

NASSAU LIBRARY SYSTEM

OCTOBER 29, 2009

TO: MEMBER LIBRARY DIRECTORS
YOUNG ADULT LIBRARIANS

FROM: RENEE MCGRATH, YOUTH SERVICES MANAGER, NLS
BARBARA MOON, YOUNG ADULT SPECIALIST, SCLS



SUBJECT: **MOCK PRINTZ WORKSHOP**
10:00AM – 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2010 ***(PLEASE NOTE TIME)**
(REGISTRATION & COFFEE AT 9:30)
SOUTH HUNTINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
(DIRECTIONS ATTACHED)

This program, being offered by the Youth Services Departments of the Nassau Library System and the Suffolk Cooperative Library System, is an opportunity to examine and evaluate some of the many titles that have been published for the young adult audience in 2009, and to select *our* top choices for the 2010 Michael L. Printz Award. **Attached to this memo is a list of nine titles that all participants will be expected to have read along with an agenda and guidelines for discussion.**

Again, we will start the discussion with “statements of defense.” Nine individuals will volunteer to speak out for their favorite book and give a 2-3 minute statement explaining why their book is the best and should be the 2010 Mock Printz winner. After that, participants will discuss in-depth the same nine titles in three small groups. We will then vote on our winner and any honor books we wish to select together.

If you are interested in volunteering to defend a book, please return the form to Renee McGrath by fax (516-481-4777) or email Renee at renee@nassaulibrary.info as soon as possible. You will be notified if that title is available.

PLEASE RETURN TO RENEE MCGRATH, NLS YOUTH SERVICES: FAX: **516-481-4777**
Email: renee@nassaulibrary.info

___ I will attend the Mock Printz Workshop on Thursday, January 7, 2010 at the South Huntington PL.

Name _____

Library _____

I would be willing to give a 2-3 minute “defense” of the following title(s):



Youth Services Office, 900 Jerusalem Avenue, Uniondale, NY 11553-3039
516-292-8920 ext. 230 516-481-4777(fax) renee@nassaulibrary.info

MOCK PRINTZ WORKSHOP
10:00AM – 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2010
(REGISTRATION & COFFEE AT 9:30)
SOUTH HUNTINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



TITLES FOR DISCUSSION

1. ***Charles & Emma: The Darwin's Leap of Faith*** by Deborah Heiligman
2. ***The Eternal Smile: Three Stories*** by Gene Luen Yang & Derek Kirk Kim
3. ***Fire*** by Kristin Cashore
4. ***Going Bovine*** by Libba Bray
5. ***If I Stay*** by Gayle Forman
6. ***Jumped*** by Rita Williams-Garcia
7. ***Marcelo in the Real World*** by Francisco X. Stork
8. ***Riot*** by Walter Dean Myers
9. ***Wintergirls*** by Laurie Halse Anderson



NASSAU LIBRARY SYSTEM

ANNUAL MOCK PRINTZ DISCUSSION DAY

The list of **nine** books selected for our Annual Mock Printz Discussion follows. Each title was published in 2009 and meets the established criteria for the Printz Award. The list includes books that were well-reviewed and most are included in other Mock Printz discussions across the country. Of course, there are *many* other well-reviewed books and potential Printz winners. This is only a small selection of what the Printz Committee is actually discussing and there is no guarantee that they will choose one of these titles, but we will have a wonderful day discussing these terrific books and coming up with winners of our own!

Our format will be the same as last year. We will be breaking into 3 small discussion groups led by some of your colleagues. Each group will have an opportunity to discuss every title, so please try to read all 9 titles.

After our discussions, we will come together as a group and vote for the winner. Our guidelines for voting will be similar to the ones used by the actual Printz Committee. Criteria for the Printz Award and General Discussion Guidelines, which you might want to read over before participating in the event, is also included.

Engaging in a process that is both vital and dear to the continuation of excellence in literature for young people, the mock discussions allow librarians to become familiar with *some* of the most outstanding books of the year. Participants will learn how the awards are decided and begin to think more critically about literature.

We hope to see you on January 7 at South Huntington Public Library.

Agenda

9:30 – 10:00	Coffee & Time to look over nominated books
10:00 – 10:15	Announcements General discussion of Printz Award criteria
10:15 – 11:00	Statements of Defense
11:00 – 12:30	Small Discussion Groups
12:30 – 12:40	BREAK
12:40 – 1:00	Group voting & Award Ceremony

ANNUAL MOCK PRINTZ DISCUSSION



GENERAL DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

- Speak loudly enough to be heard.
- Speak only to the terms, criteria, and definitions for the award.
- Stay away from discussing the books potential popularity or likeability.
- Private conversations during the discussion are discouraged.
- Speak briefly when it is your turn.
- Listen carefully to the substance of what is being said.
- Respond to the comments of others.
- Talk with each other rather than to the chairperson.
- No right or wrong answers exists.
- Acknowledge positive points first.
- After all positive points have been made, discuss negatives.
- Avoid generalities such as "This was a nice book" without critical analysis of why this is so.
- Make comparisons but only to those other books being considered for the award.
Do not consider the author's past work.
- Each participant is expected to have read the books and to express their opinions to the group.
- Do not consider whether the book is "useful" or its appropriateness for assignments.

Turn over for Terms & Criteria



Terms and Criteria

Terms

To select from the previous year's publications the best young adult book ("best" being defined solely in terms of literary merit) and, if the Committee so decides, as many as four Honor Books.

The award-winning book may be fiction, non-fiction, poetry or an anthology.

To be eligible, a title must have been 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. Adult books are not eligible.

Works of joint authorship or editorship are eligible.

The award may be given posthumously provided the other criteria are met.

Books previously published in another country are eligible (presuming an American edition has been published during the period of eligibility.)

Criteria

What is quality? We know what it's not. We hope the award will have a wide AUDIENCE among readers from 12 to 18 but POPULARITY is not the criterion for this award. Nor is MESSAGE. In accordance with the Library Bill of Rights, CONTROVERSY is not something to avoid. In fact, we want a book that readers will talk about.

The book should be self-contained, not dependent on other media for its meaning or pleasure. The book should not be considered in terms of other works by the author but as complete in itself.

Having established what the award is not, it is far harder to formulate what it is. As every reader knows, a great book can redefine what we mean by quality. Criteria change with time. Therefore, flexibility and an avoidance of the too-rigid are essential components of these criteria (some examples of too-rigid criteria: A realistic hope - well, what about Robert Cormier's *Chocolate War* or Brock Coles' *The Facts Speak for Themselves*? Avoiding complicated plot - what about Louis Sachar's *Holes*? Originality - what about all the mythic themes that are continually re-worked? We can all think of other great books that don't fit those criteria.)

What we are looking for, in short, is literary excellence.

The following criteria are only suggested guidelines and should in no way be considered as absolutes. They will always be open to change and adaptation. Depending on the book, one or more of these criteria will apply:

Story, Voice, Style, Setting, Accuracy, Characters, Theme, Illustration, Design (including format, organization, etc.)

For each book the questions and answers will be different, the weight of the various criteria will be different. The ALA press release announcing the winner should stipulate why the title has been chosen for its literary excellence.

Directions to South Huntington Public Library

145 Pidgeon Hill Rd
Huntington Sta, NY 11746-7699
(631) 549-4411

Directions

From the East :

Take the Northern State Parkway to exit 41 - Wolf Hill Road. Turn right at the bottom of the exit ramp onto Wolf Hill Road. Continue on Wolf Hill Road until the second traffic light. Stay in the right lane. At the intersection of five roads, you will see Saint Anthony's High School diagonally to the right. Take the second right onto Pidgeon Hill Road heading North-West. You will pass Saint Anthony's High School on your left. Continue up Pidgeon Hill Road about 1 mile until you reach 145 Pidgeon Hill Road. The library is next to the Long Island School for the Gifted.

From the West :

Take the Northern State Parkway to exit 41 - Wolf Hill Road. Turn left at the bottom of the exit ramp onto Wolf Hill Road and go under Northern State Parkway. Continue with East directions above.

