

## Nutmeg Book Award Student Reader Information Sheet

To interested students in tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade,

What you need to know about serving on the committee.

Each year we select two or three students out of all the applicants from around the state to be members of each of the Book Selection Committees. Serving on either Book Selection Committee is a great experience for the student readers. You get to do your favorite thing (read), then discuss the books with others who love to read as much as you do. Before you make a decision about applying, however, there are several things that you and your parents need to take into consideration.

Serving on either committee is a huge commitment. The High School Committee will read about 60 titles. The Book Selection Chairperson compiles the lists (about 15 books per list) and sends committee members the first list usually in December or January. From the day you receive that first list you will be reading on the average of two books a week until August. That means 350 to 500 pages a week for 38 to 40 weeks. Committee members are responsible for obtaining their own copies of the books. Most committee members rely largely on libraries; your local library, those in nearby towns and through the interlibrary loan service that is available in every Connecticut library.

As a committee member you will be expected to read all the books on the lists, whether they suit your tastes or not. This can be difficult. If you don't like a book right at the start you must at least give it a good try.

Three to five meetings (the number is determined by the chair) are held during the selection process. The Chairperson selects the sites, dates and times of the meetings. Meetings are usually on a school night. Depending on where you live, it could be a short or long drive (committee members are from all over the state). It will be up to your parents to see that you attend these meetings. Refreshments are on hand or you can bring your own snack. If you are unable to attend you must let the Chairperson know and also submit your preferences from the current list, with reasons for your choices. **\*\*However, please know attendance is an important part of the Selection Committee process. Students should plan to attend at least 3 of the 4 meetings.\*\*** At the meetings the merits of each book are discussed. Lively debate is part of the process. To help with this discussion, students are encouraged to participate in online discussions on our wiki site. At the last meeting in September the committee stays until the final ten books are chosen, along with alternate titles. It is the most important meeting and usually the longest (and the committee sends out for pizza!).

The librarians and teachers on the committee are devoted to helping young people like you to connect with quality fiction. If you have participated in the Nutmeg program in the past, you realize that the books you help to select will be read by many students across the state of

Connecticut. You will express ideas and opinions that are your own and will make a valuable contribution to the selection of Nutmeg nominees.

Taking into account the above information, you and your parents can decide if this is a challenge that you are suited for. The fact that you are even considering it is a tribute to your reading ability and maturity. If you are interested, please fill out the following application and return it to the appropriate Book Selection Chair for the upcoming year,

## Nutmeg Book Award Student Reader Application

Please mail your application to the appropriate Selection Chair by November 15, 2011.

2014 Nutmeg High School Selection Committee (Grades 10, 11, 12 may apply)

Mail application to either co-chair:

Ann Marie Naples  
West Hartford Public Library  
20 South Main Street  
West Hartford CT 06107  
Phone 860-561-6996  
Fax 860-561-6976  
[anaples@westhartford.org](mailto:anaples@westhartford.org)

Lisa Garofalo  
Ellington Middle School  
46 Middle Butcher Rd  
Ellington CT 06029  
phone 860-896-2339 x131  
fax 860-896-2366  
[lgarofalo@ellingtonschools.net](mailto:lgarofalo@ellingtonschools.net)

INSTRUCTIONS: You may type any part of the application on a separate piece of paper. Please keep your answers to the specified lengths.

### **PART ONE – STUDENT INFORMATION**

Name:

Street Address:

Town, State (CT!) Zip Code:

Parent's Name:

Phone Number:

School:

Grade:

## **PART TWO - ESSAYS**

1. Please write or type an essay one page or less on the following topic: Name one book you've read in the last six months that you loved. After a very brief description of the plot, tell what it is about the book that made it so good. Who would you recommend this book to and why?
2. Please answer the following questions in one page or less: Which genres do you read for pleasure? What do you find particularly interesting about those genres?
3. When you are given your list of books to read for the committee, how will you go about locating copies so you can read them?

## **PART THREE – TEACHER RECOMMENDATION**

Please ask a teacher or librarian to write a letter recommending you for student representative on the Nutmeg Book Award Selection Committee. Attach the letter to this application.

## **PART FOUR PARENT'S PERMISSION**

I have read the information and understand the commitment involved in my child's participation on the NBA Selection Committee. I will help my child obtain the books and see that he/she has transportation to the meetings.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail/email/fax completed application so it arrives by November 15.

(See above for mailing instructions).

You will be notified either way by December 1<sup>st</sup>.