

OYAN Mini Mock Printz 2026

Group Leader Overview



Thank you for leading a Mini Mock Printz book discussion! This document includes ideas about how to run a Printz book group, in-depth information about Printz criteria, and guidelines for conducting a civil, productive book discussion.

Tasks for group leaders

- Begin with introductions in your small group. We suggest asking each person to say: name, pronouns, and “3 words that describe your perfect book.” Decide on a name for your group- You will need it later for voting!
- Briefly review Printz Award background information, book discussion guidelines, and what to look for when evaluating for literary excellence.
- Assign a timekeeper, note taker, and reporter. You can take any of these roles, if you like.
- Figure out how much time you can devote to each book, leaving at least 10 minutes for voting. Plan for a 5-10 minute “stretch” break for your group around the halfway point.
- Begin the discussion, giving equal time to each book. It’s OK to stop talking about a book early if everyone agrees they are done. It’s OK to give extra time to a book (if you can spare it) if everyone agrees they are not done.
- You are not only the leader, you are a participant! Feel free to contribute your analysis and passionate debate to the discussion.
- Create a form online or use the paper form below to gather your group’s votes.
- Have scratch paper/pencil/calculator available to convert the group’s tally into points. It is up to you whether you stick to the strict voting criteria described below, or just vote for funsies!
- Determine a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for your group.
- Submit votes to the statewide Mini Mock Printz form by Friday, January 23, 2026. Your group can decide whether to submit one vote for the entire group, or individual votes for each member. OYAN will announce the results before the [ALA Youth Media Award presentation](#) on Monday, January 26. Vote here: <https://bit.ly/26MiniPrintz>



OYAN's Mock Printz Committee

- Members of OYAN read and read and read, focusing especially on star-reviewed books.
- We use reviews, pay attention to book buzz, and gather suggestions from colleagues to help select books.
- Our goal is to select eight books representing a balance of genres.

The Real Committee

- Eleven serve on the committee, including a non-voting Booklist rep, an administrative assistant, and nine members (including a chair) that are appointed by the Vice President/President Elect of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA).
- Members serve for 12 months, discussing the books at the summer ALA conference and virtually, and selecting winner and honor books in time for a January announcement.

Nominations and Eligibility

- Books can be nominated by anyone (there's a nomination form online), but they must be seconded by a committee member.
- Eligible works:
 - Must have been published by a US publishing house, during the calendar year prior to the award. This includes US editions of books originally published in other countries. It excludes books that were published earlier and then re-released by another publisher.
 - Must have been designated by the publisher as specifically for 12-18 year-olds.
 - Any print format is acceptable, including fiction, poetry, non-fiction, graphic novels, anthology etc.
- Criteria for Printz-worthy books is subjective and every committee is different. Each committee looks for literary excellence.

Printz Award Voting

- Weighted voting process: Five points for first place selections, three for second, and one for third.
- Medal winner must receive five first-place votes and have five or more points than the second-place title.
- If no clear winner, remove "no vote" titles, discuss and vote again. Repeat as needed.
- Separate balloting for honor books, and up to four honor books can be selected. If there is no clear winner, the real committee is not required to select one!

Criteria for Literary Excellence

All forms of writing - fiction, nonfiction, poetry, art, and any combination of these, including anthologies - are eligible. The following criteria are only suggested guidelines and should in no

way be considered as absolutes. They will always be open to change and adaptation. Depending on the book, one or more of these criteria will apply: Story; Setting; Theme; Voice; Accuracy; Illustration; Style; Characters; and Design. The book should be self-contained, not dependent on other media for its meaning or pleasure. The book should not be considered in terms of other works by the author but as complete in itself.

As you discuss the books, ask yourself questions like:

- What sets this work apart from the herd?
- What if a book is beautifully written, but riddled with typos?
- How much does a gorgeous book design impact overall literary excellence?
- How are motifs, metaphors, and other literary devices used in the text? Are they consistent?
- Does the author do thorough and respectful work representing cultures within or outside of their own experience?

Cooperative Children's Book Center Book Discussion Guidelines

Look at each book for ***what it is***, rather than ***what it is not***.

- Make positive comments first. Try to express what you liked about the book and why. (e.g. "The illustrations are a perfect match for the story because....")
- After everyone has had the opportunity to say what they appreciated about the book, you may talk about difficulties you had with a particular aspect of the book. Try to express difficulties as questions, rather than declarative judgments on the book as a whole. (e.g. "Would Max's dinner really have still been warm?" rather than "That would never happen.")
- Avoid recapping the story or booktalking the book. There is not the time for a summary.
- Refrain from relating personal anecdotes. The discussion must focus on the book at hand.
- Compare the book with others on the discussion list, rather than other books by the same author or other books in your experience.

All perspectives and vocabularies are correct. There is no "right" answer or single correct response.

- Listen openly to what is said, rather than who says it.
- Respond to the comments of others, rather than merely waiting for an opportunity to share your comments.

- Talk with each other, rather than to the discussion facilitator.
- Comment to the group as a whole, rather than to someone seated near you.

(Ginny Moore Kruse and Kathleen T. Horning © 1989 Cooperative Children's Book Center)

Printz Award Timeline

1990s: The field of Young Adult literature begins to grow exponentially, along with its audience. Authors begin writing more sophisticated books, and a genre that truly matches its intended audience emerges.

1998: YALSA appoints a committee sponsored by Booklist to develop an award recognizing excellence in YA Literature.

2000: First Printz medal is awarded to Walter Dean Myers' *Monster*

2001 Award: *Kit's Wilderness* by David Almond

2002 Award: *A Step from Heaven* by An Na

2003 Award: *Postcards from No Man's Land* by Aidan Chambers

2004 Award: *The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson

2005 Award: *how i live now* by Meg Rosoff

2006 Award: *Looking for Alaska* by John Green

2007 Award: *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen

2008 Award: *The White Darkness* by Geraldine McCaughrean

2009 Award: *Jellicoe Road* by Melina Marchetta

2010 Award: *Going Bovine* by Libba Bray

2011 Award: *Ship Breaker* by Paola Bacigalupi

2012 Award: *Where Things Come Back* by John Corey Whaley

2013 Award: *In Darkness* by Nick Lake

2014 Award: *Midwinterblood* by Marcus Sedgwick

2015 Award: *I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson

2016 Award: *Bone Gap* by Laura Ruby

2017 Award: *March: Book Three* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell

2018 Award: *We Are Okay* by Nina LaCour

2019 Award: *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo

2020 Award: *Dig* by A.S. King

2021 Award: *Everything Sad is Untrue* by Daniel Nayeri

2022 Award: *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley

2023 Award: *All My Rage* by Sabaa Tahir

2024 Award: *The Collectors: Stories* edited by A.S. King

2025 Award: *Brownstone* by Samuel Teer & Mar Julia

Mini Mock Printz Vote Tally

- ☐ *Banned Together: Our Fight for Reader's Rights* by Ashley Hope Pérez
- ☐ *The Corruption of Hollis Brown* by K. Ancrum
- ☐ *Death in the Jungle: Murder, Betrayal, and the Lost Dream of Jonestown* by Candace Fleming
- ☐ *Song of a Blackbird* by Maria Van Lieshout
- ☐ *I Am the Swarm* by Hayley Chewins
- ☐ *Run Away With Me* by Brian Selznick
- ☐ *Sisters in the Wind* by Angeline Boulley
- ☐ *(S)Kin* by Ibi Zoboi

First Place (5 points)	Second Place (3 points)	Third Place (1 point)