



## Black-Eyed Susan Book Awards Program

Each year since 1992, the Black-Eyed Susan Book Award has been given in several categories. The purpose of this award is to promote literacy and lifelong reading habits by encouraging students to read quality, contemporary literature. The books selected to be placed on lists for each category are expected to broaden the human experience and provide accurate, factual information. The Black-Eyed Susan Book Award honors outstanding books, chosen annually by Maryland students. Committees of school library media specialists and other interested persons meet over the course of a year to determine which books will go on the lists; anyone is invited to suggest titles.

### CRITERIA:

- Books may be fiction or nonfiction.
- Books must have a copyright date of the current year or one of the preceding three years and be listed in the current *Books in Print*.
- Each title selected will have received positive reviews from appropriate professional journals.
- Members of the committee will read and discuss the submitted books and choose the best books to be placed on the list.

When the required number of books has been read, each student will cast one vote for the book he or she considers to be the most outstanding in each category. Votes from across the state are sent in to the Black-Eyed Susan committee and tallied to determine the winners. The winning authors and/or illustrators receive a pewter plate engraved with the current year and the Black-Eyed Susan Book Award logo. Authors, illustrators and publishers recognize the award as an honor bestowed by Maryland students.



## Guidelines

To participate, students must READ or HAVE READ TO THEM a **minimum of 8** of the 15 picture books nominated. Based on the premise that picture books are for everybody, there are no grade level restrictions.

To participate in Grades 4 through 6, students must READ or HAVE READ TO THEM a **minimum of three** of the nominated books.

Older students may read from early in the school year until voting time; younger students do best if reading is done the last few months before voting.

Each child will have one vote in each of the categories. The media specialist will make arrangements for voting in the spring.

The total votes from our school have to be **mailed** in by **April 25, 2011**.

We can also complete the forms and **email** them to [BES@maslmd.org](mailto:BES@maslmd.org) by **noon on April 28, 2011**. You will receive a confirmation that your email votes were received; please do not email votes and send them via US mail as well.

Schools can choose to **vote online** by participating in the Online Voting for Black-Eyed Susan Nominees created and managed by Montgomery County Public Schools. Votes for Picture Books and Grades 4-6 are tallied on separate voting surveys. Interested schools should contact Michael Warner at [Michael.Warner@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Michael.Warner@mcpsmd.org) and provide a contact person who would receive email updates, the name of the school, county/LEA, and in which surveys the school would like to be included. Online voting dates for 2011 will be available from Michael Warner.

Nominations for book award consideration are welcome and should be sent to the committee **by October 1** for consideration. Send nominations to:

**MASL**  
**Black-Eyed Susan Book Awards Committee**  
**P.O. Box 21127, Baltimore, MD 21228**

For additional information contact **Marge Shaffer** at [mshaffer@tcps.k12.md.us](mailto:mshaffer@tcps.k12.md.us) or **Pat Goff** at [pgoff@bcpl.net](mailto:pgoff@bcpl.net)

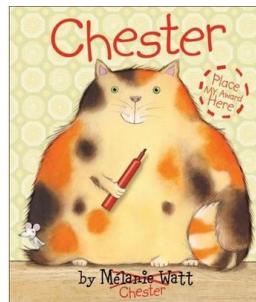


# The Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL)

would like to congratulate  
the more than 74,000 Maryland students  
that read and voted for  
the 2009-2010 nominated Black-Eyed Susan books.



The students selected the following books to  
receive this prestigious award:



## PICTURE BOOK CATEGORY

**Chester**  
*by Mélanie Watt*



## GRADES 4-6 CATEGORY

**Swindle**  
*by Gordon Korman*