

Storylines Notable Books Judging Criteria



Overall

Elements that will be considered:

- Literary merit, i.e. aesthetic quality of language, treatment of literary elements.
- Illustrative merit
- 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.

Elements to be considered (Note: not all these criteria are suitable for every book):

- The text and illustrations should work together to carry the storyline.
- The layout and design should enhance the story and the illustrations.
- The illustrations should demonstrate the artist's distinctive and creative style.
 - Any special typography should be an integral part of the book's design, not intrusive or gimmicky.
- Where a story is told in verse, the rhyme and rhythm should be regular and read well aloud.
- If there are recurring themes throughout the illustrations, they should be consistent through to the end.
- The book should be enjoyable on different levels for different audiences.
- The subject matter and any humour used should be appropriate to the intended age group.

Fiction

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

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

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.

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, i.e. photographs and artwork, must be well integrated with the text and appropriate to the general age of the reader.
- The book should contain 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.