

Blue Hen Book Award

Nominating

Young Readers should follow Caldecott/Geisel award guidelines:

- A picture book should “provide the child a visual experience (with a) collective unity of story-line, theme, or concept, developed through a series of pictures...(and) displays respect for children’s understandings, abilities and interests.”
- A book for beginning readers should “provide a stimulating and successful reading experience for the beginning reader containing the kind of plot, sensibility, and rhythm that can carry a child along from start to finish... and must be directed at readers from pre-K through Grade 2... (and) also contain illustrations, which function as keys or clues to the text.”

Middle Readers should follow Newbery award guidelines:

- A book for middle readers should be “marked by excellence in quality...(be) individually distinct... (and) displays respect for children’s understandings, abilities, and appreciations.

Teen Readers should follow Printz award guidelines:

- A book for teen readers should have “literary excellence...designated by its publisher as being either a young adult book or one published for the age range that YALSA defines as "young adult," i.e., 12 through 18”

Dates to Remember:

Publication: Previous 3 years, not including nominating year (9/22/11 vote)

Nominations for Consideration: November 15th of nominating year

Committee Votes: Due to Committee Chairs by January 10th of voting year

Short List (5/each category): Announced by YSD President on January 15th of voting year

Selection Committees

There are three committees, one for each award. Committees consist of five members, with one serving as Committee Chair for that award. Members can be volunteers or may be appointed by the YSD President and serve for a period of two years. Members may not serve two consecutive terms on the same committee.

Children/Teen Voting & Results

Dates to Remember:

Voting Period: February 1st – August 31st in the libraries

Report Library Results: Due to YSD President by September 15th

Winners Announced: First Saturday of November (*for DE Book Festival*)

Blue Hen Book Award Committee Proposal/Recommendations

Re: Graphic Novel Category

Date: February 24, 2017

Committee Recommendations regarding adding a new category to the Blue Hen Book Award.

Definition of a Graphic Novel

Graphic novels are books written and illustrated in the style of a comic book—a series of panels that include illustrations and words, which viewed in order, tell a story.

While many people think of graphic novels only as comics about superheroes and science fiction, in reality, graphic novels come in all flavors: humorous, historical, memoir, fantasy, realistic, non-fiction and more. **The term “graphic novel” applies to the format, not to the content.**

Graphic Novel Committee

- Seven people total will make up the committee with representation from all three counties.
- Anyone who is a Delaware Library Association/Youth Services Division member may be considered for membership on the committee.
- Because graphic novels are a unique format, potential committee members must be able to relate to and understand both levels (middle/teen) of content.
- Committee members will serve for a minimum period of two (2) years with the option of leaving the committee or continuing to be a member after the two year period.
-

Recommending Graphic Novel Books

In accordance with the YALSA guidelines for selecting graphic novels*, books should meet the following criteria:

- Reflect an integration of images and words
- Exhibit a clarity of visual flow on the page
- Ability of images to convey necessary meaning
- Outstanding quality of the artwork's reproduction
- Narrative enhanced by the artwork
- Narrative dominated by sequential art component

*<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklistsawards/booklists/greatgraphicnovelsforteens/policies>

Guidelines that govern other Blue Hen categories would also apply to graphic novels:

- Graphic novels will be offered in the both Middle (ages 7-11) and Teen (ages 12-17) categories.
- Nominees must be published in the current year; plus the two previous years.
- Nominees must have at least two professional reviews from library sources, (whether print or electronic), such as Booklist, Library Journal, Book Page, School Library Journal, Publisher's Weekly etc.
- Nominees must fall within the **two** categories: middle reader (ages 7 to 11), and teen reader (ages 12 to 17).
- Nominees can be part of a series, but must be the first book in the series or be able to stand alone.

- All genres can be nominated: mystery, science fiction, romance, dystopian, LGBTQ, humor, etc.
- All format/types can be nominated: fiction, nonfiction, biography etc.

Rating Nominated Graphic Novels

- Graphic novels will be rated using the current Booklist recommendation of a 1-6 point scale per book in companionship with the YALSA criteria listed above.

Voting Process

- The nominees for Graphic Novel Middle Reader will be listed on the same ballot as the regular Middle Reader nominees-see sample ballot.
- The nominees for the Graphic Novel Teen Reader will be listed on the same ballot as the regular Teen Reader nominees-see sample ballot.
- Voters will be required to read all five graphic novel middle and teen reader nominees before voting.