SELECTION CRITERIA
Forest of Reading® Programs

BLUE SPRUCE AWARD™
(Kindergarten to Grade 2, picture books)
- Readability: Is the picture book appropriate for primary students (K-2) in terms of readability? Does the book lend itself to being read aloud to primary students?
- Literary Merit: Considering the text and story - is this book a good read? Is it well written?
- Learning Value: Will the book enrich the learning experiences of primary students?
- Quality of the illustrations: Do the illustrations have artistic merit? Do they add to the effectiveness of the story? Do the illustrations and story blend well?

SILVER BIRCH EXPRESS AWARD®
(Grades 3-4)
- Literary quality in the case of fiction including but not limited to: structure, richness of language, craft of the writer, pace, clarity;
- Quality of presentation for non-fiction, including but not limited to: appeal and appropriateness of the presentation, clarity, layout, and format.
- Audience appeal: appropriateness to the age group (school-aged etc.), a range of readability, inclusiveness and diversity, the themes and content;
- Accuracy and relevance;
- Balance in the final list with respect to protagonists of different genders, subject appeal for different genders, cultural diversity, geographical settings, e.g., rural, urban, alternate realities etc., variety of genre;
- Curriculum connection is outside the purposes of the reading programs for the school-aged programs.

SILVER BIRCH FICTION AWARD®
(Grades 5-6)
- Literary quality in the case of fiction including but not limited to: structure, richness of language, craft of the writer, pace, clarity;
- Audience appeal: appropriateness to the age group (school-aged etc.), a range of readability, inclusiveness and diversity, the themes and content;
- Accuracy and relevance;
- Balance in the final list with respect to protagonists of different genders, subject appeal for different genders, cultural diversity, geographical settings, e.g., rural, urban, alternate realities etc., variety of genre;
- Curriculum connection is outside the purposes of the reading programs for the school-aged programs.

YELLOW CEDAR
(Grades 4-8)
- Quality of presentation for non-fiction, including but not limited to: appeal and appropriateness of the presentation, clarity, layout, and format.
- Audience appeal: appropriateness to the age group (school-aged etc.), a range of readability, inclusiveness and diversity, the themes and content;
- Accuracy and relevance;
• Balance in the final list with respect to protagonists of different genders, subject
appeal for different genders, cultural diversity, geographical settings, e.g., rural,
urban, alternate realities etc., variety of genre;
• Curriculum connection is outside the purposes of the reading programs for the
school-aged programs.

RED MAPLE AWARD™
(Grades 7-8)
• Literary quality in the case of fiction including but not limited to:
  structure, richness of language, craft of the writer, pace, clarity;
• Audience appeal: appropriateness to the age group (school-aged, early teens etc.), a range of readability, inclusiveness and diversity, the themes and content;
• Accuracy and relevance;
• Balance in the final list with respect to protagonists of different genders, subject
appeal for different genders, cultural diversity, geographical settings, e.g., rural,
urban, alternate realities etc., variety of genre;
• Curriculum connection is outside the purposes of the reading programs for the
school-aged programs.

WHITE PINE AWARD™
(High School)
• Literary quality in the case of fiction including but not limited to:
  structure, richness of language, craft of the writer, pace, clarity;
• Audience appeal:
  o Appropriateness to the age group (school-aged, teen etc.), a range of
    readability, inclusiveness and diversity, the themes and content;
  o For White Pine, the book should be of primary interest to high school
    aged students, with the main characters of high school age or older;
  o Books that would be described as Hi/Low (high interest, low reading level)
    will NOT be considered;
• Accuracy and relevance;
• Balance in the final list with respect to protagonists of different genders, subject
appeal for different genders, cultural diversity, geographical settings, e.g., rural,
urban, alternate realities etc., variety of genre;

PEUPLIER
(French picture books)
• Readability: Is the picture book appropriate for primary students (K-2) in terms of
readability? Does the book lend itself to being read aloud to primary students?
• Literary Merit: Considering the text and story - is this book a good read? Is it well
written?
• Learning Value: Will the book enrich the learning experiences of primary
students?
• Quality of the illustrations: Do the illustrations have artistic merit? Do they add to
the effectiveness of the story? Do the illustrations and story blend well?

MÉLÈZE
(shorter chapter books maximum 100 pages or more mature picture books, larger
text with pictures, simpler vocabulary and verb tenses)
• Literary quality in the case of fiction including but not limited to: structure, richness of language, craft of the writer, pace, clarity;
• Quality of presentation for non-fiction, including but not limited to: appeal and appropriateness of the presentation, clarity, layout, and format.
• Audience appeal: appropriateness to the age group (school-aged etc.), a range of readability, inclusiveness and diversity, the themes and content;
• Accuracy and relevance;
• Balance in the final list with respect to protagonists of different genders, subject appeal for different genders, cultural diversity, geographical settings, e.g., rural, urban, alternate realities etc., variety of genre;
• Curriculum connection is outside the purposes of the reading programs for the school-aged programs.

TAMARAC
(chapter books from 100 to 250 pages, smaller text with little or no illustrations, more complicated verb tenses and vocabulary)
• Literary quality in the case of fiction including but not limited to: structure, richness of language, craft of the writer, pace, clarity;
• Quality of presentation for non-fiction, including but not limited to: appeal and appropriateness of the presentation, clarity, layout, and format.
• Audience appeal: appropriateness to the age group (school-aged etc.), a range of readability, inclusiveness and diversity, the themes and content;
• Accuracy and relevance;
• Balance in the final list with respect to protagonists of different genders, subject appeal for different genders, cultural diversity, geographical settings, e.g., rural, urban, alternate realities etc., variety of genre;
• Curriculum connection is outside the purposes of the reading programs for the school-aged programs.

EVERGREEN™
(Adult book club)
• Literary quality in the case of fiction including but not limited to: structure, richness of language, craft of the writer, pace, clarity;
• Quality of presentation for non-fiction, including but not limited to: appeal and appropriateness of the presentation, clarity, layout, format;
• Audience appeal: a range of readability, themes and content;
• Accuracy and relevance;
• Balance in the final list with respect to protagonists of different genders, subject appeal for different genders, cultural diversity, geographical settings, e.g., rural, urban, alternate realities etc., variety of genre;