

YALSA Board of Directors
ALA Annual Conference
June 25-30, 2020

Topic: Outstanding Books for the College Bound report

Background: The initial permutation of this year’s Outstanding Books for the College Bound resulted in a list of titles that many within and outside of YALSA did not find to be satisfactory. A subcommittee of that initial group was formed with clear objectives to create a useful and timely list of titles, with annotations, that would be valuable to educators, librarians, and teens preparing for college themselves. This status report is brought by subcommittee chair Yolanda Hood.

Action Required: Information

Overview:

Not sure if we should be having so much fun doing this, but we are. We were meeting weekly late April-mid May. During those meetings we worked out our organization plan for the project. We decided to scrap the original list that was announced and start again (as there was no vetting whatsoever for that list—we all recommended books and those books became the list). We are now in reading/discussion/and voting mode. We meet every two weeks (that gives us time to read the texts in between meetings). The discussions are quite thorough and fun. We are taking into consideration readability, accessibility, prior reviews, age-appropriateness, timeliness of topics, etc. Here is the link to our google doc where you can have a sense of what we’re reading/considering/notes. Aside from our bi-weekly meetings, we also email each other on a regular basis to share our reading progress.

[Link redacted at this time until final list is provided -- Todd Krueger, YALSA President]

We have set August 15th for our deadline. At that time, we intend to deliver a vetted list of summarized books to then-President Amanda Barnhart. Sorry if that seems too long, but we didn’t do this in the earlier iteration of the committee which was a bit puzzling to us. We wanted to make sure that we could say that we have actually selected quality books that have been discussed and voted on.

This has been a great committee to work with. I think we’ll redeem ourselves with our new list.

Submitted by Yolanda Hood, chair of the Outstanding Books for the College Bound subcommittee.

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Item #35**