

Storylines Notable Books Judging Criteria



Overall:

Elements that will be considered:

- Literary merit, i.e. aesthetic quality of language, treatment of literary elements
- Quality of book design and editing.

Picture books:

Books for children and/or young adults where the narrative is carried equally by pictures and story. The target audience can be from early childhood through to young adult. Reprinted illustrations compiled from other resources are not eligible.

Elements to be considered:

Note: not all these criteria are suitable for every book:

- Do the text and illustrations work well together?
- Where rhyme and rhythm are used, is the verse technically accomplished? Does it read well aloud?
- Is the illustrator's artistic style creative and distinctive?
- Is the typography an integral part of the book, or does it intrude?
- Does the layout draw the reader in?
- Are there recurring themes throughout the illustrations?
- Do the illustrations enhance the text, or are they there just to look pretty?
- Does the book work on different levels for different audiences?
- What is the overall impact of the book on the reader?

Fiction:

Elements to be considered:

- The plot must be well-constructed and make sense – i.e. happen within the limits set by the theme, and the conclusion must be credible in relation to the rest of the book
- Characters and their behaviour must be believable and convincing
- Characters should act consistently throughout the novel, allowing for growth and development
- Narrative and dialogue should work together and be convincing
- The author's language should convey a sense of place, character, atmosphere, etc.

Junior fiction: Fiction suitable for primary and intermediate-aged children.

Young adult fiction: Fiction suitable for upper intermediate and secondary school students.

Non-fiction:

For authoritative, well-designed information books accessible to children and young adults. Poetry, folklore, retellings of myths and legends are included in this category. The target audience can be from early childhood through to young adult.

Elements to be considered:

- Information must be accurate and be presented in an accessible and age-appropriate way
- Illustrations (photographs and/or artwork) must be well integrated with the text and appropriate to the general age of the reader
- The book should contain a contents list, bibliography, glossary and index where appropriate
- The book's tone and design should mark it as being a book for a general reader (under 18), rather than a textbook intended primarily for classroom use.

Te Reo Māori:

General criteria apply as for the genre awards as stated above, with additional consideration given to:

- How the book portrays the Maori world view.
- How te reo me ōna tikanga, language and customs, are expressed to a high standard.
- How the language used is evidently of high standard, with a rich vocabulary, correct grammar and the orthography following Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori guidelines.
- How relevant and resolved the story is for the intended age and audience.