

SCHOOL LIBRARIANS AND MEDIA SPECIALISTS

HOW TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOUISIANA YOUNG READERS' CHOICE AWARD PROGRAM

The Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award program provides you with an annual list of 15 outstanding titles for students to read. These books are excellent choices for self-selected independent reading. They are also good titles to use in cross-curriculum studies. A Study Guide with curriculum-related activities, web links, related titles and much more is provided for each title. Accelerated Reading tests are made for most of the titles on the ballot.

To access the Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award web page go to www.state.lib.la.us Click on Libraries, click on Children and Teen Services, click on Louisiana Young Readers' Choice.

Remember, students need to read only 3 or more of the titles on the ballot to be qualified to vote. Books that are read aloud to the class may be counted toward the minimum requirement.

There two ballots: one for students in grades 3-5 and one for students in grades 6-8. The techniques that you use to promote the program may vary with the targeted grade level.

April 2008

- Purchase the titles on the 2009 Ballot, if you haven't already.
- Ask your PTA or another organization to purchase multiple copies of the LYRC books.
- Purchase extra copies in paperback when available.
- Put the LYRC titles on the Summer Reading List.
- Create a special assignment for students who want to earn extra credit over the summer.

August/September 2008

- Order the free promotional materials available from the State Library of Louisiana.
- Attend the LALAMP regional meeting of school librarians. LYRC promotional materials may be picked up at the exhibits.
- Put labels on the books so they are easily recognized.
- Shelf the books in a special area.
- Make a display promoting the program using the poster, book jackets, etc.
- Publish an article about the LYRC program in the student newsletter and parent newsletter.

- Meet with classroom teachers and tell them about the LYRC program. A **Power Point** presentation is available for downloading on the LYRC site. Be sure to tell them about the **Study Guides** that are included for each title. These Study Guides include curriculum-related ideas, web links, related titles and information about the authors. Work with language arts, science, history and social studies teachers to show them how the titles fit into their curriculum.
 - If you have a teen library club or book discussion group at your library, encourage them to promote the program, read the books and write reviews for the student newspaper.
 - Make announcements about the program on the P.A. system or read a short excerpt from a different book each week (15 weeks).
 - Read the shorter books and excerpts from the longer titles to classes that come to the library.
 - Do promotional activities and curriculum-related activities from the Study Guides.
- ❖ **Titles on next year's (2010) Ballots will be announced August, 2008. Purchase them as soon as possible.**

November 2008

- Continue promoting the program.

January 2009

- Organize a voting procedure for your school.
- Tallies of votes are due to the State Library of Louisiana by February 1, 2009.

ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE READING LYRC BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY OR CLASSROOM

- Introduce all the books on the ballot using the **Power Point** from the State Library of Louisiana web site and/or short booktalks.
- Encourage the students to get involved by making posters, bookmarks and flyers about the Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award program.
- Read at least 3 of the titles aloud. Remember, students need to read or listen to only 3 or more of the titles on the ballot to be qualified to vote.
 - Have the students write a sentence about the book or write a class sentence about the book.
 - Have the students write a sentence about a character or aspect of the book.
 - Have the students do some of the activities listed in the Study Guides.
- Read excerpts or give booktalks of longer books.
- Have a "book of the week" for 15 weeks to remind students to be reading.
- Select a book or two to read aloud in episodes.
- Keep track of each student's reading:
 - Give each student a ballot. Each time she/he reads a book, check off that title. Students who have read at least 3 titles are eligible to vote. The librarian or teacher may want to keep the ballots in a file or binder.
 - Give each student a "diary" or "journal" that has space for the student to write notes about each book that he/she reads. The students can refer to their notes before they vote.
- Make a display of the books and keep track of how many students have read them.

- Create a display with short reviews of the books by the students.
- Have the students make posters, bookmarks or flyers of their favorite books.

VOTING

- Tallies of votes are due by February 1. Tallies may be submitted at any time before February 1.
- Establish a voting day for your school or class.
- Have the students wage a campaign before voting day.
 - Students make posters for their favorite books.
 - Students give speeches for their favorite books.
- Call the Secretary of State's education office and ask for a **voting machine**.
 Contact Secretary of State Voter Outreach Division
 Naomi Guidroz
 225 342-4479
Naomi.guidroz@sos.louisiana.gov
- Create your own ballot box. Have each student mark his/her favorite title on the ballot or write the title of his favorite book on a slip of paper and put it into the box.
- Give the participating students special prizes or a special treat, such as a pizza party.
- Social Studies and Voting: Use copies of the printout from the voting machine to teach about the certification of the voting machines.
- Math and Voting: Use the printout data to figure the percentage of votes each book received and then create circle graphs.