

NCTE Charlotte Huck Award for Outstanding Fiction for Children

Charge: *To select the recipient of the annual Charlotte Huck Award® and up to five honor books, and to promote the use of children's fiction books in the classroom.*

The Charlotte Huck Award® was established in 2014 to promote and recognize excellence in the writing of fiction for children. In particular the award recognizes fiction that has the potential for transforming children's lives by inviting compassion, imagination, and wonder. The award is presented at the Children's Book Awards Luncheon at the NCTE Annual Convention.

For more information on the Charlotte Huck Award, please go to: <http://www2.ncte.org/awards/ncte-childrens-book-awards/charlotte-huck-award/>.

Major activities: What major actions, projects, initiatives, or studies in your charge have been completed by your group since July 1, 2016? In each activity describe the more important features of the work, and connect your work to the NCTE Vision Statement, if applicable.

1. What actions, projects, initiatives, or studies are “in progress” at this time?

The committee is working diligently to accomplish the charge of identifying outstanding works of fiction that meet the established criteria of the Charlotte Huck book award that are published in the year 2017. We look forward to our deliberations at the November conference. At the conference, we will also lead two conference sessions: in one session, the authors and illustrators who were recipients of last year's award will present their work, and in the second session, committee members will share the 2017 award winning titles.

2. What have you accomplished so far, and what is your timeline for future work?

We have been contacting publishers to request particular titles, reading titles that have been nominated for the award, and participating in monthly video conferences. Committee members have been submitting monthly spreadsheets indicating whether titles should remain under consideration and for the past three months have been submitting top 20 lists. We believe that these conference calls will facilitate conversation and selection during our deliberation session.

Additionally, committee members have taken responsibility for seeking out excellent titles, sharing the search by working on different sub-genres of fiction: contemporary realistic fiction, historical fiction, graphic novels, poetry, and fantasy. We are using Google Sheets to record recommendations. We believe that this process will help us to be sure that we receive and read titles well matched to the award criteria. Finally, we have been focusing on aligning our processes with those of the Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction committee.

We look forward to our deliberations at the 2017 conference and to announcing the award winners at the Children's Book Luncheon.

3. How has the work of your group contributed to NCTE's role in shaping the profession of teaching and/or the understanding of literacy in educational contexts?

With thousands of children's books published each year, teachers need support in selecting high quality titles for use in their classroom. Book awards help them to focus their search. The Charlotte Huck criteria are particularly critical in our current sociopolitical environment. The criteria include a focus on empathy and compassion, important qualities for our current times.

Erika Thulin Dawes, Chair