



# Sequoyah BOOK AWARDS

## 2018 LESSONS + ACTIVITIES

### Sequoyah Book Award Week is Here!

Get your students reading and involved in the third-oldest youth-choice literary award program in the nation. Your students can help determine the winners of the 2018 Sequoyah Book Awards during voting next spring.



Visit [bit.ly/1kC6na7](http://bit.ly/1kC6na7) on the web for background on this Oklahoma book award. You'll also find masterlists, activities, and promotional materials to get your students involved in selecting the next winning authors.

### Day Two: Let's Go Into the Book

#### Plots! Characters! Themes!

All stories, from the simplest of picture books to epic novels, include these main elements: plot, character, and theme.



**The Plot** is the actual story, told from beginning to end. Typically, plots end in a resolution involving some type of change:

- the change in a situation (the person terrorizing the town is caught)
- the change in a character (a distrustful teenager learns to trust)
- the change in a relationship (two characters at odds become friends)

There are a diversity of plots, and writers have tried to define them. The late William Foster Harris, a professor at the University of Oklahoma, argued that there were three basic plots:

**The Happy Ending Plot**, where the central character makes a sacrifice—that seems logically “wrong”—for the sake of another.

**The Unhappy Ending**, where a character does the logically “right” thing, but fails to make the needed sacrifice for the sake of another.

**The Literary Plot**, which does not hinge on the decision of a character. Instead, fate intervenes and drives the action of the characters

Visit this Internet Public Library page [[www.ipl.org/div/farq/plotFARQ.html](http://www.ipl.org/div/farq/plotFARQ.html)] to see how many plots others have defined.

**Characters** are the actors within the plot. Whether reacting to inner conflict, or responding to events, they move the story forward. Beyond the main actors, there are a host of characters who help advance the plot. This page from Literary Terms [[literaryterms.net/character](http://literaryterms.net/character)] provides a list and descriptions of various character types in stories.

**The Themes** of a story are the main ideas or underlying meanings. In *The Hunger Games* novels, the broad themes include survival and sacrifice. Themes can also state important truths, or advance an author's viewpoint. In *The Hunger Games*, such a theme could be expressed as “the importance of retaining your humanity and dignity under duress.”

Check out an online extension of this lesson at:

[nie.newsok.com/educators/curriculum/sequoyah-week-2017](http://nie.newsok.com/educators/curriculum/sequoyah-week-2017)  
Sequoyah Book Week continues tomorrow!

Newspapers for this education program provided by

