PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: March 17, 2009

CONTACT PERSON: Aaron Coutu, RITBA Committee Chairperson
Young Adult Librarian, Greenville Public Library
(401) 949-3630 ext 103
gvlyas@aol.com

Young adults from across Rhode Island chose Michael Scott's *The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel* as their favorite book for the past year in a statewide election. As a result, Scott's book was awarded the 2009 Rhode Island Teen Book Award. The award is sponsored by the Rhode Island Educational Media Association and the Rhode Island Library Association. Runners up for the award include *Devilish* by Maureen Johnson and *Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen.

Middle school and high school students from all over Rhode Island voted at their school or local public library. This year's election had strong voter turnout, with 654 young adults from 25 schools and public libraries participating.

The novel was one of 20 young adult books nominated by school library media specialists, teachers, and public librarians from Rhode Island. The books were selected on the basis of literary quality and their appeal to young adult readers. Throughout the past year, young adults could find copies of the books available to read at their local school and public libraries and area stores. Young adult readers were eligible to vote once they had read three of the titles.

In the novel that kick's off a series, which is scheduled to have six volumes, filled with magic, mythology, and vampires, readers are introduced to Sophie and Josh Newman, the 15-year-old twin children of archeologists. They have taken summer jobs across the street from one another, Josh in a bookstore and Sophie in a coffee shop. When a sinister man in a sleek, dark car arrives to change their lives, he turns the bookstore to rubble using powerful magic. The bookstore owner turns out to be Nicholas Flamel, a 14th century alchemist, who, with his wife Perenelle, guards the secret to immortal life ... and the sinister man is Dr. John Dee, a magician/astrologer from the court of Queen Elizabeth I, who has been chasing the Flamels across time and space, determined to steal the book that gives them their powers. Josh and Sophie are immediately caught up in an epic battle between these powerful magicians and the ancient beings of myth and legend that they call upon. With Perenelle held captive and Flamel's powers waning, the safety of the entire human race may depend on Josh and Sophie learning to use their own latent powers, but can they survive their "awakening?"

The Rhode Island Teen Book Award Committee would like to commend Greenville Public Library in Smithfield for successfully promoting the election for the book award. Patrons of the library made up almost 19 percent of all those who voted. Young adult participants from Burrillville Middle School and Cranston High School East were also well represented in the final tally with more than 10 percent of the vote.

The committee is proud to announce the list of 22 nominees for the 2010 award election. (please see attached)

For further information, feel free to contact Aaron Coutu. More information can also be found at the award's website at http://www.yourlibrary.ws/ya_webpage/ritba/ribtaindex.htm.

-30-