TO: YOUNG ADULT LIBRARIANS

FROM: RENEE MCGRATH, MANAGER OF YOUTH SERVICES, NLS
Derek Ivie, Youth Services Coordinator, SCLS

SUBJECT: 2019 MOCK PRINTZ WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019
REGISTRATION & COFFEE AT 9:30
PROGRAM: 10AM – 1PM

SAYVILLE LIBRARY
88 GREEN AVENUE
SAYVILLE, NY 11741

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 2018, and to select our top choices for the 2019 Michael L. Printz Award. Attached to this memo is a list of eight titles that all participants will be expected to have read along with an agenda and guidelines for discussion.

We will start the discussion with an introduction of the selected titles. Eight individuals will volunteer to introduce a title to the participants by giving a 2-3 minute introduction explaining why they think that book should be the 2018 Mock Printz winner (according to the award criteria). After that, participants will discuss in-depth the same eight titles in two groups. We will then come together to vote on our winner and any honor books we wish to select.

Please register using the form included in this memo. If you are interested in volunteering to introduce a book or be a discussion leader, please note that on the form and you will be notified if that title is available.

Return the registration form to Patty Klos via email to patty@suffolknet.org as soon as possible.
2019 MOCK PRINTZ WORKSHOP
THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019
10:00AM – 1:00PM,
(REGISTRATION & COFFEE AT 9:30)
SAYVILLE LIBRARY

Titles for Discussion:

- Acevedo, Elizabeth
- Adeyemi, Tomi
- Colfer, Eoin and Donkin, Andrew
- Ireland, Justina
- Krosoczka, Jarrett J.
- McCullough, Joy
- Pan, Emily X.R.
- Summers, Courtney

The Poet X
Children of Blood and Bone
Illegal
Dread Nation
Hey, Kiddo
Blood Water Paint
The Astonishing Color of After
Sadie

*Please call Derek or Renee to see if we have a copy that you could borrow.*
PLEASE RETURN TO PATTY KLOS, SCLS, YOUTH SERVICES

Email: patty@suffolknet.org

_____ I will attend the Mock Printz Workshop on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at the Sayville Library.

Name ____________________________________________________________

Library __________________________________________________________

_____ I would be willing to be a discussion group leader.

I understand that if chosen, I will be responsible for creating and moderating basic discussion questions during the discussion.

OR

_____ I would be willing to give a 2-3 minute introduction of the following title(s):

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

I understand that if chosen, I will be responsible for creating an introduction for my assigned title.
NASSAU AND SUFFOLK COOPERATIVE LIBRARY SYSTEM’S

ANNUAL MOCK PRINTZ WORKSHOP

The list of eight books selected for our Annual Mock Printz Discussion is included. Each title was published in 2018 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. We will be breaking into 2 discussion groups led by some of your colleagues. Each group will have an opportunity to discuss every title, so please try to read all eight books. Feel free to bring any copies of the listed books that you own to the discussion.

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 17th.
AGENDA

9:30 – 10:00  COFFEE & TIME TO LOOK OVER NOMINATED BOOKS
10:00 – 10:15  WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
10:15 – 11:00  GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PRINTZ AWARD CRITERIA
11:00 – 12:30  INTRODUCTION OF TITLES
12:30 – 12:40  BREAK
12:40 – 1:00  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.