



NOVEMBER 12, 2020

TO: YOUNG ADULT LIBRARIANS

FROM: DEREK IVIE, YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR, SCLS
RENEE McGRATH, MANAGER OF YOUTH SERVICES, NLS

SUBJECT: **2021 VIRTUAL MOCK PRINTZ WORKSHOP**
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021
9:30AM – 12PM



This program, being offered by the Youth Services Departments of the Nassau Library System and 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 2020, and to select *our* top choices for the 2021 Michael L. Printz Award. **Included in this memo is a list of six titles that all participants will be expected to have read along with an agenda and guidelines for discussion.**

Even though we will be meeting virtually, we will conduct the Mock Printz Award Workshop the same way! We will start with introductions of the selected titles by six volunteers. Each title will be introduced with a 2-3 minute statement that explains how the book is distinguished according to the criteria and why it should be the 2021 Mock Printz winner. After that, participants will discuss the titles in two separate groups. We will then vote together on our winner and any honor books we wish to select.

Registration is required using the link below. If you are interested in volunteering to introduce a book, please note that on the registration form as soon as possible. You will be notified if that title is available.

Please Register by Monday, January 11, 2021:
<https://forms.gle/6HgHaLTgPtIPbXTKA>

The Zoom meeting link will be sent to you closer to the workshop. If you are interested in doing an introduction, please register early.



2021 VIRTUAL MOCK PRINTZ WORKSHOP
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021
9:30AM – 12:00PM



Titles for Discussion:

Acevedo, Elizabeth

Clap When You Land

Callendar, Kacen

Felix Ever After

Ifueko, Jordan

Raybearer

Reynolds, Jason

Stamped

Yang, Gene Luen

Dragon Hoops

Zoboi, Ibi

Punching the Air



NASSAU AND SUFFOLK COOPERATIVE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S ANNUAL MOCK PRINTZ WORKSHOP



The list of **six** books selected for our Annual Mock Printz Discussion is included. Each title was published in 2020 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 similar to that of previous workshops. Because we are meeting virtually this year, we chose to keep the list to six titles. The usual 3.5 hours seemed a little long for a virtual meeting. We will still be breaking into 2 discussion groups led by some of your colleagues. Each group will have an opportunity to discuss every title, so please read all six books.

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, are 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 14th.



AGENDA

9:30 – 9:45	WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS/MEETING HOW-TO'S GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PRINTZ AWARD CRITERIA
9:45 – 10:45	INTRODUCTION OF TITLES
10:50 – 11:20	FIRST DISCUSSION GROUP
11:20 – 11:50	SECOND DISCUSSION GROUP
11:50 – 12:00	GROUP VOTING & AWARD CEREMONY

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.



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 is 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.

Librarianship focuses on individuals, in all their diversity, and that focus is a fundamental value of the Young Adult Library Services Association and its members. Diversity is, thus, honored in the Association and in the collections and services that libraries provide to young adults.

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.

All forms of writing—fiction, nonfiction, poetry, art, and any combination of these, including anthologies—are eligible.

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, Illustrations, and Design (including format, organization, etc.).

For each book the questions and answers will be different, the weight of the various criteria will be different.