

YALSA Board of Directors
Virtual January Meeting
January 15, 2022

Topic: Policy updates for Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers

Background:

Over the past few months, Celeste Swanson (Chair-Selection List Oversight Committee) and her team have collaborated with Molly Dettmann (Team Lead-Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers) to put together a list of proposed changes for the Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers policy and procedure document. Work on this project began when SLOC committee members realized that some of the dates listed in the policy were not accurate. Further changes were then recommended as the committee analyzed other sections of the policy.

Action Required: Action

Overview:

The Selection List Oversight Committee (SLOC) would like to request an update to the policy and procedure document for the Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers Blogging Team. The purpose of these changes is to ensure consistency among all of the blogging teams and to update areas of the policy to reflect current committee practice. We also felt that it was important to include YALSA's statement on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion within the policy.

Recommendations:

All of the requested changes are highlighted below in yellow. Anything with a line through it is something we would like to remove. The other highlighted sections are the items that we would like to have added to the document. The justification for each change is listed in red.

Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers Policies and Procedures

All of our Selected Lists have been transitioned over to the Hub. Transitioning the selected lists to The Hub will offer a better opportunity to highlight books that are being considered for each list in a more timely and easily accessible manner as well as provide members with more virtual participation opportunities. More info can be found [here](#).

Charge

To prepare an annual annotated list of recommended books appropriate for reluctant young adult readers.

Purpose

The list is for young adults (ages 12-18) who, for whatever reasons, do not like to read. The purpose of this list is to identify titles for recreational reading, not for curricular or remedial use.

Procedures

Nominations

Anyone, except the book's author and publisher, may suggest an appropriate title for the Blogging Team to consider for nomination. Each suggestion must be submitted on an official form. Suggestion forms are available on the YALSA website. ~~The Blog Team Lead must receive all suggestions by Dec. 1st to be considered.~~ The Blog Team Lead must receive all suggestions by November 1st to be considered. **The purpose of this change is to make this date consistent among all of the committees and to give each team more time to finalize the list.**

Suggestions require a second from a Quick Picks Blogging Team member.

The Blogging Team Lead informs the group of suggestions, which will remain active until all nominations are closed. If no team member seconds the suggestion, the title is dropped from consideration.

Eligibility

A book must have a copyright date during the current calendar year or have been published from ~~July to December~~ September 1 of the previous year through December 31 of the current year. **This was changed a couple of years ago. The policy needs to be updated to reflect the change.** of the previous calendar year to be considered for the list. ~~A book originally published outside the United States will be considered according to its U.S. publication year.~~ Though titles need not be published in the United States, they must be widely available for purchase in the U.S. at the time of consideration. **All of the committees already allow books from outside the United States, so we felt that this should be reflected in the policy. We also agreed that this should be consistent among all of the committees.**

Series Fiction: If there are more than two books in a year and they are all of equal interest to RR's, the book can be nominated "as a series" which means that team members only have to read one of the books out that year, rather than the entire selection of books in the series published during the copyright year. Books published in the same series in a different copyright year must be re-nominated and read. All books appearing on the Quick Picks list must have been read by one or more members of the Quick Picks Team.

Evaluation

All titles should have appeal as self-selected leisure reading for young adults. Books should be evaluated by subject, cover art, readability, format, style and teen feedback. Teen feedback from reluctant readers, is encouraged. Standard selection criteria consonant with the ALA Library Bill of Rights shall be applied.

Team Members

The team consists of 10 - 14 YALSA members who are appointed on a staggered basis to maintain a balance of new and continuing members. Team members are expected to participate in the nomination process, to evaluate a large number of books, to read nominated books, to attend all team meetings and to actively participate in book discussions. Team members are appointed by the YALSA's Member Manager and serve a term of one year. Team members may be selected to serve a concurrent, second one-year term based on the member's first year performance and their interest and availability in serving another year, for a total of a two-year maximum concurrent term length on the team. The team lead and team members may be selected to serve a concurrent, second one-year term based on their first-year performance and their interest and availability in serving another year, for a total of a two-year maximum concurrent term length on the team. **We think this should also apply to Team Leads.**

Those who have served 2 consecutive years as a member, team lead, and/or administrative assistant may not be appointed to the same team for 3 years from the conclusion of their last term. ~~Members who have served two consecutive years may not be appointed to the same team for three years from the conclusion of their last term. This guideline will not apply to the Team Lead.~~ In extreme circumstances, and at the President's discretion, an exception may be made if a team member resigns suddenly. The President, after discussion with the Team Lead, may determine that the best course of action is to fill the vacancy with an experienced member, and appoint a member in good standing who successfully served on the team in question during the previous three years. **We think this should also apply to Team Leads.**

Team Lead

The primary function of the Team Lead is to facilitate the group's charge, to attend to all business matters, to maintain an accurate database of all nominated titles, and to communicate frequently with members regarding nominated books. The Team Lead enjoys the same charge and privilege of reading, nomination, discussing and voting for books as team members. It is expected, however, that the Team Lead should refrain from discussion of a title until all other members have had the opportunity to speak. The Team Lead is appointed for a one-year term by YALSA's Member Manager.

Voting

Selection of the annual list will be made during the last group meeting of the year. Members can vote only on nominated books they have read. The final list will include books receiving a majority of the team's "yes" votes. The final vote will be counted by the Team Lead.

Diversity

Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) are ideals that the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) seeks to affirm in all facets of the organization. As a professional organization dedicated to enhancing library services for and with teens, YALSA recognizes that all teens, and particularly teens from underserved and marginalized communities, need and deserve to see themselves reflected in the library staffing, policies, signage, web site

content, and much more. Therefore, YALSA seeks to address the cultural mismatch between today's increasingly diverse teen population and the librarian workforce, which remains overwhelmingly white and female. (2018 YALSA EDI Statement). **We important to include YALSA's EDI statement.**

Availability of Lists for General Distribution

The list of nominations will be updated on the Hub as nominations are finalized by the group. The final list of selected titles will be available on [the Hub](#) and in the [Teen Book Finder](#) database.

Revised by the YALSA Board June 2008, August 2009 and January 2017.

Alignment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Goals:

We believe that including YALSA's statement on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion will help guide the work of the committee, ensuring that the lists created by our blogging teams reflect the diversity of the teens we serve.

Fiscal Implications:

The only fiscal implication will be the time needed to update the document on the ALA website.

Please email Selection List Oversight Committee Chair, Celeste Swanson, with any questions at acbadger@gmail.com.