

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Florida Teens Read program is to encourage Florida teens to read enjoyable, quality literature that will stimulate imagination, awaken curiosity, expand horizons, enhance verbal fluency, and foster critical thinking and a lifelong love for reading and learning.

Guidelines

Books nominated for the Florida Teens Read Award will be chosen to:

- * Engage high school students.
- * Reflect interests of high school students.
- * Represent a variety of genres, formats, reading levels, viewpoints, and ethnic and cultural perspectives.
- * Include both books written for young people and those written for adults.

Ten to fifteen books will be nominated per year.

Books may be fiction or non-fiction and must be available in English.

The copyright of the books will be within two years of the start of the FTR list.

Titles will be appropriate for grades 9-12.

Media specialists, teachers, teens, and FAME members are eligible to nominate titles.

It is understood that all books on the list may not appeal to all teen readers; however, books selected for the list will be of interest to a general young adult audience and will deal with relevant issues and topics of interest in the lives of teenagers.

Students will be encouraged to read all of the books on the list of nominations, but it is recommended that students will have read three books to be eligible to vote. Listening to a title will be considered having read it.

Eligibility for voting will be determined on the honor system.



Florida Teens Read A Florida Association for Media in Education Initiative

Disclaimer

This program is designed to entice teens to read. In order to engage their interest and to provide a spur to critical thinking, the book selections include those that involve sensitive issues. The content of some of the titles may be more mature than younger students may have encountered. Please recognize that this is a voluntary reading program. Not every book selected will suit every student. In a democratic society, a variety of ideas must find voice. As a reader, teens have a choice to read the more mature titles or to close the book.

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FLORIDA
TEENS
READ

...THE PROGRAM FOR
FLORIDA TEENS IN
GRADES 9-12 FROM
FLORIDA'S MEDIA
SPECIALISTS.

2014-2015



2014-2015 AWARD NOMINEES



Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

In the summer of 1987, two young men try to figure out who they are and who they will become. Dante is gregarious and outgoing. Aristotle is an angry loner struggling with family issues including an older brother in prison and a father carrying baggage from his wartime experience. Where will their friendship take them? (fiction)

Beneath a Meth Moon: An Elegy by Jacqueline Woodson

Fifteen-year-old Laurel is the new girl in Galilee, Iowa. She makes a new best friend, easily earns a spot on the cheerleading team, and catches the attention of the star basketball player. She is unable to heal from the tragedy her family left behind in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina and escapes into a world of meth. While begging for change, Laurel meets Moses. Will meth take her life like it has so many other young people he knows? (fiction)

Burning Blue by Paul Griffin

Popular Nicole Castro is adored for her beauty – until the day a hooded assailant throws burning acid in her face, scarring her forever. As Nicole attempts to heal, she and classmate Jay Nazzaro begin an unlikely friendship. Jay suffers from chronic seizures and understands what it's like to be seen as different. As he develops feelings for Nicole, he becomes determined to use his computer hacking skills to catch her attacker.

Chasing Shadows

by Swati Avasthi with graphics by Craig Phillips

Corey, Holly, and Savitri are like superheroes, free runners on the streets, walls, and rooftops of Chicago ... until a bullet changes everything. Now Holly and Savitri tread a fine line between grief and insanity. How many ways are there to lose a friend? How many ways to be lost? (fiction and graphics)

Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell

(mature language)

Two teen misfits, Eleanor, overweight, flamboyant and bullied, and Park, half-Korean, into comics and alternative music, live in Omaha, Nebraska in the 1980s. They forge an unlikely relationship that blossoms into first love. This smart, touching romance has an undercurrent of tension and darkness that will keep you in suspense until the very last page. (fiction)

Escape from Camp 14 by Blaine Harden

Shin was born in a North Korean prison camp in 1982 and endured a life of hunger, hard labor, and punishment. He memorized the ten camp laws including, "Anyone caught escaping will be shot immediately." He knew nothing else until his escape in 2005. Shin is the only known person born inside a North Korean camp to escape to freedom. Journalist Blaine Harden goes to great lengths to document the facts and relate them to what is known of North Korea's people, politics, and government. (nonfiction)

The Fifth Wave by Richard Yancey

They come for Earth. They come to kill and destroy. They will not rest until humans are extinct. The First Wave kills the power. The Second Wave causes tsunamis. The Third Wave brings deadly disease. The Fourth Wave brings assassins. But teenager Cassie is still alive, still fighting for survival, still looking for her brother. Will she survive The Fifth Wave? Will she be able to save her baby brother? (fiction)

In the Shadow of Blackbirds by Cat Winters

Mary Shelley Black is sixteen, uprooted from her home during a devastating time. As people struggle to cope with the loss of loved ones from the Spanish influenza virus and the battlefields of World War I, they grasp for proof of life after death. Can spiritualist photography and séances provide the answer? Mary Shelley is determined to find the truth, even when her experiences contradict her suspicions. (fiction)

The Living by Matt de la Peña

Shy takes a job on a cruise ship to help his mother and sister pay the family bills. Sounds like a great job, right? Girls, free food, free room, and different passengers on every cruise. Then a massive earthquake strikes, bigger than ever recorded. Life becomes a battle to survive for those left alive. Back at home, a disease that is killing people in Shy's family and neighborhood. How is Shy's job related to this? Can he save anyone? Will they believe the truth? (fiction)

The Naturals by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

At 17, Cassie is recruited by the FBI because they recognize that she is a natural profiler. She joins a group of extraordinary teens in Washington D. C. to undergo professional training, but soon finds herself mixed up in a dangerous case that involves her missing mother. (fiction)

Pinned by Sharon Flake

Autumn has mad skills in wrestling and cooking, but struggles with reading. She has a crush on Adonis, a great student who also manages the school wrestling team. Adonis, born without legs, is fiercely independent. He wants nothing to do with Autumn, so why does he dream about her? (fiction)

Second Impact by David Klass and Perri Klass

Jerry Downing is the star quarterback of the Kendall High School football team. He made a mistake last year and is trying to recover from it. Carla Jenson from the school newspaper recruits Jerry to blog about each game during the season from his perspective. When his best friend takes a hit and gets hurt, Jerry and Carla wonder publicly if injury is too high a price for football players. Many do not want to hear it and try to shut down the blog. Jerry must make a difficult decision ... (fiction)

Shadows on the Moon by Zoë Marriott

Suzume's life feels perfect and carefree until the day she witnesses her beloved father's murder. Her mother quickly marries her father's best friend, and Suzume feels her old identity and life slipping away. Suzume struggles to adapt and discovers that she is a Shadow Weaver. Suzume can appear to be anyone. She becomes bent on revenge as she hones her magical abilities. Will a chance at love sway her dark plans? (fiction)

The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight by Jennifer E. Smith

Haley is a reluctant traveler on a flight to London for her father's wedding. She meets Oliver and they instantly connect but in the chaos of the airport, they lose track of one another before they can exchange contact information. Will fate bring them together again? (fiction)

Thin Space by Jody Casella

Between the world of the living and the world of the dead, there can be a thin space that allows travel between the two realms. If Marsh can find a thin space, he might come to terms with his brother's death and lay his guilt to rest. It seems impossible until Marsh meets Maddie, who offers to help him in his search. (fiction)