

# Volunteer State Book Award



## Guidelines for the Volunteer State Book Award

### **PURPOSE OF THE AWARD**

The purpose of the Volunteer State Book Award is to promote awareness, interest, and enjoyment of good new children's and young adult literature. The award also hopes to promote literacy and life-long reading habits by encouraging students to read quality contemporary literature which broadens understanding of the human experience and provides accurate, factual information. This award will honor outstanding books chosen annually by Tennessee students.

### **ITS UNIQUE FEATURE**

The Volunteer State Book Award differs from awards such as the Newbery and Caldecott Medals in that **students** choose the book which receives the award each year. Tennessee students from Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade read or have read to them at least three of the twenty titles on the annual master list. They then vote for their favorite book.

### **WHO MAY PARTICIPATE?**

Any public or private school or public library in Tennessee is eligible to participate. It is not required that the entire school be involved. Each participating school or library system must have a minimum of twelve of the twenty titles per division available.

### **HOW BOOKS ARE CHOSEN**

Twenty books appealing to students in each grade category are selected by professional librarians and educators who work continuously with students in grades K-12. Four separate lists are compiled each year.

- Books may be fiction or nonfiction.
- Only one title of any one author will be included on that year's list.
- Only titles published in the five years prior to the year of voting will be eligible.
- Only books by authors residing in the United States are eligible.
- Textbooks, anthologies, translations, and books from foreign publishers are not eligible.
- All books on the final list will have been read by a minimum of two members of the committee.

### **HOW TO VOTE**

- Any student who has read or had read to him or her a minimum of three of the twenty books will be allowed to vote.
- The library media specialist or public librarian will conduct the voting.
- Votes are cast in the Spring of each school year, prior to the annual Tennessee Library Association conference.