



A Message from the Hackmatack Award Organizers

## **HACKMATACK 2020**

The Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award attracts approximately 350 reading groups each year, from communities in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island. An estimated 7,500 children participate, and hundreds attend author readings and the award ceremony in May.

The shortlist for the 2020 Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award ([click here to download](#)) represents great Canadian literature for children published over the last two years. The books are carefully chosen to spark the imagination and to illustrate a variety of stories, voices, and cultural experiences for young readers in Atlantic Canada.

The participation and enthusiasm of Hackmatack readers is what makes this program thrive. Thank you for taking part in the 2019-20 Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award program. We hope you enjoy this literary adventure!

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## THE VOTING PROCESS

- To be eligible to vote for their favourite book, 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).

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 possible so they can make informed voting decisions; however, leaders may exercise their discretion to encourage participation by all readers in the group.
- Group leaders determine the date for the Hackmatack elections. The deadline for the Hackmatack office to receive votes is April 15. Sample voting ballots and official tally sheets are included in this kit.
- After your election, enter the results on the voting tally sheet and send by fax or scan and email to the Hackmatack office (details below).
- Every child's vote counts! The winning books in each category will be announced at the award ceremony on May 29 in Riverview, New Brunswick.

### **Voting deadline: April 15, 2020**

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

## **IMPORTANT HACKMATAACK DATES 2019-20**

September 2019	Registration ( <b>deadline October 2</b> )
September 2019 to March 2020	Reading
February to March 2020	Bookings to host author readings and attend award ceremony
April 15, 2020	Voting deadline
May 25 to 28, 2020	Nominated author reading tours
May 29, 2020	Award Ceremony, Riverview Arts Centre, Riverview, New Brunswick, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR RUNNING A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM**

- If possible, purchase several copies of the nominated books to make them more available for eager readers.
- Keep the Hackmataack books in a special display area along with copies of the Hackmataack poster and brochure, and printouts of the author biographies and booklists included in the Project Kit.
- Meet regularly with your Hackmataack participants (e.g., every two weeks).
- Discuss the Hackmataack 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 Hackmataack program in your newsletter, blog, and on social media, and alert your community newspaper.
- Inform parents about Hackmataack and your school or library's involvement in the program.
- Invite parent participation. Some parents might want to organize or supervise activities for your group.

## ACTIVITY & ENGAGEMENT IDEAS

These ideas cover a range of ages and reading levels. You can use any of these in your reading group, or adapt them for your Hackmatack readers.

- Talk about and preview the nominated titles in classrooms or libraries.
  - Give book talks – short descriptions of a book highlighting its high-interest elements – to readers to generate interest.
  - Give book teasers – read a short section chosen for its action or suspense from a longer book. Don't give too much away!
- Create a personal connection by telling readers about the authors of the books (see author bios in the kit).
- Encourage readers to write their own book reviews. You can include a star rating as well as asking for their thoughts on the characters and stories.
  - What did they like best / least about the book?
  - Did they have a favourite character?
  - Did they identify with a person or situation in the book?
  - Did they learn something they didn't know before?
  - Did something in the book inspire them to try something new, or look at something in a new way?
- Prominently display the Group Progress Charts included in the kits, so readers can keep track of what they've read, and discuss what they like best about the process and where they might hit roadblocks.
- Encourage readers to keep their own reading journals to record their progress, ideas, opinions, and questions regarding the books they have read.
- Invite Hackmatack readers to create art projects based on the books they've read. They might enjoy making giant versions of book covers, or creating something relevant to the subjects and themes of the books they're reading. Write a paragraph on why they chose a particular character or scene to accompany pictures. Create a display.
- Create a hackmatack tree. Children can add paper ornaments to a structure, or sticky notes on a tree-shaped poster with their names for each title read.

- Study the geographical area, culture and time period of a particular book. How are the lives, values, and challenges of the characters from the books different from or similar to readers' own experiences?
- Many books on the Hackmatack list are based on real events, existing cultures, or lives of famous personalities. Encourage readers to do research to learn more.
- Invite local celebrities, such as politicians, artists, athletes, or writers to read from nominated books and have a group discussion.
- Have a book club meal with food that appears in the nominated books.
- Host a Hackmatack visiting author. Encourage each child to invite a special guest to the event.
- Invite Hackmatack readers to write letters to nominated authors. Send the letters to Hackmatack by mail, fax, or email, and we will forward them to nominated authors. Remember to clearly indicate the name of the author.

By mail:        [Author name] c/o  
                    Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award  
                    Box 34055  
                    Scotia Square RPO  
                    Halifax, NS B3J 3S1

By fax: (902) 424-0820 / attn. Hackmatack

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