

Texas Lone Star Reading List Manual of Policies and Procedures

Charge To select a recommended reading list designed for young adults of Texas, grades 6-8, from books published in the two years prior to the list being published and to annotate said list.

Purpose of the List The Texas Lone Star Reading List (TLSRL) 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, 7, or 8 to explore a variety of current books. The Lone Star 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. Each book on the list has been favorably reviewed for grades 6, 7, or 8 in a professional review source.

Target Audience The list is prepared for use by students in grades 6, 7 and 8, and annotations will be written to attract the YA reader.

Selection Criteria

Eligibility Time Frame The Committee will consider and vote on books published within the 2 years prior to the year the list is published. Nominations may be accepted from the field and Committee up to October 1 of that calendar year. Field nominations require a second from a TLSRL committee member. Nominations must be submitted on the official form, which is available on the YART web site or from the current chair.

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.

Nomination criteria: The book must be favorably reviewed in a scholarly journal for grades 6, 7, or 8. The person making the nomination must have read the book.

Content: Only one book per author per genre may be included on the list. Titles shall be nominated that reflect a variety of difficulty levels for readers in grades 6-8, i.e. a book for unsophisticated readers beginning the sixth grade and one for mature eighth graders. The committee strives for a fairly equal distribution of books targeting each of the three grade levels and within each set further seeks balance in areas such as genre, gender appeal, interest, subject, and difficulty.

The Texas Lone Star Reading List Committee will follow the following policy guidelines:

- Statement on Intellectual Freedom:
<http://www.txla.org/intellectual-freedom>
- Library Bill of Rights: <http://www.txla.org/pubs/ifhbk.html>
- ALA American Values Statement:
http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/lib_val.html

Committee Members The TLSRL Committee shall be comprised of the 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 TLSRL Committee member must be a current member of YART throughout their term of appointment, must work directly with young adults in grades 6-8 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 this 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.

TLSRL Committee Responsibilities

- a. Guide and direct the educational focus of the TLSRL Program.
- b. Prepare a selected reading list for the TLSRL Program, based on nominations submitted to the committee.
- c. Monitor the production and distribution of the TLSR list.
- d. Assist in monitoring the use of the TLSRL 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 TLSRL committee meeting at TLA Conference and the

November meeting to select the final list. The committee may choose to meet during the TLA Annual Assembly, though the meeting is not mandatory. If the committee decides to meet at TLA Annual Assembly, members may choose to meet via electronic communication, rather than face-to-face.

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. Present booktalks during the Annual Conference.

i. Work at least 1 hour at the YART booth and 1 hour at the TT4L teen room during the Annual Conference.

Administrative Assistant An 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, submits the updated nomination list to the YART webmaster for posting on the TLA website and to the YART electronic distribution list, and other such duties assigned by the Chair. The administrative assistant is a non-voting member of the Committee.

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 Chair is selected from past or present members of the TLSRL Committee.

b. The TLSRL Committee Chair must be a current member of YART, must work directly with young adults from grades 6-8, 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 Chair shall serve a two-year term.

d. If the 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 TLSRL Program.

- b. Review the goals, objectives, guidelines, policies, and procedures of the TLSRL 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, and all TLSRL Committee meetings.
- d. Maintain/update the TLSRL 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. Monitor the use of the TLSRL 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 disseminate the final list to the publishers and the membership.

TLA Responsibilities

- a. The TLA Executive Board will monitor the use of the TLSRL 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 TLSRL each year.

YART Executive Board Responsibilities

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

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.

Discussing the List The committee may meet during the TLA Annual Assembly, though the meeting is not mandatory, to discuss the nominated

books. 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 merit 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.

Voting Procedures The Committee will meet in the fall to make the final selections for the TLSRL. Prior to the fall meeting, all committee members will submit to the chair a list of their top 20 books from the current nomination list. The chair will compile the list and distribute it to the members.

After observer comments, the committee will allow time for discussion of each nomination. The committee may choose to focus discussion on the books that appeared on a member's Top 20 list, but any book may be brought up for discussion. Committee members are asked to focus on the literary merit of the book, including audience, voice, point of view, genre and readability.

Informal voting will occur throughout the discussion in order to judge the support for certain titles. These votes will not be recorded and are not considered binding. The goal of the committee will be to build a consensus for the 20 books that will comprise the list. Once the list of 20 books has been created, the committee members will vote to approve the list.

Observers will not be allowed during the final vote. This vote should be unanimous. If however, after three attempts to approve the final list have failed, the committee chair will then have the option of breaking the deadlock by declaring the list accepted without unanimous support.

After the final discussion and selection, members of the committee select the books they will present/booktalk at the Annual Conference. Each member will prepare booktalks for the titles he/she will be presenting and submit them to the chair.

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 last meeting, the committee will provide the Young Adult Round Table 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 list will also be submitted to the Texas Library Journal, the

TLACast, and the YA Round Table Revue.

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