

# Texas 2X2 Reading List Policies and Procedures

The mission of the 2X2 Committee is to produce a list of 20 recommended books for children, age two to grade two. This list can be used by parents and caregivers to introduce children to a variety of quality books that will pique their interest and imagination as well as encourage independent reading when appropriate.

The Texas 2X2 Reading List Committee will follow the following policy guidelines:

- [Statement on Intellectual Freedom](#)
- [Library Bill of Rights](#)
- [ALA American Values Statement](#)

## **Committee Members:**

The 2X2 Committee shall be comprised of (1) Chair, (6) voting members, (1) non-voting Social Media Liaison, and (1) non-voting Administrative Assistant who are members of the Children's Round Table. Attempts should be made to balance the committee geographically and by type of library. For instance, ideally the committee will be made up of 3 public and 3 school librarians with the Chair position rotating between the two.

## **Committee Member Qualifications:**

- A. Members shall be appointed by the CRT Chair from a list of CRT Volunteers.
- B. Committee members shall serve three year terms.
- C. Committee members must be a current member of CRT.
- D. Be actively involved in the delivery of library services to children.
- E. Member must not currently be affiliated with an author, illustrator, or publisher in any capacity that might interfere with the integrity of the committee.
- F. If a committee member cannot serve out a full term, the CRT Chair will appoint a replacement from a list of CRT volunteers to serve the remainder of the term of office.

## **Committee Member Responsibilities:**

- A. Understand the mission of the 2X2 list.
- B. Attend all meetings. These include the TLA Annual Conference, virtual summer meetings, and an additional in-person meeting held for two days in January. Members who are not able to attend all meetings may be asked to resign their positions.
- C. Have a reliable email account they can access daily, 12 months of the year.
- D. Read widely in order to nominate worthy titles.
- E. Participate in the function of the committee. Voting members will be asked to make nominations and read all nominated books. Those who are not able to do so may be asked to resign their position.
- F. Monitor the production and distribution of the 2X2 list.
- G. Assist in monitoring the use of the 2X2 trademark/logo and apprise the TLA Executive Board of any known infringements associated with its use.
- H. Attend and assist with the presentation of the 2x2 list at the TLA Annual Conference during the 2x2 Showcase and any additional presentations.

**Administrative Assistant:**

A volunteer Administrative Assistant will be chosen by the CRT Chair for a three-year term. The Administrative Assistant is a non-voting member of the Committee.

**Administrative Assistant Responsibilities:**

- A. Maintain an up to date publisher contact list and maintain contact with the publishing companies.
- B. Submit special book requests to the publishers.
- C. Disseminate the final list to the publishers and to the CRT electronic distribution list.
- D. Send field nominations from the website to the chair, and other such duties assigned by the Chair.
- E. Create a list of titles received from publishers and make sure all committee members have received all books on the list.
- F. Fill in as a voting committee member in the event that a voting committee member is unable to complete their service.

**Social Media Liaison:**

A volunteer Social Media Liaison will be chosen by the CRT Chair for a three-year term. The Social Media Liaison is a non-voting member of the Committee.

**Social Media Liaison Responsibilities:**

- A. Write book blurbs for all titles chosen for the list, to be shared as captions on social media.
- B. Create a list of appropriate links and social media handles for authors, illustrators, and publishers for titles on the list.
- C. Attend the January in-person meeting and additional meetings at the discretion of the Chair.
- D. Read all of the books that make it to the final 2x2 list.
- E. Coordinate with the committee to create the coloring page, one-pagers, and any other resources to accompany the announcement of the list during the January meeting.
- F. Collaborate with the CRT Social Media Chair to share 2x2 media throughout the year.

**Committee Chair:**

The Chair is appointed by the CRT Chair-Elect for a two-year term. The Chair is a voting member of the committee. It should be understood, however, that the primary responsibility of the Chair is facilitator of the Committee's charge, including all business matters.

**Chair Qualifications:**

- A. The Chair is held to all the qualifications of the 2X2 committee members.
- B. The Chair is selected from past or present members of the 2X2 Committee.
- C. If the 2X2 Chair cannot serve out the full term, the CRT Chair shall appoint an interim Chair to serve the remainder of the term of office.

**Chair Responsibilities:**

- A. The Chair is held to all the responsibilities of the 2X2 committee members.
- B. Guide and direct the educational focus of the 2X2 Program.
- C. Review the goals, objectives, guidelines, policies, and procedures of the 2X2 Committee and

- recommend improvements in the general operation of the program total and CRT Executive Boards.
- D. Maintain/update the 2X2 Program “Manual of Policy and Procedures,” and make it available upon request.
  - E. Schedule meetings, plan agendas, oversee the preparation and dissemination of meeting minutes, etc.
  - F. Publish and maintain nominations, and submit the updated nomination list to the committee members and the CRT webmaster for posting on the TLA website.
  - G. Collect monthly nominations from members and disseminate combined list to all members.
  - H. Assist the administrative assistant with the list of titles received from publishers and make sure all committee members have received all books on the list.

### **Book List Selection Criteria:**

#### **Eligibility:**

- A. Only book formats are eligible for consideration.
- B. Books for children from age two to grade two will be considered for possible inclusion.
- C. The book’s original copyright date must be in the calendar year preceding the list. (ie. publication date of 2025 for the 2026 list). Books previously published in other countries can be accepted as long as the first American Copyright is in the correct calendar year.
- D. Books must have English text, unless it is a wordless book. Dual language and translations will be considered.
- E. The book must be favorably reviewed in at least one reviewing source.
- F. Textbooks, abridgements, and new editions or previously published books are ineligible.

#### **Selection Criteria:**

- A. Selection emphasis will be on quality, not current popularity.
- B. Content should be appropriate for the intended audience.
- C. Excellence in overall design of a book should be given consideration; the format should be visually appealing and appropriate for both the content and the intended age-level.
- D. The list should contain no more than twenty titles a year.
- E. Book types that may be represented are:
  - Board Books
  - Picture Books (including folktales, rhymes, and poetry)
  - Early Readers
  - Beginning Chapter/Fiction Books
  - Early Information Books (age appropriate)
  - Pop-up Books
- F. An effort will be made to include all book types, but if no title for a given type is deemed appropriate, a type may be omitted from the list. Emphasis is on quality rather than arbitrarily defined balance.

### **Nomination Procedures:**

- A. Books for consideration may come from publisher submitted titles, public submissions, and/or additional titles selected by members.
- B. Voting committee members are required to nominate 5-10 titles each month from May through November. They can nominate up to 10 titles before May as an early nomination.
- C. You may nominate a book that has already been nominated by another member.
- D. Committee members will nominate titles that represent diversity through diverse outlooks, stories, genres, formats, genders, geographic environment, ages, and ethnicities.
- E. Committee members will write an original “book blurb” for each nominated title.

- Book blurbs are defined as a short (2 sentence) summary or promotional description of a book.
- F. In December each member will choose their top 15 nominations from the titles they have themselves nominated.
- G. The top nominations of each member will be discussed and voted upon to create the final list.

### **Committee Meetings:**

- A. There will be one in-person book discussion in January of the list year, plus additional virtual meetings, scheduled at the discretion of the Chair.
  - *Summer Virtual Meeting(s)*
    - Each member will bring their nominations to date and discuss titles.
    - This will allow the committee a greater knowledge and understanding of the current state of the nominated titles.
    - It will allow committee members the time needed to seek out and nominate books that will ensure a diverse selection of books.
    - It will inform committee members in their choice of their monthly nominations.
    - New members will learn the expectations of the committee.
    - The committee will reflect on their duties as a whole, and as individual members
    - Answer questions and address concerns of the members.
  - *January Meeting (at the Chair's library):*
    - Members will meet for two (2) days to discuss the entirety of each committee member's top 15 nominations.
    - Each title will be discussed and voted upon.
    - Members may bring additional titles if they were late submissions, or items that the other committee members may not have seen.
    - The committee will create a final list of up to 20 titles.
    - The committee will create all resource materials collaboratively after the top 20 titles have been decided.

### **Announcement of the 2x2 List**

The 2x2 Reading List will be announced on the TLA website on January 31st (or the nearest weekday) of each year.