

# **Overview of Notable Children’s Books in the Language Arts (NCBLA) Award Committee Composition, Member Responsibilities, and Application Process**

2026 Notables Committee (2025 Publication Year)

## **NCBLA Award Committee Composition**

The Notable Children’s Books in the Language Arts (NCBLA) Award Committee consists of seven members who represent the diverse demographics of the United States as best possible. *At least one committee member must be a current K-8 classroom teacher.*

All new committee members are chosen based on the following:

1. Current CLA member composition
2. Representatives of the geographic regions of the United States (Northwest, Southwest, Midwest, South, and North); and
3. Not currently serving on any other national book award committees sponsored by organizations such as ALA, ILA, NCTE, and USBBY.

Current NCBLA Award committee members must resign if they choose to accept another committee assignment before their NCBLA term is complete.

## **NCBLA Award Committee Member Responsibilities**

The charge of the seven-member national committee is to select 30 books that best exemplify the criteria established for the Notables Award. Books considered for this annual list are works of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry written for children, grades K-8. The books selected for the list must...

- Be published the year preceding the award year (i.e. books published in 2023 are considered for the 2024 list).
- Have an appealing format
- Be of enduring quality
- Meet generally accepted criteria of quality for the genre in which they are written; and
- Meet one or more of the following criteria: (1) Deal explicitly with language, such as plays on words, word origins, or the history of language; (2) Demonstrate uniqueness in the use of language or style; and/or (3) Invite child response or participation.

**Each committee member is expected to...**

- Read approximately 700 to 1,000 children's books each year.
- Read all picture books the committee receives.
- All of the novels the committee receives will be divided up among three small groups (Chair decides groups and novels). The members in the small groups will read the designated novels, discuss them, and decide if they meet NCBLA criteria. Members of the small group will recommend that the novel becomes an "all read."
- Organize the books, keeping track of receipt and finding them when committee members talk about them during Zoom meetings.
- Provide shelving to hold all the books each year.
- Engage in ongoing text-based and monthonline (Zoom) discussions of books recently read. These discussions should occur on a regular basis throughout the selection process and will frequently include suggestions that the book be "all reads" or "rejected." If a book is identified as an "all reads" book, every committee member reads that book and shares their impressions with the group.
- Cast preliminary ballots on time in October, November and January and final ballots on time in February or March.
- Attend and present at the NCTE conference and (possibly) at the ILA conference and/or Tucson Festival of Books for three years.
- Prepare for the conference presentations by writing introductions, choosing slides,
- Be available to help set up or facilitate the presentations.
- Write book annotations for two journal articles to be submitted by deadlines.

*NCBLA Award committee members will be removed from the committee if they do not fulfill the obligations. Below is the process used when committee members experience difficulties fulfilling their responsibilities.*

1. Chair contacts member to discuss any problems or issues.
2. Chair works with member to try and resolve issues of concern.
3. Chair contacts CLA president for advice and guidance as needed.
4. The CLA president contacts committee member and asks member to resign.

## **How To Apply to Serve on the NCBLA Award Committee**

To be considered for the NCBLA Award committee, please email your application packet to the incoming committee chair (2026 NCBLA Chair) Laura Hudock (lhudock@framingham.edu), by the application deadline, **January 31, 2025 at 11:59pm**. Incomplete or late application packets will not be considered. Committee appointments will be decided by the current CLA president, current NCBLA chair, and past NCBLA chair.

Your application packet should include the following documents:

1. The completed application form found on page 3 of this document.
2. Signed NCBLA Award Committee Member Obligations Agreement found on page 4 of this document (ink or e-signatures are acceptable).
3. Current CV or resumé
4. One example of a book annotation you have written.
5. A signed letter of recommendation from your principal, director, or departmental chair.

*New members to the committee will be notified by early-March.*

## NCBLA Award Committee Application

Name:

Affiliation (School/University):

Email Address:

Work Address:

### **Please answer the following questions.**

1. Why do you want to be a part of the NCBLA Award committee?
2. What strengths or attributes will you bring to the NCBLA Award committee?
3. What other book committees have you been on before?
4. Do you currently write or review books for any journals or educational markets? (Attach examples)
5. How have you been involved with CLA? What committees or service have you done for CLA?
6. Is there any other experience you have had that would be helpful to the NCBLA Award committee (e.g. working with classroom students, etc.)?
7. What is the most recent middle-grade novel you have read and how did you come to read the book?
8. What is the most recent novel published for adults you have read and how did you come to read the book?

## NCBLA Award Committee Member Obligations Agreement

**I affirm** that I am not currently serving on any other book committees sponsored by organizations such as ALA, ILA, NCTE, USBBY, etc.

**I agree** that if I choose to accept another book award committee assignment before I have completed my three-year NCBLA Award committee term, I will resign immediately upon accepting the other committee offer.

**I understand and accept the following responsibilities of NCBLA Award committee members:**

- Read approximately 700 to 1,000 children's books each year.
- Read all picture books the committee receives.
- All of the novels the committee receives will be divided up among three small groups (Chair decides groups and novels). The members in the small groups will read the designated novels, discuss them, and decide if they meet NCBLA criteria. Members of the small group will recommend that the novel becomes an "all read."
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- Prepare for the conference presentations by writing introductions, choosing slides,
- Be available to help set up or facilitate the presentations.
- Write selected book annotations for two journal articles to be submitted by deadlines.

**I understand and accept** that if I do not fulfill the responsibilities, then the following process will go into effect:

- Chair contacts member to discuss any problems or issues.
- Chair works with member to try and resolve issues of concern.
- Chair contacts CLA president for advice and guidance as needed.
- The CLA president contacts committee member and asks member to resign.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_