline

## **Trainee/Team Leader**

### Responsibilities:

- 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 on the local as well as national level
- select a designated individual responsible (teacher, librarian, etc.) at each school site to handle the distribution of the books within their school
- receive and inventory
  - first year – 2 copies (500–600 books—250–300 titles)
  - second year – 5 copies (1250-1500 books—250–300 titles)
  - third year – 3 copies (750–900 books—250–300 titles)
- distribute of books at each site and rotate the books for maximum number of students to have access to the books
- collect student ballots and send rating scores for each book to IRA Headquarters.
- report periodically to the chair on the progress of the project
- annotate some of the books selected for the Young Adults' Choices list.
- participate in the activities of the project at the IRA Annual Convention.
- remain in close communication with IRA Headquarters, the chair, and other team leaders (e-mail, telephone, or fax)

The **International Reading Association Literature for Young Adults' Committee** considers numerous factors in selection, such as geographical representation, number of students, type of population, knowledge of young adult literature, leadership and professional involvement, attendance at IRA conventions, and interest from and support of selected schools.

If you are committed to young adult literature and have access to the needed number of students, write to this address for an application:

Executive Office  
International Reading Association  
800 Barksdale Road, P.O. Box 8139  
Newark, DE 19714-8139  
E-mail: [exec@reading.org](mailto:exec@reading.org)

or you may download the application from our website [www.reading.org/choices](http://www.reading.org/choices).

An annotated version of Young Adults' Choices will appear in the November issue of the *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, a publication of the International Reading Association. Offprint copies of this annotated list will be available from the Association in November. The list is available for viewing and downloading in PDF format at [www.reading.org/choices](http://www.reading.org/choices) or for single copies send a 9 x 12 self-addressed envelope plus \$1 for postage and handling. Order bulk copies online at [bookstore.reading.org](http://bookstore.reading.org) or by phone with a credit card (in the U.S. and Canada only) 1-800-336-READ, or send order to Order Department. For more information write to the address below:



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