

# Milwaukee County Teen Book Award Guidelines

**Purpose:** The Milwaukee County Teen Book Award (henceforward referred to as the MCTBA) is intended to promote teen reading and literature by highlighting and awarding books published for teens of both quality and appeal.

**Sponsorship:** The MCTBA is sponsored by the Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Young Adult Services Committee.

## **Membership:**

1. Membership on the MCTBA Committee is open to all MCFLS librarians and staff who work with teens or have a strong interest in teen literature.
2. The MCTBA committee will have at least two members at all times, with a maximum of 10 members serving at one time. If more than 10 individuals are interested, it is up to the Committee chair to decide which ten individuals will serve for that year.
3. At the present time, there is no limit to the number of 1-year terms an individual may serve on the committee. If there comes a time where the committee feels the need to impose term limits, these guidelines may be changed to reflect the number of consecutive 1-year terms served on the MCTBA.

## **Eligibility for Nominated Titles:**

1. Book must have been published between September 1 and August 31.
  - a. Titles published between September 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020 are eligible for the 2020 MCTBA.
2. Book must have been published for the first time in the United States during the above time period.
3. Book must have been published for a teen or young adult audience.
  - a. Teen or young adult is defined as a book intended for students in grades 6-12 or ages 12-18.
  - b. Book audience may be intended for any or all of the above age or grade range.
4. Book can be either fiction or nonfiction, prose or verse, novel or graphic novel.
  - a. This category may be expanded and/or revised in future years at the discretion of the MCTBA committee.
5. Books may be single works of fiction by one or more authors or co-authors and short story collections collected by editors.

**Criteria for Quality:**

While discussing the individual nominated titles, committee members will consider the following things. The title should:

1. Have appeal to teens in Milwaukee County.
2. Be thought-provoking in nature.
3. Stand alone as a complete story if it is part of a series.
4. Have multi-dimensional, fully developed, and relatable characters.
5. Reflect accurate historical information.
6. Have a plot that develops naturally.

**Award Selection:**

1. The award will be selected by the MCTBA committee.
2. Books eligible for the award will be nominated by committee members.
  - a. Members will read book reviews from professional journals to find books that meet criteria, as well as teen websites, listservs, and blogs that may highlight teen books of interest and quality.
  - b. Non-committee members may also suggest title nominations to any committee member.
3. Members will read as many nominated books as they are able.
4. Discussion of nominated titles between committee members may take place both in person or virtually.
  - a. Email, blog, wiki, and other electronic sources are acceptable forms of communication in place of meetings.
5. Two virtual or in-person meetings will be required.
  - a. Meeting 1 will take place before December 15 to decide top 15 nominated titles to be shortlisted.
  - b. Meeting 2 will take place in the month of March to determine the winning title.
  - c. Additional meetings may be held as committee deems necessary.
6. List of 15 titles for teen vote will be made available to Milwaukee County teens by December 15.
  - a. Lists will be distributed as a voting ballot to MCFLS member libraries.
  - b. Ballot will be made available in print and electronic form.
  - c. List will be sent to MCFLS to be promoted on the CountyCat app.
7. Teens will be encouraged to vote for their favorite of the 15 titles on the list.
  - a. Teens do not have to read all 15 titles on the list.
  - b. Votes will be accepted by paper ballot, by email, or by mail to the committee chair.
  - c. Teens not living in Milwaukee County may vote, provided they meet the time guidelines.

- d. Teens may vote more than once; a new ballot will be required for each vote.
8. A committee majority must agree upon the winner.
9. Final committee discussions will remain confidential.
10. One winner and up to three honor books will be chosen from the 15 shortlisted titles.
  - a. The title winning the teen vote must be either the winning or an honor title.
  - b. Awards will be announced by the first Monday in April.
  - c. Announcements will go out to MCFLS member libraries.

AMENDMENT - 12/9/20: In the event that there is a tie for the last open spot after 5 or more rounds of voting, 16 titles can be nominated.

**Nominee Recognition:**

The committee will notify the author(s) that their book has been nominated for the Milwaukee County Teen Book Award. Committee members will choose which author(s) they would like to contact.

**Award Recognition:**

The committee will notify the winning author and the honor book authors. Committee will choose which author(s) they would like to contact.

**Promotion:**

Promotional materials with the winning titles will be created. Members will contact various entities to promote (for example, Boswell Books and MCFLS to update the app).

**Reviews:**

Committee members will write original reviews of the nominated titles to share on social media, including the MCTBA Tumblr. Committee will choose which book(s) they would like to review.

**Miscellaneous:**

The committee reserves the right to review award guidelines in due time. Any changes will be put into effect for the following year's award.

**Updated: December 9, 2020**