Storylines Tessa Duder Award

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The Storylines Tessa Duder Award is for a manuscript (recommended word length of between 45,000 and 90,000 words) of a novel appropriate for young adults aged 13 and upwards. The award is for a previously unpublished author.

What are the judges looking for?

- A freshness of idea, a good sense of narrative structure, clever use of dialogue, strong characterisation, and appropriateness to the age group (13 and upwards).
- Young adult fiction often deals with weighty issues, but these should not be explored or emphasised at the expense of the story or characters.
- The tone of the book should be appropriate to young adult readers, who may vary widely in reading ability and experience, interests, and general maturity.
- The opening passages of the book are very important. They must capture the reader early and keep them moving through the narrative.
- The emphasis should be on engaging the reader as first priority – we are looking for that certain indefinable something that lifts a novel out of the usual.
- It is important that the author knows and understands the characters and their world and can therefore *show*, through the storyline, what a character is like rather than *telling* the reader.
- The young adult genre allows the use of different voices, tenses and registers, but these should not be features of a manuscript simply for their own sake, but rather as they suit the general tone and theme.
- The winning manuscript must be commercially viable.

Please note: Proof-read your work carefully (don't rely on spell checker). Presentation should be with text one-side of the page only. Single-spacing in 12pt font is acceptable. The copies can be either spiral-bound or loose-leafed in an adequate folder.

Entries must be postmarked in New Zealand no later than 31 October.

Storylines Tessa Duder Award
is proudly administered by
Storylines Children's Literature Charitable Trust of New Zealand
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