



YouPer (Young Person's) Award Guidelines

Purpose: The purpose is to recognize and promote quality literature for youth in a chapter book format (fiction or non-fiction.) Michigan librarians will utilize their critical skills to choose the award and will improve their reader's advisory skills.

Background: This award was first given in 2014 by the Michigan Library Association. The award is given annually to one children's chapter book originally published in the United States between January 1 and December 31 that has captured the attention of the youth librarians throughout the State of Michigan for its ability to communicate through literature to an intended audience.

Qualifications:

- Children's work of fiction or nonfiction with or without illustrations
- Published during the calendar year
- Originally published in the United States
- Should fall under the guidelines as noted for the Association for Library Service to Children's (ALSC) Notable Books. The guidelines include books of especially commendable quality, books that exhibit venturesome creativity, and books of fiction, information, poetry, and pictures for all age levels that reflect and encourage children's interest in a unique or innovative fashion.

Eligibility: Any chapter book that is originally published in the United States during the calendar year for children may be nominated for the award.

Book Selection Process:

- Titles for the first list of nominations are pulled from starred reviews in library journals (ex. Horn Book, Kirkus, School Library Journal).
- Michigan Librarians may freely submit nominations. Publishers may submit nominations of books that meet the criteria, but they will be required to provide copies of the book for the work group to review.
- Nominations may be submitted from January 1 through December 31.

Criteria and Selection:

- The work group will read all suggested titles throughout the volunteer term and communicate with each other through means established by MLA and the work group Chair
- Beginning in January the Vice Chairperson will compile titles receiving at least two starred reviews in library journals for the following volunteer year work group.
- The work group will hold its first meeting by July 31 at the MLA office in Lansing.
- A second mandatory meeting must take place by October 31. This may be done in person, by conference call or by videoconferencing.
- Outside of the mandatory October meeting, the work group will meet as needed July through February after each Top 10 list.
- The final meeting must be held by February 28. After discussion, each member will assign a value to each book on the list. The scores are tabulated and the one with the most points is the YouPer Award winner. Honor books may be selected if other titles gained high scores. No more than four honor books should be chosen.
- The year of the award will match the year that it is selected and announced. It will be presented at the following year's SI conference. For example, books published during 2017 are eligible for consideration for the 2018 award.

Work Group:

- The work group will consist of a Chair and up to 14 members. A Vice Chair may be appointed and will serve the first year as Vice Chair and the second year as Chair.
- The YouPer Award Work Group will be assigned by the MLA office from the Call for Volunteer forms.
- The work group shall meet at least 4 times.
- The work group will communicate on a regular basis through the means established and agreed upon by MLA and the work group Chair.

Work Group Chair: The Chair of the YouPer Award Work Group is responsible for:

- Developing and maintaining the work group reading list and distributing nominations to work group committee members
- Scheduling and coordinating meetings with MLA office
- Developing an agenda for each meeting
- Taking meeting notes or appointing a work group member to take notes
- Keeping track of the number of books read and approximate number of hours read
- Coordinating voting for the winner

- Tabulating results of the work group final vote
- Notifying MLA office of the winner and honor books.
- Work with MLA to notify the Spring Institute work group Chair of the winner. The Spring Institute work group will then coordinate travel and hotel for the author.
- Work with the MLA office to publicize the winner on the MLA website, in the MLA Update and on MLA’s Facebook and Twitter and other press releases. No separate Facebook page should be used to promote the award.

Presentation of Award: The author of the award-winning title will be invited to accept the award at the Spring Institute Conference. If the author is able to attend the conference to accept the award, the award shall be presented by the Chair of the work group. If the Chair is unable to fulfill this duty, a member of the work group will present the award in his or her place.

YouPer Award Timeline

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| January 1 | If a Vice Chair was appointed, the Work Group Vice Chair will start collecting titles from starred reviews Call for nominations goes out |
| May/June | Select work group members through MLA Call for Volunteers |
| June 30 | Chair receives list of work group members |
| By July 31 | First meeting of YouPer Award Work Group |
| By July 31 | Chair compiles and distributes initial reading list |
| July - February | Meet as needed (virtually or in-person) |
| February 28 | Final meeting held by this date Notify the MLA office of the winner and honor books |
| March/April | Announce “High Five” books at Spring Institute |
| July/November | MLA will notify the winner and work with the Spring Institute work group to invite the winner to accept the award at the following year’s Spring Institute Conference. |
| October/November | Announce YouPer Award winner and honor books at Annual Conference |
| Spring Institute | If the Award winner is available to attend Spring Institute, the award is presented by the YouPer Work Group Chair. |