

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.

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 2006

- Purchase the titles on the 2007 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. (See Sherwood Middle School Summer Reading Challenge below.)

August/September 2006

- Order the free promotional materials available from the State Library of Louisiana.
- You may ask your local public library to accept your order for you, then pick it up. Since there is a delivery service between the State Library and the public libraries, materials can be sent without the expense of postage.
- 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 Librarian group in 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 (2008) Ballots will be announced August, 2006. Purchase them as soon as possible.**

November 2006

- Continue promoting the program.

January 2006

- Organize a voting procedure for your school.
- Tallies of votes are due to the State Library of Louisiana by February 1, 2007.

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 a 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**.
Darlene Fields, Secretary of State, Voter Educational Outreach
(225) 342-4479
- 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.

####

See next page for
Sherwood Middle School
Summer Reading Challenge 2007

Summer Reading Challenge 2007

Submitted by Bonnie Ellis, School Librarian,
Sherwood Middle School, Baton Rouge

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel.

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko.

Becoming Naomi León by Pam Ryan Muñoz.

Bird by Angela Johnson.

Dragon Rider by Cornelia Funke. Translated by Anthea Bell.

Escape from Saigon by Andrea Warren.

Journey to the Bottomless Pit by Elizabeth Mitchell.

Never Mind! A Twin Novel by Rachel Vail and Avi.

The Sea of Trolls by Nancy Farmer.

So B. It: A Novel by Sarah Weeks.

The Tarantula Scientist by Sy Montgomery. Photographs by Nic Bishop.

The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts by Richard Peck.

Technically It's Not My Fault: Concrete Poems by John Grandits.

The Truth About Sparrows by Marian Hale.

The Young Man and the Sea by Rodman Philbrick.

The books listed above will be on next year's Louisiana Young Reader's Choice Award ballot. To receive a grade, each student may read three of the books on this list during the summer and complete the three projects below.

1. For one of the books, do a reading journal. The journal should include one entry for each chapter of the book. (If you choose one of the books of poetry, there should be a journal entry on each poem.) Journal entries should contain at least one paragraph describing what happened in the chapter and the reader's reactions to the chapter. Illustrations are encouraged, but not required.
2. For the second book, create something that illustrates the book. Some examples are listed below, but you do not have to limit yourself to the examples.
 - a. Make a shadow box illustrating one of the main events of the book.
 - b. Create a power point presentation that could be used to interest your classmates in reading the book.
 - c. Create a mobile illustrating the main characters in the book.
 - d. Write and illustrate a children's book on the same topic as the book you read and be ready to explain how they are the same.
 - e. Use paper maché, clay, fabric, wood, etc., to create a likeness of the main character in the book.
 - f. Create a cause and effect graphic organizer of the story events and then write a paragraph explaining why the events occurred.
 - g. Create an advertisement that encourages others to read the book.
 - h. Create a map with a key that shows where the events of the story occurred.
3. For the third book, be prepared to do a two-minute book talk to your literature class during the first two weeks of school. The purpose of your book talk is to get your classmates interested in reading the book you read.

Each student will be required to take the AR test on the three books he/she read during the first two weeks of school.