

The Rainbow Project

A List of GLBTQ Books for Youth

Policies and Procedures – 2009

Policies

Charge

To select from the year's publications, books that reflect gay/lesbian/bisexual/trans-gendered/queer-questioning (glbtq) experience for young people from birth to age 18 and to annotate selected titles.

Purpose of the List

The list presents books published within the assigned calendar year or between July 1 and December 31 of the previous calendar year that exhibit commendable literary quality and significant authentic glbtq content and are recommended for young people from birth through eighteen years of age. Both fiction and nonfiction shall have readable text and format appealing to children and/or teens. Although the list attempts to present a variety of reading tastes and levels, no effort will be made to balance the list according to subject, area of interest, age, or genre.

Audience

The list is prepared for the use of young readers, and annotations will be written to attract the YA reader.

Eligibility

To be considered for the list, a book must be published within the assigned calendar year or between July 1 and December 31 of the previous calendar year. Eligibility of books originally published outside the United States will be determined according to the original publication dates in the United States. Books must be distributed in the United States during the period of eligibility to be considered for the list. Revisions of previously published titles will be considered if the revision is to such an extent as to make the book substantially different from the previous edition. Any book removed from nomination at the beginning of the first ALA Midwinter Meeting is eligible for nomination during the following year if it meets the eligibility requirements. Any book nominated and discussed at ALA Midwinter Meeting will be ineligible for nomination during the following year.

Voting

A jury of nine members will nominate titles, discuss nominations, and participate in straw polls electronically prior to the ALA Midwinter Meeting. The results of this straw poll will be compiled and disseminated to the Project jury within a week. Some discussion of the books will be carried out electronically; the final discussion and selection will be conducted at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. Decisions will be reached by consensus, meaning that each member accepts the decision. If the group cannot come to consensus, the decision will be made with no more than one person dissenting. For a book to be put on the list, at least five of the nine-member jury must have read the book and agreed to its inclusion. Consideration for the final list is not based on a certain number of fiction or nonfiction titles, nor is it based on a certain number of titles for different age groups. Only jury members attending the Midwinter meeting and participating in all discussions about the book will be allowed to vote on a specific title. Jury members can vote only on books they have read in their entirety. After the final discussion and selection, titles are then annotated by the jury. These annotations will be completed before the end of the last meeting of the jury selections.

Nominations

All jury members will nominate books; all field submissions must be nominated by a Project member. Jury members shall read the books before nominating them. Nominations shall be sent electronically to the entire Project jury and are to be received by October 31. Field submissions must be provided by September 30 to be considered for nomination.

Jury Membership

The Project consists of nine jury members, selected by the Chair and with the approval of the continuing jury members to a two-year term which is renewable for a two-year consecutive term. Each term begins at the conclusion of one Midwinter and ends at the conclusion of Midwinter at the end of the term. Following two terms (four years), a one-year hiatus is required before a member is eligible for re-appointment. Reappointment is not automatic; it is based upon participation. In order to serve on this Project, jury members are expected to actively seek books, nominate and read nominated books, attend all jury meetings at ALA Midwinter conferences, and belong to both GLBT-RT and SRRT. The Project will make every attempt to maintain gender parity.

Chair/Chair-elect

The Chair and Chair-elect share the privilege and responsibility of reading, nominating, discussing, and voting for books with the other Project jury members. In addition they share the following responsibilities as mutually agreed upon: attend to all business matters; maintain an accurate database of all nominated titles; communicate frequently with the entire jury regarding nominated books; report to OLOS, GLBT-RT, and SRRT as needed; provide publicity regarding the Project and its bibliographies; facilitate Project discussion; communicate with publishers regarding the mission of the Project; and request preview copies of books for jury members. The Chair has sole responsibility for publisher contact. During the

year following service as Chair, the Past Chair will serve as a resource to the new Chair but will not be required to be considered a Project member.

The Chair will serve in this position for one year beginning immediately following the Midwinter Conference. The Chair-elect will be selected from the Project jury, becoming the Chair upon completion of one year of service as Chair-elect. The Chair-elect will coordinate an authors' breakfast to be held in even years at the ALA Annual Conference.

Assistant

The function of the Assistant includes the following: maintain electronic sites for the Project, help with publicity, and represent the Project in SRRT and/or GLBT-RT meetings.

Comments from Observers

All Project meetings will be open to persons with guest badges. These observers may speak if recognized by the chair. Before the jury discusses each suggested title, an opportunity will be given to observers to make short comments about the books (two minutes or fewer per observer); the Chair reserves the right to cut short the comments if necessary. Publishers' representatives are requested to refrain from participating in discussion or asking for comments about their own books.

Availability of Lists for General Distribution

Following its last meeting, the jury will provide the ALA Public Information Office with the final list of selected titles. PIO will make the full list available as a press release. The press release will be posted on the Project website (<http://rainbowlist.wordpress.com>) and on the Project MySpace and Facebook pages, made available to GLBT-RT and SRRT for their websites,

and provided to various sources such as magazines directed toward teens, GLBTQ issues, and library professionals. The list, or a portion of it, will also appear in a spring issue of *Booklist*.

GLBT-RT/SRRT/OLOS

The Rainbow Project is a joint undertaking of GLBT-RT and SRRT with Project membership determined by the jury and submitted to both GLBT-RT and SRRT for vetting with specification that the Project jury be members of both these round tables and with the expectation of continued monitoring by OLOS. Rainbow Project Policies and Procedures will in no way conflict with the by-laws of GLBT-RT (<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/glbtrt/governance/index.cfm>) and SRRT (<http://www.libr.org/srrt/bylaws.html#taskforces>).