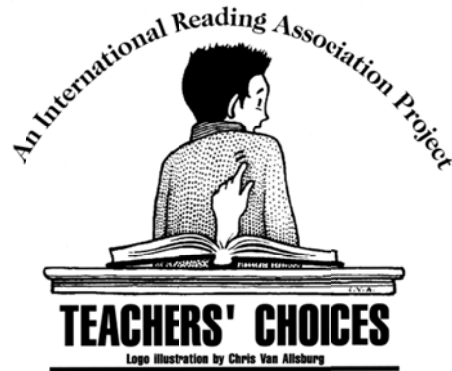


THE  
TEACHERS' CHOICES  
PROJECT



International Reading Association  
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## About the Teachers' Choices Project

The Teachers' Choices Project, sponsored by the International Reading Association, publishes each year a reading list of approximately thirty new trade books that have been field tested by teachers and

- might not be discovered or fully appreciated by children without introduction by a knowledgeable educator or other adult
- reflect high quality in style, content, structure, beauty of language, and artistic presentation
- have potential for enriching the curriculum

Each book submitted by publishers will receive at least six reviews by teacher/reviewers in each of the IRA's seven regions in the United States. The tally of regional reviews is then tabulated at IRA headquarters, and the highest scoring titles in each of the three age groups are published as the Teachers' Choices reading list.

The Teachers' Choices Project is intended to identify recently published children's trade books that are appropriate for use in the classroom. The charges to the IRA committee appointed to oversee the project include the following:

1. Develop a reading list of newly published trade books that
  - require introduction to students by a knowledgeable educator
  - contain high literary or aesthetic qualities, and
  - can be used as teaching tools across the curriculum.
2. Assist in publicizing the Teachers' Choices reading list to IRA councils and other interested groups.
3. Review the criteria and procedures for the reading list development and suggest refinements as appropriate.

The IRA Teachers' Choices Project reflects the national trend of reading teachers and classroom teachers using trade books in their teaching programs. The annual reading list of field-tested new books helps them to identify a core group of books at the primary, intermediate, and advanced reading levels.

## Becoming a Trainee/Team Leader

### Composition and Terms of Appointment of Trainee

Team leaders, one for each of the seven U.S. IRA regions, are recommended to the IRA President-elect by the Steering Committee. A term of appointment includes a one-year training period followed by two years as a team leader. These positions are filled on a rotating basis.

IRA members who are interested in serving as team leader are invited to complete an online application. Criteria for selection include the following:

- membership in IRA
- no current involvement with any other IRA book project
- organizational skills
- contacts with local school districts in the applicant's state
- access within a reasonable distance to participating schools
- attendance at training session during the annual convention
- an interest in helping teachers use children's 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; i.e., college/university, school
  - district; urban/suburban/rural; ethnic population; etc.
- job title and areas of responsibility

During the first year of appointment, team leaders serve as trainees. The trainee conducts a field test guided by the team leader. One copy of each field test book is sent directly to the trainee by the publishers.

The trainee reports to the committee chair. The trainee reports final tallies from their field test to IRA Headquarters. In effect, the trainee serves as the director of one of the field sites, similar to a field leader.

The **team leader trainee** has these specific duties:

- recruits a team consisting of 1 to 2 field leaders who in turn each recruit about 25 teacher reviewers
- receives and inventories 300-400 titles before distributing them to the field leaders
- trains field leaders and reviewers to read, evaluate, and complete rating form on the books
- is responsible for insuring that field leaders collect reviews in a timely fashion
- publicizes the project and the final reading list
- organizes final distribution of books to schools and writes "thank you" letters.

### **Appointment and Duties of a Team leader**

The team leader has these specific duties:

- recruits a team consisting of 2 or 3 field leaders who in turn each recruit about 50 teacher reviewers
- receives and inventories 900-1,200 books (3 copies of each title in second year and 2 copies of each titles in third year) before distributing them to the field leaders
- trains field leaders and reviewers to read, evaluate, and complete rating form on the books
- is responsible for insuring that field leaders collect reviews in a timely fashion
- publicizes the project and the final reading list
- organizes final distribution of books to schools and writes "thank you" letters

The **International Reading Association Teachers' Choices Committee** considers numerous factors in selection, such as geographic representation, support services, number of interested teachers, type of population, and attendance at IRA's Annual Convention.

If you are committed to high quality literature for children and have access to the needed number of students, please visit our website at [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org) and fill out the online application.

An annotated list of Teachers' Choices is available for viewing and downloading in PDF format at [www.reading.org/choices](http://www.reading.org/choices). For more information contact [committees@reading.org](mailto:committees@reading.org).



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