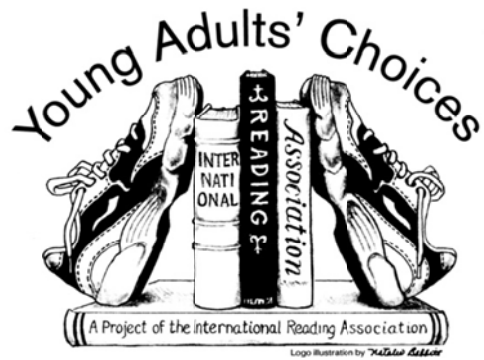


THE  
YOUNG ADULTS'  
CHOICES PROJECT



International Reading Association  
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## 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 U.S. 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 reading list of approximately 30 titles that is published by the International Reading Association.

This reading 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." There is a wide variety of titles, including both fiction and non-fiction, with several titles made into major motion pictures. 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. 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 annual IRA convention training session
- knowledge of young adult literature
- interest in helping teachers use young adult literature in the classroom
- 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)
- distribution 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, please visit our website at [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org) and fill out the online application.

An annotated version of Young Adults' 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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