

## MA Teen Choice Book Award

By MaryAnn Rogers

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the nomination process began for the first-ever Massachusetts Teen Choice Award. Any Massachusetts teen aged 12-18 years old can participate. The committee wants teens



to both choose the titles they want to nominate as well as vote for their favorite title in each category. The role of librarians is to facilitate this process; this award is completely teen-driven, honoring what teens consider popular for a given year. The deadline for nominations is December 31, 2010.

### Nominations requirements:

- The book must be of interest to teens between the ages of 12 and 18.
- The book **must** be published in 2010.
- The primary consideration should be quality, but the level of young adult interest should be a *high level*. Adult novels with a *high level* of teen interest may be nominated.
- There are no restrictions based on home country of the author or whether they are dead or living.
- Teens may nominate as many 2010 titles as they like.

### Categories:

- High School Young Adult
- Middle School Young Adult.

### Timeline:

- **June 1 to December 31, 2010:** Nominations period. Nominations can be submitted by mail or online: <http://www.readsinma.org/tcba>  
Mass. Teen Choice Book Awards / Milford Town Library / 80 Spruce St. / Milford, MA 01757.
- **January 15 to March 15, 2011:** Voting online or by paper ballot. The ballot will have the top five nominations for the high school level titles and the top five nominations for the middle school level titles. Teens can choose one title from each category.
- **April 14, 2011:** Two winners announced on YALSA Teen Literature Day.

The Massachusetts Teen Choice Book Award is a joint project between the Massachusetts Library Association Youth Services and the Massachusetts School Library Association.

## Great Fall Reads

By Pat Keogh

SO many great books for children this fall!

I love Deborah Wiles documentary novel, *Countdown*, set in October, 1962. Franny Chapman's world is in chaos, just like the outside world with the Cuban blockade and civil unrest. The first of a trilogy, this fascinating book brings the reader face to face with an 11 year-old's friendship and family problems as well as a look at life in the Sixties.

Laura Schlitz's *The Night Fairy* is beautiful to look at and lovely to read. Flory, a fairy, loses her wings and must adjust to the dangers of the night. "A little brown bat swooped down upon her, caught her, and crunched her wings." This is a nice read-aloud.

Move over *Wimpy Kid*! Here comes *Big Nate in a Class by Himself* by comic strip creator Lincoln Pierce. Nate's not a bad kid; he just can't keep out of his own way.

Now for some nonfiction. Check out Steve Jenkins and Robin Page's *How to Clean a Hippopotamus...* This look at animal symbiosis is more complex and for a slightly older reader than many of their earlier titles. Look for *Sit-In* by Andrea and Brian Pinkney, another husband/wife team. "The order was simple. A doughnut and coffee and cream on the side." When four black men sit at a Woolworth's lunch counter they never realized what a change was soon to take place.

*Mirror Mirror* by Marilyn Singer is a remarkable poetry book. It has reversible verse, a creation of Singer's with two poems side by side with the same words, but in reverse and from two points of view. Seeing is believing with this one!

Here are a few picture books to seek out. *My Garden* by Kevin Henkes, *Yucky Worms* by Vivian French, and *Time to Sleep, Sheep the Sheep* by Mo Willems. Just in time for the start of school, grab a copy of Barbara Bottner's, *Miss Brooks Loves Books (and I don't)*. Watch a young child fall in love with books when she finds just the right story to share in class.

**Attend Pat's Workshop at the Conference**  
Monday, 3:00-4:00 PM

