

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, 2017? 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 moving ahead with the charge of identifying outstanding works of fiction that meet the established criteria of the Charlotte Huck book award and are published in the year 2018. We will meet on Thursday, November 15 at the annual conference to deliberate and select the winners. At the conference, we will also participate in two conference presentations: in one session, the authors and illustrators who were recipients of last year's award will present their work, and in the *Build Your Stacks* forum, committee members will also share several of the 2018 award winning titles.

Additionally, this year the chair of the Orbis Pictus Committee, Dr. Mary Ann Cappiello, and I have worked with NCTE staff to develop materials to support teachers to conduct Mock Huck and Mock Orbis Pictus awards in classrooms this fall.

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. These conference calls will facilitate conversation and selection during our deliberation session. 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.

Additionally, committee members have taken responsibility for seeking out excellent titles that we have not yet received from publishers, 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.

To support teachers to participate in the Mock Huck award, we have developed a resource guide, this guide can be accessed at: <http://www2.ncte.org/ncte-mock-book-awards/>. Additionally, Dr. Cappiello and I composed a blog post describing the initiative.

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. The launch of the Mock Huck Award bring more active involvement of teachers and their students to award activities. The work of the committee is most directly related to the mission statement in connection with: **“Impact:** Ultimately, NCTE and its members’ efforts will deepen every student’s consciousness of worth and widen possibilities for all students’ access, power, agency, affiliation, and impact, across a lifetime.”

Erika Thulin Dawes, Chair