

August 2018

A Message from the Hackmatack Award Organizers

HACKMATACK 2019: Celebrating 20 Years!

The Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award, a reading program designed for children in Atlantic Canada, is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2018-19.

Each year, the project attracts approximately 350 reading groups from communities in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island. An estimated 7,500 children participate, and hundreds host author readings and attend the Hackmatack Award ceremony in May.

We are happy to present you with the nominations for the 2019 Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award. The books introduced to you in this project kit represent fine Canadian literature for children published over the last two years. The books are carefully chosen to spark the imagination and resonate with young readers in Atlantic Canada. There is something to interest everyone.

Twenty years ago, in her introduction to our first award ceremony, acclaimed author Sheree Fitch wrote, "A book can't be a book unless it's read." The involvement and enthusiasm of Hackmatack readers is what makes this program thrive.

Thank you for taking part in the 2018-19 Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award program. We hope that you will enjoy this literary journey!

The Voting Process

- Children must read, or have read aloud to them, at least five of the ten nominated titles in any one category (English fiction, English nonfiction, French fiction, French nonfiction) to be eligible to vote for their favourite book in that category. They may cast a vote for all categories in which they have read at least five of the nominated books. Group leaders should encourage children to read as many of the nominated books as they can so that they may make informed decisions; however, leaders may exercise their discretion to encourage all readers' participation.

- Group leaders determine the date for the Hackmatack elections, keeping in mind that the deadline is April 15. Sample voting ballots and official tally sheets are included in this kit.
- After your election, group coordinators are requested to enter the results on the voting tally sheet and submit this sheet by fax or email to the Hackmatack office (details below).
- Every child's vote is counted, and the books that receive the most votes in each category will be announced at the award ceremony on May 31 in Halifax, NS.

Voting deadline: April 15, 2019

Voting tally sheets to be submitted by fax (902-424-0820)
or scanned and sent by email to hackmatack@hackmatack.ca

Important Hackmatack Dates 2018-19

September 2018	Registration (deadline December 31)
September 2018 to March 2019	Reading
February to March 2019	Bookings to host author readings and attend award ceremony
April 15, 2019	Voting deadline
May 27 to 30, 2019	Nominated author reading tours in Atlantic region
May 31, 2019	Award Ceremony, Central Library, Halifax, NS 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Suggestions for Running a Successful Program

Getting Started:

- If possible, purchase several copies of the nominated books to make them more available for eager readers.

- Keep the Hackmatack books in a special display area along with copies of the Hackmatack poster and brochure, and print-outs of the author biographies and booklists included in the Project Kit.

- Discuss the Hackmatack program at Staff and Parent-Teacher meetings. This is a great way to share the excitement and encourage greater participation by readers and volunteers.

- Highlight the Hackmatack program in your newsletter or local newspaper.
Getting Young Readers Involved:

- Invite Hackmatack readers to create art displays based on the books they have read. They might enjoy making giant versions of book covers, or tying in more specifically with the subjects of the books they are reading.

- Hold brief book talks on the nominated titles in classrooms or libraries. What experiences do your readers share with the heroes and heroines of these books? • Many books on the Hackmatack list are based on real historic events, existing cultures, or lives of famous personalities. Encourage children to find out more about these facts by conducting research or finding websites on related topics.

- Prominently display the Group Progress Charts included in the kits, so readers can keep track of what they have read and discuss their progress with group members.

- Make the reading experience more personal by telling young readers about the authors of the books (see writers' bios in the kit).

- Hackmatack will forward letters from readers to nominated authors. Remember to clearly indicate the name of the author on your letter and send it to:

Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award
PO Box 34055
Scotia Square RPO
Halifax, NS B3J 3S1
Fax: (902) 424-0820/attn. Hackmatack

Getting Parents Involved:

- Inform students' parents about Hackmatack and your school or library's involvement in the program.

- Invite parent participation. Some parents might want to get involved and organize or supervise activities for your group.

The Project Kit contains activity ideas for each nominated book. Here are some additional activity suggestions:

- Create a file folder that will hold information on books and authors. Encourage children to write their own book reviews and include them in the folder. Encourage them to share their opinions in “book talks.”
- Children can draw pictures based on themes from the books. A brief essay on why they chose a particular character or scene can accompany pictures. Create a Hackmatack display of the pictures and essays, including the books and poster.
- Study the geographical area and time period of a particular book. Compare the lives, values, and concerns of the characters from the books with those of your young readers.
- Write a play based on a book or a scene from a book. Involve the children in the production and presentation of the play.
- Invite local celebrities, such as politicians, artists, athletes, or writers to read from nominated books.
- Encourage the children to start their own reading journals to record their progress, ideas, opinions, and questions regarding the books they have read.
- Create a replica of a hackmatack tree. Children can add paper cones with their names for each title read.
- Have a book club meal with food from the nominated books.
- Have a pizza party with a visiting author. Encourage each child to invite a special guest.
- Use the Internet to research the authors or find other books about the same subject.