

**Isinglass Teen Read Award  
For 7th & 8th Grade  
Criteria and Committee**

The Isinglass Teen Read Award has been ongoing since 2001 with winners such as Rodman Philbrick, Walter Dean Myers, Patricia McCormick, and Christopher Paolini. Voting is open to all NH towns that wish to participate. The Flume/Isinglass Committee meets once a year to determine the list from student &/or circulation generated recommendations. The Flume/Isinglass Committee works cooperatively on both awards. We have multiple librarians from both school and public libraries who make up the selection committee. The web site for Isinglass titles is hosted on the Barrington Public Library web site. ([www.barringtonlibrary.com](http://www.barringtonlibrary.com))

**Mission Statement:** To encourage middle school level students to read for enjoyment and promote a life-long love of reading and books.

**Our criteria:**

- Recommended by a teen directly, or a book that YA librarians can't keep on the shelf due to high interest among students.
- High interest and appropriate reading level for 7th-8th graders.
- Readily available in print in the US; author does NOT have to be from this country.
- A title in a series must stand alone.
- Non-fiction and previous award winners (other than NH State Awards) may be nominated.
- Titles must be published in the last 2 years.
- Titles may be submitted to the committee chair year round and should include title, author, and publication year.
- Books will not be disqualified for tough topics or language that is appropriate to the story. We strive to provide a well-rounded list that may also include some books that are not appropriate for all readers. Parents make the final decision as to what their children read.
- All books are read by the committee, reviews are sought, and selections chosen by a panel of school and public librarians with expertise in working with teens.
- The committee will not include books previously listed on other NH State Awards lists such as Flume or Great Stone Face. We ask librarians submitting student recommendations to remove such items before sending suggestions along, and, let students know that these items will not be re-considered.

**Selection Criteria:**

- Teen appeal, i.e. will teens be interested in the book topic, characters, and setting and find the book a satisfying and enjoyable read.
- Quality of writing, i.e. has the author written a story with well-developed plot, characters, and setting.
- The book must be a model for that genre and have an interesting theme. Originality of the text

- Subject matter of current interest to teens
- Suitability of vocabulary and content for the age range
- Relevance to today's societal issues
- Reflects a teen experience or concern
- Language style and usage
- Books that provide a balance selection of genres so the list reflects a wide variety of reading tastes

**The Isinglass Final List:** The committee will finalize the list in April in order to make the choices available for the May Library Conferences. The final list will be comprised of 10 titles and will be announced at spring library conferences. The Barrington Public Library will host the Isinglass page and add any criteria, forms, etc. as needed. PR about the book list will be sent via the state e-mail list and school librarians will be informed.

Student recommendations for the next year's list may be sent via e-mail to [bpl@belmontnh.org](mailto:bpl@belmontnh.org). Please include full title, author, and year published.

**The Committee:** As of March 2017, The Isinglass committee and Flume committee were combined. It is made up of volunteers, both public and school librarians, whose love of reading and working with teens combines to make them well suited for such a selection process. The members work with children directly and have knowledge of current interests, needs, and skill levels among 7th & 8th students. They will offer a cross-section of differing skills, knowledge, community needs, and interests in order to end up with a balanced list.

**Committee and Member Tasks:**

- Committee members are expected to serve on the committee for a minimum of one year.
- Attendance is encouraged for the committee's selection meeting in April.
- Reading and evaluating books on the Flume/Isinglass Wiki at <http://flumeaward.wikispaces.com>
- Giving book talks at NH library conferences.
- Producing promotional materials, such as brochures, labels, bookmarks, and brochures.
- Promoting the award within members' individual libraries and soliciting votes and nominations.
- All nominations should be directed to the Chair who will then add qualifying nominations to the Wiki.

**The Isinglass Chair** will be chosen by the members of the Flume/Isinglass Committee, and will represent the award at relevant meetings and conferences. The Chair organizes committee and member tasks, keeps members informed, and stays in contact with NH public and school libraries via state email lists (YALS-L, CHILIS-L, and NHSLMA). The chair adds all nominations to the Wiki and maintains a list of active members. The current Isinglass chair is Katherine Bollenbach at [bpl@belmontnh.org](mailto:bpl@belmontnh.org). Please contact the Chair to become a member.