

# AMS Newbery Club



Informational flyer

September 2017

Club sponsors:

- Mrs. Mulrine (Room 1204)
- & Mrs. McAlonen,
- Mrs. Rehm
- Mrs. Meadows
- Mrs. Goldman

## Special points of interest:

- Read great books
- Participate in invigorating discussions in CAT and online
- Champion your favorite books of 2017
- Compete for prizes and awards
- 1st meeting: **Thursday, Sept. 14th (application due!)**
- **Teacher recommendation due Friday Sept. 8th**
- Subsequent meetings: Sept. 28th, Oct. 12th, Oct. 26th, Nov. 9th, Nov. 30th, Dec. 14th, & Jan. 4th (our big voting meeting will go extra long!)

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## The “New” Newbery Club

**Have you ever felt like you possess what it takes to hand out a big time book award? Or have you ever wondered why some books win awards while others that you really liked didn't get recognized?**

This year, AMS is continuing the Newbery Club for interested 7th and 8th graders. The club will hold discussions online and meet in person every other Thursday after school

## What we read

*For a book to win the 2018 Newbery, it must have been written by an American author and have been published in 2017. The actual Newbery committee is looking for “the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children published by an American publisher in the United States in English during the preceding year.” Our reading list will be by no means comprehensive. We have, or will have, most books in our collection. The books are picked based on recent reviews from around*

*from 3:15 to 4:45 from September until the actual Newbery Medal winner and Honor books are announced by the American Library Association in January 2018.*

*If you are interested in joining, you must commit to reading enough eligible books by the time we hold our club vote in January. At our meetings, we will discuss the merits of specific books pertaining to the Newbery criteria. We will award our own AMS Newbery winner. And, hopefully, we will watch the real Newbery announced live in January.*

*the nation as well as availability. Some of our books may include Advanced Reader Copies (ARCs), uncorrected texts distributed by publishers to book reviewers prior to the publishing date. To be eligible to vote, you will need to read a certain number of top contender books that the club will decide upon as the year goes on. For fun and giggles, there will be a prize for the student who reads the most club books and a raffle prize with entry tickets based on how many club books each student reads. We will have a chart that displays who has*

## AMS Newbery Club

Contact us:  
Mrs. Mulrine  
kmulrine@wcpss.net



**Join our online discussions!**  
**AMSNewberyClub.weebly.com**

Students will submit their reviews of books online prior to each meeting using discussion tools in Google Classroom. Students should know how to log into their WCPSS Google accounts!



That deserves an award!

## *Newbery Criteria*

- ◇ *Interpretation of Theme*  
-It has great ideas that reveal important themes in a way that makes sense.
- ◇ *Presentation of Information*  
-It presented facts in a outstanding way that helped me gain knowledge as I read.
- ◇ *Development of Plot*  
-The plot is developed to fit together logically and believably.
- ◇ *Delineation of Characters*  
-The characters are interesting and believable.
- ◇ *Delineation of Setting*  
-The time and place of the story are well set and important to the story.
- ◇ *Appropriateness of Style*  
-The language used is interesting and helps develop the plot and characters.



*Most Newbery books should not be the most popular or teach the best lesson. A book may not be your favorite, but it should be the one that meets the criteria the best.*

*“Because the literary qualities to be considered will vary depending on content, the committee need not expect to find excellence in each of the named elements. The book should, however, have distinguished qualities in all of the elements pertinent to it.”*

## **Another way to look at the criteria**

### ***What’s the book like?***

Information + plot + characters + setting

### ***What does it make us think about?***

Theme or concept

### ***How does the author do that?***

Style

### ***If all of these come together excellently...***

The book just might be a “Distinguished contribution to American literature for children.”

# Application

Fill out and return this page to Mrs. Mulrine or another club sponsor

## Student Agreement:

*Initial beside each statement before signing below.*

\_\_\_ I understand and agree to abide by the guidelines in this packet and posted on our club's website if I am selected to be a member of the Apex Middle School Newbery Club.

\_\_\_ *I agree to be responsible for the safe and timely return of any club books I check out.*

\_\_\_ I understand that I will need to read a minimum number of eligible books that the club will decide upon in order to vote for our club winner in January.

\_\_\_ I understand that it will be up to me to find copies of the books I need to read if there are not enough available at school. I will need to check the public library, local bookstores, book fairs, online, and eBooks if necessary.

\_\_\_ I understand that a large part of our club communication will come through email *and* Google Classroom, which I will check regularly.

\_\_\_ I promise to keep our meeting area spic and span and free of debris from any snacks.

\_\_\_ I understand that this club is for serious book discussion and not goofing around.

**Student Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Homeroom Teacher** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent Agreement:

*Initial beside the following statement before signing below.*

\_\_\_ I understand that I will support my child in the commitments above, **including prompt transportation pick up at the flagpole at 4:45.**

**Parent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Best email to reach student quickly:** \_\_\_\_\_

I can provide small snacks (and maybe napkins/plates/disposable food utensils).

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

(Snack donations are stored in the Media Center and can be dropped off there at any time with Media staff.)