



The Monarch Award: Illinois' K-3 Readers' Choice Award

Information Sheet

Welcome to the 2015 Monarch Award Program! The Monarch Award is designed to encourage Illinois children to read critically and to become familiar with children's books, authors and illustrators.

The award is named for the Monarch Butterfly and symbolizes the growth, change and freedom that characterize the emergent reader. The Monarch Award is given annually to an author and/or illustrator of a book voted as their favorite by participating K-3 children in Illinois.

Materials linked under 2015 at the website <http://www.islma.org/monarch.htm> include:

Information Sheet (2 pages) Author/Title Bookmark Template (3 per page)
2015 Master List Read All 20 sticker sheet (print on 2x4 adhesive labels) and grid for attaching stickers. Official Student Ballot Template (2 per page)

Linked under 2015: 2015 Nomination Form and Criteria for Nomination (2 pages)

Quick facts for participating schools and libraries:

The Monarch Award may be administered by school libraries, public libraries and/or teachers.

The registration fee for the Monarch Award is \$10 per year. The deadline is January 15, 2015. Registered schools/libraries may apply for an LBSS Endowment Grant to receive a free set of books. Participating schools or public libraries will implement activities to promote the Monarch Award.

Twelve of the twenty titles on the Master List must be available for reading. Children who have read or had read to them at least 5 of the 20 Master List titles are eligible to vote. Schools and libraries will develop a procedure for determining voting eligibility.

Voting may take place at any time prior to March 15th; however recording the votes on the online ballot is available from February 15th to March 15th.

The online ballot template must be used or the other voting suggestions are given on the next page. ALL student votes/TOTAL votes must be submitted online by midnight March 15, 2015.

Calendar

Now-March 2105	Read 2015 Monarch Master List Titles
January 15, 2015	Deadline to register for 2015
Feb.15- March 15, 2015	Voting must be submitted online by midnight
April 30, 2015	Deadline for LBSS Endowment Grant for 2016 books

Nominations 2016

The Monarch Steering Committee STRONGLY encourages participating schools and libraries to nominate titles for next year's Master List. The quality of the Master List is based on the nominations received. Nominations for the 2016 Monarch Award must have copyrights from 2010-2014 and are due by September 15, 2014. The nomination form is available at <http://www.islma.org/monarch.htm> All information must be completed including: Author, Title, Publisher, Copyright, Type. Nominations received after September 15, 2014 will be considered for the 2017 award, if they meet the criteria.

Stickers

Winner and nominee stickers may be purchased at the ISLMA 2014 Conference or ordered via a form on the website. Stickers available to order:

Four **winner** stickers, \$2.00 (Specify year. 2005-2014 available.)
24 round Monarch **logo** stickers with no text for nominees or winner, \$6.00. 60 smaller square **nominee** stickers, \$6.00.

All orders should be mailed to:
Monarch Stickers, ISLMA, PO Box 1326 Galesburg, IL. 61402

Make checks payable to ISLMA.

Voting Ideas

Nominee

Number pictures of the nominees on a bulletin board to correspond with the numbers on the paper ballot to facilitate voting for younger readers. Other possible ideas include a ballot with pictures of the books, using pennies or tokens and containers with pictures of the books, allowing a student to put a sticker next to a picture of the book to cast a vote. Just a reminder: some techniques, such as a show of hands, are prone to peer pressure and may affect the outcome of the vote. Secret ballots are preferred.

Readers' Committee

The Readers' Committee is comprised of 50 volunteers from throughout the state of Illinois and includes school library media specialists, children's librarians and educators who read the top 100 nominees and narrow the list to 50 titles. In a face-to-face meeting in January, the readers narrow the list to the Master List of 20 titles based on the criteria for the Monarch Award.

Volunteers

Those who wish to be involved in Monarch Award activities can find a volunteer form at www.islma.org/monarch.htm If the 2015 Readers' Committee is already filled, your name may be held for future years. Submitting your name each year ensures that you remain on the volunteer list.

Ideas/Suggestions/Questions

Check out the **FAQ** on our website. Post your ideas and questions to ISLMANET. If you still have questions or suggestions contact Judy Bauman, Monarch Award Chair at jbauman@lisle202.org or 630-493-8096(W) or 630-355-4120(H).

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The Monarch Award is sponsored by the Illinois School Library Media Assoc