

Great Stone Face Book Award Mission and Selection Criteria

Mission Statement

To encourage children to value the importance of *recreational reading* and to promote a life-long love of reading.

Nomination Criteria

The GSF Committee has the primary responsibility of nominating titles to be considered. However, nominations will be accepted from teachers, public/school librarians, students and publishers as long as they are within the following requirements:

- Only titles published within 3 years of the current school year are eligible
- Titles shall be appropriate for grades 4 to 6
- An author may be a resident of any country
- More than one title by the same author can be nominated
- A title in a series must stand-alone
- Newbery Award and other award winners can be nominated for the list
- Non-fiction titles (informational, biographical, and poetry) can be nominated
- A title originally published outside of the United States can be nominated based upon its U.S. publication date

Selection Criteria

The Great Stone Face Committee prepares a list of twenty-five (25) books that represents the diverse reading abilities and interests of children in grades 4 to 6 for their *recreational reading*.

The 2 major criteria used are:

- Child appeal, i.e., will the child be interested in reading the book and would the child find the book satisfying.
- Quality of writing, i.e., has the author written a story that has a well-developed plot, interesting characters and a good theme or concept.

Child appeal and quality of writing are measured by a rating system of '1' to '4', with '1' being the worst and '4' being the best. Titles that earn a '3' or '3.5' or '4' rating are included in the consideration list that the committee uses. The committee reads every title on the consideration list. A 2/3rds majority is required for the title to be put on the final list.

Other criteria are:

- Originality of text and illustration
- Style of language
- Subject matter of interest and value to a child
- Amusing and entertaining
- Suitability of vocabulary, content and comprehension for the intended grade levels
- Relevance to today's societal issues
- Reflection of children's experiences, interests and concerns

Creating the Great Stone Face Book Award List

The GSF Committee votes in April to choose the 25 books for the final list from the consideration list. The final list attempts to provide a balance in reading levels, genres, subject areas, reader interest and appeal. While the committee understands that some of the books on the final list may not appeal to every child, the committee tries to select books that they feel will be of interest to as many children as possible.

The final list of 25 books is presented at the Great Stone Face Tea program that is held during the annual New Hampshire Libraries Conference in May. Every effort is made to let school librarians know what books are on the list so that they can order the titles in a timely manner.

The Committee

The GSF Committee is sponsored by CHILIS (Children's Librarians of New Hampshire), which is a section of the New Hampshire Library Association. Committee members are volunteers who love to read children's literature and who have an understanding about children's interests, needs, and issues. Committee members form a cross-section of differing skills, knowledge and life experience. Members are children's librarians from public and school libraries and teachers. Members are expected to be on the committee for at least one year.

Committee members are expected to participate in the nomination process, to evaluate a large number of books (approximately 100+ books), to read all nominated books, to attend monthly meetings, to actively participate in book discussions and to write book talks that are presented at the Great Stone Face Tea program at the annual New Hampshire Libraries Conference in May.

The Chair of the committee is chosen by the members to represent them at the CHILIS Board meetings and at the fall and spring CHILIS Conferences. The Chair presides over the Great Stone Face Tea program at the annual New Hampshire Libraries Conference in

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May. The Chair keeps the members informed of any news relating to the GSF Award. The Chair is also responsible for staying in contact with NH public and school libraries as well as contacting publishers. The Chair presides over the monthly GSF meetings and has the same responsibilities as other members.

The Secretary of the committee is chosen by the members and is responsible for recording the minutes of each meeting. The Secretary maintains and distributes the consideration list. The minutes and the monthly consideration list are sent to each member within 1 week after a meeting. The Secretary keeps the reviews for each book nominated until the final list is determined. The Secretary presides over meetings when the Chair is not available.