

## **Criteria for Selection of Titles for the Lovelace Book Award**

The Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award Reading Project is a children's choice book award. Its purpose is to encourage recreational reading among school-aged children. The twelve titles nominated in each division each year are fiction works of recognized quality which are not necessarily popular on their own. The following limitations are also set on the nominated titles:

1. Book must be available in paperback as of Feb 1 of the selection year
2. The author must be living in North America, and any one author may not have works included on the final list in 2 consecutive years.
3. The books must be fiction and cannot be classified as picture books.
4. Interest levels for the nominated titles range from the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Twelve books are nominated for Division I, grades 3-5. Twelve books are nominated for Division II, grades 6-8. No more than four titles will overlap both divisions and will be readable by both divisions. A review from a standard selection source must be available for all YA (Young Adult) titles considered for nomination. Any title nominated which contains mature subject matter will receive a "Mature Readers" designation.
5. The copyright of a title must be within the last five years.
6. Nominated titles are not part of a formula series (for example Magic Tree House, Nancy Drew, Dear America, media tie-ins, etc.). A sequel or numbered series will not automatically be considered a formula series, but quality, authorship, and ability of the title to stand alone will be considered.
7. A book will not be considered if, at the time of selection, it is known that a movie version will soon be released.
8. Titles may include a variety of genres: sports stories, mysteries, animal stories, survival stories, historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy, and stories of regional interest or by a Minnesota author.
9. Titles selected will reflect cultural, ethnic, and gender diversity as well as a fair depiction of any characters with disabilities.