

Tejas Star Reading List

Policy and Procedures

Charge To select a recommended reading list of bilingual English/Spanish books or books written in Spanish for children ages 5-12, from books published in the three years prior to the list being published and to annotate said list.

Purpose of the List The Tejas Star Reading List (TSRL) is a recommended reading list developed by TLA member librarians from the Texas Association of School Librarians (TASL), the Children's Round Table (CRT), the Public Library Division (PLD), and the Latino Caucus. The purpose of the list is to encourage children ages 5-12 to explore multicultural books and to discover the cognitive and economic benefits of bilingualism and multilingualism. The Tejas Star Reading 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.

Target Audience The list is prepared for use by children ages 5-12, and annotations will be written to attract children in the age range.

Selection Criteria

Eligibility Time Frame The committee will consider and vote on books published within the three years prior to the year the list is published.

Nomination Criteria

- The book must have received a positive review in one of the major reviewing sources or by the Tejas Star selection committee members. The person making the nomination must have read the book.
- Nominations may be accepted from the field and the Committee up to December 1 of that calendar year.
- Field/Community suggestions must be submitted on the official form, which is available on the TSRL web site.

Content

- Titles shall reflect a variety of difficulty levels for readers ages 5-12.
- The book must be authentic in portraying the Hispanic/Latino culture, if applicable.
- The book must be written in Spanish/English bilingual format or in Spanish. Spanish translations are acceptable if the book was translated within five years of the original publication.
- The book must be of high literary quality and have wide appeal.

- If the book is published outside the U.S., the book must be of interest to children in Texas schools.
- There will be no limit of titles by a specific author.

The Tejas 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 TSRL Committee shall be comprised of the Chair, advisor (past-chair), eight members, and a vice-chair who are members of Texas Association of School Librarians (TASL), the Public Library Division (PLD), Children’s Round Table (CRT), and the Latino Caucus. 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

- Members shall be appointed by the TLA President from a list of TASL, PLD, CRT, and Latino Caucus volunteers.
- Committee members shall serve a three-year term to commence at the close of Annual Conference of TLA.
- A TSRL Committee member must be a current member of TASL, PLD, CRT, or the Latino Caucus 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.
- Members may not serve two consecutive terms as committee members but may be appointed Chair.
- If a committee member cannot serve out the full term, the TLA President will appoint a replacement from a list of TASL, PLD, CRT, and Latino Caucus volunteers to serve the remainder of the term of office
- Most of the committee members shall be English/Spanish bilingual.

TSRL Committee Responsibilities

- Guide and direct the educational focus of the TSRL Program.
- Prepare a selected reading list for the TSRL Program, based on nominations submitted to the committee.
- Monitor the production and distribution of the TSRL.

- Assist in publicizing the TSRL.
- Create activities that will promote the TSRL that will be shared on the TSRL website and at TLA Annual Conference.
- Assist in monitoring the use of the TSRL trademark/logo and apprise the TLA Executive Board of any known infringements associated with its use.
- Attend all meetings. Members who are absent from two consecutive meetings without good cause will be replaced upon request of the Chair. The required meetings per TLA guidelines are the TSRL committee meeting at TLA Conference and the December/January 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.
- 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.
- Assist in preparing presentation for TLA Annual Conference.
- Present booktalks and other related content during TLA Annual Conference.
- If applicable, work at appropriate booth at the Annual Conference, Regional, or District events.
- Communicate frequently and regularly with the committee members via email and through online communications platforms.
 - Update the “Books Received” spreadsheet weekly from July to December (or during time frame that books are being submitted for review).
 - Respond to all emails in a timely manner (within 72 hours) as needed.

Chair The Chair is appointed by the TLA President for a one year term and, as such, has the right to vote and to enter 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 matter. 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

- The Chair is selected from past or present members of the TSRL Committee.
- The TSRL Committee Chair must be a current member of TASL, PLD, CRT, or the Latino Caucus and must not be currently under contract or employed by a publishing company in any capacity that might interfere with the integrity of the committee.
- The Chair shall serve a one-year term.
- If the Chair cannot serve out the full term, the TLA President will appoint an interim Chair to serve the remainder of the term of office.

Responsibilities

- Guide and direct the educational focus of the TSRL Program.

- Review the goals, objectives, guidelines, policies, and procedures of the TSRL Committee and recommend improvements in the general operation of the program.
- Attend all TSRL required meetings.
- Maintain/update the TSRL Program “Manual of Policy and Procedures” and make it available upon request.
- Schedule meetings, plan agendas, oversee the preparation and dissemination of meeting minutes, etc.
- Monitor the use of the TSRL trademark/logo and keep the TLA Executive Board apprised of any known infringements associated with its use.
- Publish and maintain nominations, and submit the updated nomination list to the committee members and the YART webmaster for posting on the TLA website.

Vice-Chair The Vice-Chair will be chosen by the TLA President for a one-year term that can be renewed. The Vice-Chair maintains contact with the publishing companies, submits special book requests to publishers, submits the updated nomination list to the TSRL webmaster for posting on the TLA website and to electronic distribution lists, and other such duties assigned by the Chair.

TLA Responsibilities

- The TLA Executive Board will monitor the use of the TSRL 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.
- The TLA Office will assist in the distribution of the TSRL each year.

Advisor/Past-Chair The Past Chair will remain active for one year as advisor to mentor to the current TSRL chair as needed. The Past Chair is not required to attend meetings, does not vote, does not participate in book discussions nor nominate titles.

Discussing the List The committee will meet during the TLA Annual Conference and in the fall/winter to discuss (and vote for) the nominated books. Committee meetings may be virtual. 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.

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 fall/winter meeting. 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.

After the final selection, members of the committee choose the books they will book talk at the Annual Conference. The member will annotate the titles he/she will be presenting. These annotations must be submitted to the chair on the designated date or before the Annual Conference.

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 TASL, PLD and Latino Caucus membership electronic distribution list. The final list of nominations will be available after January 1st. Following its last meeting, the committee will provide TLA with the final annotated list of selected titles. The webmaster will post the list to the TLA website. The chair will post the list to distribution lists as appropriate. The administrative assistant will contact the publishers. The list will also be submitted to the Texas Library Journal and the TLACast.

History In the interest of time, and to have the committee populated by December 2012, the first five members of the committee consisted of TLA members from the Region One Education Service Center area who had previously served on the Tejas Star Book Award Selection Committee.