

Storylines Notable Book Awards

Eligibility Criteria



1. Entries are open to books written in English or te reo Māori on first publication in Aotearoa New Zealand in print or as an e-book.
2. Principal authors (and principal illustrators of books with significant illustrative content: picture books and photographic non-fiction) must be normally resident in Aotearoa New Zealand and be Aotearoa New Zealand Citizens by birth, naturalisation or immigration, or hold Permanent Residency status for TWO (2) years at the closing date for submissions. Aotearoa New Zealand Citizens or Permanent Residents as defined here, but who are living overseas temporarily, are eligible if their absence has been for no more than TWO (2) consecutive years at the closing date for submissions.
3. Entries must contain at least 16 pages.
4. Printed books originally written in English or te reo Māori (from mainstream/independent publishers or self-published or print on demand) must be available to the public for sale through normal retail outlets and/or online. A print-on-demand book is eligible to enter the Storylines Notable Book Awards.
5. For the Storylines te reo Māori Notable Book Awards only, both trade books and books published primarily as school readers (with evident literary quality) are eligible. School readers submitted for the te reo Māori Notable Book Awards should be readily available to schools, kura kaupapa, kōhanga reo or early childhood centres.
6. Books by individual or multiple authors, including anthologies, are eligible if they meet the judging criteria. Anthologies must contain sufficient new work to meet the criteria for a new book in its own right.
7. Books published with the assistance of grants or subsidies are eligible.
8. Books will be accepted as e-book-only publication (i.e. no print edition exists). Where both e-book and print book are available the print book should be submitted.
9. An e-book submitted must have originated as an e-book. An e-book created out of an earlier print book is not eligible.
10. An e-book will not be in a separate category but will be judged alongside print editions of the same category.
11. A book entered for the Awards must be a single, stand-alone entry.

Books that are not eligible:

- An e-book created out of an earlier print book series or boxed sets are not considered as single, stand-alone book entries, and are therefore not eligible, unless submitted as individual titles.
- Books in English published primarily for an educational market (e.g., textbooks, resource kits, literacy texts, reading schemes etc. (except for the te reo Māori category where educational material is eligible).
- Reprints and re-issues of previously published works.
- Books by deceased authors or illustrators, unless the death occurred after the book has been submitted.
- Books containing AI-authored content, in part or in whole, or AI-generated illustrations, are not eligible for entry in any category of the awards. Use of AI for research, minor editorial or formatting support may be permitted. If a work is found to include ineligible AI-generated content after submission, it will be disqualified.