

Texas Maverick Graphic Novels Reading List
Policy and Procedures
Last Updated 10/2022

Charge

To select a recommended reading list of graphic novels designed for young adults of Texas, grades 6-12, from books published in the two years prior to the list being published and to annotate said list.

Purpose of the List

The Texas Maverick Graphic Novels Reading List (TMGNRL) is a recommended reading list developed by public and school librarians from the Young Adult Round Table (YART). The purpose of the list is to encourage students in grades 6-12 to explore a variety of current books. The TMGNRL list is intended for recreational reading, not to support a specific curriculum. *Due to the diversity of this age range, Texas librarians should purchase titles on this list according to their individual collection policies.*

For the purpose of the committee, graphic novels are defined to include trade compilations and original works published in a sequential art format. Such titles should incorporate acceptable literary and artistic quality with effectiveness of presentation.

Target Audience

The list is prepared for use by students in grades 6-12, and annotations will be written to attract the YA reader.

Selection Criteria

Eligibility Criteria

- a. Books published in the 2 years prior to the publication of the list.
- b. Books with published scholarly reviews or peer reviews are preferred; however, books for which there are no reviews available may be considered at the discretion of the committee.
- c. A previous nomination may not be reconsidered.

- d. Reissues will be considered if there has been significant change to the original content of the work since first issued. Whether or not the changes are significant enough is ultimately determined by the Chair.
- e. Series: If there are more than two books in a year and they are all of equal interest, the books can be nominated “as a series” which means that this suite of titles constitutes one nomination. Books published in the same series in a different nomination year must be nominated and read.
- f. Collections of comic strips will be considered only if they contain an overarching storyline.
- g. Digital only allowed for manga that can't be found in print; must be published by a legitimate publisher

Nomination Criteria

- a. The content of the book must be relevant to readers in grades 6-12.
- b. The book must be relevant in subject, language and age.
- c. The book must have literary merit and wide appeal.
- d. The TMGNRL is intended for recreational reading and not to be restricted to supporting a specific curriculum. The list as a whole seeks balance in genre, gender appeal, interest, subject and difficulty.
- e. Anyone may nominate an appropriate title. Each nomination must be submitted on an official form. Nomination forms may be obtained from the committee website.
- f. Field nominations, which are nominations that come from someone who is not a member of the committee, require a second from a committee member. The chair informs the committee of field nominations, which remain active until all nominations are closed. If no committee member seconds the field nomination, the title is dropped from consideration.
- g. Books that are digital only from a publisher may be considered for nomination, as voted on 10/3/22 in relation to the manga that aren't being published in print

Selection Criteria

- a. Reflect an integration of images and words
- b. Exhibit a clarity of visual flow on the page
- c. Contain images that convey necessary meaning
- d. Contain outstanding quality of the artwork's reproduction
- e. Contain narrative that is enhanced by the artwork
- f. Be comprised of narrative dominated by sequential art component—at least 50% sequential art

Policy Guidelines

The TMGNRL Committee will follow the following policy guidelines:

- a. Statement on Intellectual Freedom: <http://www.txla.org/pubs/ifhbk.html>
- b. Library Bill of Rights: <http://www.txla.org/pubs/ifhbk.html>
- c. "Free Access to Libraries for Minors": <http://www.txla.org/pubs/ifhbk.html>
- d. ALA American Values Statement: http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/lib_val.html

Committee Members

The TMGNRL Committee shall be comprised of the Chair, advisor (past-chair), eight members, and a non-voting administrative assistant who are members of the Young Adult Round Table. Ex-officio, non-voting members shall be the Texas Library Association (TLA) Executive Director and a liaison from the TLA Executive Board, who shall be appointed by the TLA President.

Qualifications

- a. Members shall be appointed by the YART Chair-Elect from a list of YART volunteers.
- b. Committee members and the administrative assistant shall serve a three-year term to commence at the close of the Annual Conference of TLA.
- c. A TMGNRL Committee member must be a current member of YART throughout their term of appointment, must work directly with young adults in grades 6-12 throughout their term of appointment, and must not currently be affiliated with an author, illustrator, or publisher in any capacity that might interfere with the integrity of the committee.
- d. Members may not serve two consecutive terms as committee members but may be appointed Chair.
- e. If a committee member cannot serve out the full term, the YART Chair will appoint a replacement from a list of YART volunteers to serve the remainder of the term of office.

Responsibilities

- a. Guide and direct the educational focus of the TMGNRL Program.
- b. Prepare a selected reading list for the TMGNRL Program, based on nominations submitted to the committee.
- c. Monitor the production and distribution of the TMGNRL list.
- d. Assist in monitoring the use of the TMGNRL trademark/logo and apprise the TLA Executive Board of any known infringements associated with its use.
- e. Attend all meetings. Members who are not able to attend all meetings may be asked to resign their position. The required meetings are the TMGNRL committee meeting at TLA Conference and the voting meeting to select the final

list. The committee may also choose to meet during the TLA Annual Assembly. If so, members will attend, preferably face-to-face, or through electronic communication if unable to physically attend.

- f. Participate in the function of the committee. Members will be asked to make nominations and to read all nominated books. Those who are not able to do so may be asked to resign their position.
- g. Submit employment verification form signed by principal or supervisor.
- h. Participate in TMGNRL programming at Annual Conference.

Administrative Assistant

A volunteer administrative assistant will be chosen by the YART Chair-Elect for a three-year term. The administrative assistant maintains contact with the publishing companies, submits special book requests to the publishers, disseminates the final list to the publishers and to the YART electronic distribution list, sends field nominations from the website to the chair, and other such duties assigned by the Chair. The administrative assistant does not vote, does not participate in book discussions, nor nominate titles.

Chair

The Chair is appointed by the YART Chair-Elect for a two-year term and, as such, has the right to vote and to enter into discussion of titles. It should be understood, however, that the primary responsibility of the Chair is facilitator of the Committee's charge, including all business matters. The Chair should only discuss a title after other committee members have had an opportunity to speak so as not to unduly influence the decision.

Qualifications

- a. The TMGNRL Committee Chair is selected from past or present members of the TMGNRL Committee.
- b. The TMGNRL Committee Chair must be a current member of YART, must work directly with young adults from grades 6-12, and must not be currently under contract or employed by a publishing company in any capacity that might interfere with the integrity of this committee.
- c. The TMGNRL Committee Chair shall serve a two-year term.
- d. If the TMGNRL Committee Chair cannot serve out the full term, the YART Chair shall appoint an interim Chair to serve the remainder of the term of office.

Responsibilities

- a. Guide and direct the educational focus of the TMGNRL Program.
- b. Review the goals, objectives, guidelines, policies, and procedures of the TMGNRL Committee and recommend improvements in the general operation of the program total and YART Executive Boards.
- c. Attend the TLA Annual Conference, the TLA Annual Assembly, YART executive board meetings, and the TMGNRL Committee voting meetings.
- d. Maintain/update the TMGNRL Program “Operating Procedures” and make it available upon request.
- e. Schedule meetings, plan agendas, oversee the preparation and dissemination of meeting minutes, etc.
- f. Monitor the use of the TMGNRL trademark/logo and keep the TLA Executive Board apprised of any known infringements associated with its use.
- g. Publish and maintain nominations as well as submit the updated nomination list to the committee members and the YART webmaster for posting on the TLA website.

Advisor / Past-Chair

The past chair will remain active for one year to mentor the current chair as needed. The past chair is not required to attend meetings, does not vote, does not participate in book discussions nor nominate titles.

TLA Responsibilities

- a. The TLA Executive Board will monitor the use of the TMGNRL trademark/logo and take legal action against infringements associated with its use. This board will also set the fee and guidelines for use of the trademark.
- b. The TLA Office will assist in the distribution of the TMGNRL each year.

YART Executive Board Responsibilities

- a. Guide and direct the educational focus of the TMGNRL.
- b. Review the goals, objectives, guidelines, policies and procedures of the TMGNRL Program and make recommendations for program improvements.
- c. Establish guidelines for the selection of TMGNRL Committee members.
- d. Assist in monitoring the use of the TMGNRL trademark/logo and apprise the TLA Executive Board of any known infringements associated with its use.

Discussing the List

The TMGNRL committee meets during the TLA Annual Conference and in the fall to discuss the nominated books. The committee may also choose to meet during the TLA Annual Assembly. After observer comments, the Chair will provide each book's nominator with the first opportunity to address that title if he/she so desires. The other members of the committee may be recognized by the chair to contribute to the discussion.

Every nominated book is available for discussion. Committee members are asked to focus on the literary and artistic merits of the book, including audience, voice, point of view, genre, and readability. The committee may choose to remove a book from the nomination list if it does not meet the committee's standards.

Comments from Observers

All Committee meetings will be open to TLA members.

Before the committee discusses each nominated title, an opportunity will be given to observers to make short comments, no longer than one minute about the books, but the Chair reserves the right to cut short the discussion if necessary. Observers will not be allowed during the final voting process.

Publishers' representatives are requested to refrain from participating in discussion or asking for comments about their own books.

Voting Procedures

Final selections are made at the voting meeting which should occur in the month of November. After comments from observers and discussion by the committee members, a vote is taken to determine if a title should be included on the final list.

Observers will not be allowed during the final vote. A title must receive 6 of 9 votes in order to be on the final list.

Availability of Lists for General Distribution

The list of nominations will be updated monthly. The cumulative list of nominations will be available electronically on the TLA website on a monthly basis. The list of nominations will also

be sent to the YART membership electronic distribution list. The final list of nominations will be available after October 1st.

Following its voting meeting, the committee chair will provide YART with the final annotated list of selected titles. The YART webmaster will post the list to the TLA website. The chair will post the list to the YART membership electronic distribution list and other distribution lists as appropriate.

The administrative assistant will contact the publishers.

The final list will be made public on December 1 via the YART website and social media.

History

The Maverick Graphic Novels Reading List was the brainchild of then library school students Alicia Holston and Tuan Nguyen, who both share a passion for reading graphic novels. With the help of librarians Renee Dyer (Weslaco ISD), Wylaina Hildreth (Denton Public Library), Laura Jewell (Plano Public Library), and Jennifer Smith (East Central ISD), the Maverick Graphic Novels Reading List was created and approved in 2009 to encourage young adult readers, grades 6-12, to explore a variety of current books in graphic novel format. The name, “Maverick” was chosen for this reading list because Texas was the first state to create a graphic novel reading list—we were the Mavericks in the field.

Timeline

February 2008

Proposal to create Graphic Novel Reading list from WyLaina Hildreth, Alicia Hulston, and Tuan Nguyen made to Young Adult Round Table.

April 2008

Graphic Novel Task Force meets to plan policies and procedures for the Graphic Novel Reading List.

Members:

- Jennifer Smith, chair
- Renee Dyer
- Alicia Hulston
- Laura Jewell
- Tuan Nguyen

July 2008

Texas Library Association Executive Board approves the policies and procedures of the Texas Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List committee during Annual Assembly.

TLA President at time of committee formation: Patrick Heath

YART Chair at time of committee formation: Susi Grissom

2010

Publication of the first Maverick List

Committee Chairs

- Stephanie Galvan Russell 2019-22
- Christina Taylor, 2017-19
- Christina Hicks, 2015-17
- Tuan Nguyen, 2013-15
- Alicia Holston, 2011-13
- WyLaina Hildreth, 2009-11