

Keystone to Reading Book Award Committee

Charge

To stimulate the reading of a variety of quality trade books by elementary children from **preschool (Pre-K-K)**, primary (K-3) , and intermediate (4-6) grades.

Duties of the Chair

1. To generate a yearly list of books (no later than the March/April board meeting) from which children will select their favorite. This list would be for the upcoming year.
2. To submit materials to the Publications Committee for review before distribution.
3. To submit articles for *The Keystone Reader* in order to keep members informed of book lists and deadlines, and to provide suggestions to enhance their participation in the program.
4. To send an annotated book list and a ballot to KSRA members participating in the program when the participation form is received.
5. To submit a tally of votes for the children's favorite book not more than two weeks after the deadline for voting (March 15 of the current year).
6. To prepare an annual report and submit a copy for file with the secretary and more frequently if requested by the president.
7. To submit current information to the web site coordinator.

Guidelines for Selecting Books for the Keystone to Reading Book Award List

1. **Three** lists of books must be made. These lists should include a minimum of **5 preschool titles**, 8 primary titles, and 6 intermediate titles.
2. The books considered for these lists must have been published within the last two years.
3. The books on the list should represent a diversity of human experiences and genre.
4. The committee is highly encouraged to place the work of Pennsylvania authors and illustrators on the list.
5. No Caldecott and no Newbery winning books should appear on the list. Honor books, however, are eligible.
6. Past winning authors of the Keystone to Reading Book Award are eligible for future lists.
7. The winning author will be invited to speak at the Book and Author Luncheon held during the annual conference.

Rationale for the addition of a preschool/kindergarten list for The Keystone to Reading Book Award:

1. Pennsylvania has developed standards for preschool education and strives to ensure a quality environment for young learners through the Office of Child Development and Early Learning. The Keystone to Reading Book Award's goal of exposing students to high quality literature will help to support this effort.
2. Teachers in preschool and daycare centers will be encouraged to become members of KSRA and their local councils.
3. The primary list spans K-3. We receive many quality books each year that can't be used because they appeal to a younger age child but may not interest a child in second or third grade. Including kindergarten in both the preschool list and the primary list will give teachers more options. It will allow private daycare centers who also have kindergartens the opportunity to use one list with all of their students.