



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 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 Three: Everybody's a Critic

Reading, Thinking, and Writing

Books and stories can be important tools in helping young people develop the ability to think critically and present rational arguments. Teachers employ both book group discussions and book report assignments to help children in early grades better understand the plot, characters, and themes of a particular story; and to help children understand why they *do* or *do not* like a particular book or character.

Posing Questions

Australian educator Susan Stephenson, on her Book Chook website, lists questions that can help elementary school readers as they tackle writing a book review:

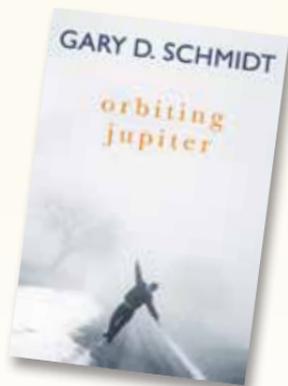
- **What was the book about?** Try to describe it in a couple of sentences without giving away the ending.
- **What was your favorite part of the story?** Why did you like it?
- **Who are the main characters?** Tell us something about them. What happens to them in the story?
- **Did you like the book?** Why or why not? What was good about it? Did any parts make you laugh? Which ones? Did you feel as if you were looking through the main character's eyes?
- **What sort of people would like this book?** Would you recommend it to a certain age?

See Stephenson's Book Chook site [www.thebookchook.com] for tips on writing a book review, and see the online extension of this lesson for more book review resources.

Using a Book to Write an Argumentative Essay

Parents know how persuasive children and teens can be when arguing for something they want, like a pet, or permission to stay over at a friend's house. Let's hone that innate skill!

Visit the online extension of this lesson for step-by-step instructions to help young people use a novel as a springboard to writing a text-based argumentative essay. Our example uses the Sequoyah Intermediate title *Orbiting Jupiter* by Gary D. Schmidt, but the lesson plan can easily be adapted for other books.



The online lesson extension is available at:
nie.newsok.com/educators/curriculum/sequoyah-week-2017

Sequoyah Book Award Week wraps up tomorrow with ideas to encourage students to "Vote Sequoyah!"