



Additional Judging Criteria

This is a supporting document for use by the judges and as a further reference for publishers. This contains a common guide for judges and publishers in assessing submitted works in each category.

Early Childhood Category

Literary merit - Setting: The setting effectively contributes to storyline. The sense of place and time are very strong and maintained throughout the story.

Literary merit - Characterisation: There are strong main and minor characters and dialogue creates distinct characters. There is a convincing dialogue introspective. The book engages readers who can identify with characters.

Literary merit - Plot: The plot development is very strong, keeping the reader transfixed with action, climax and a satisfying final solution.

Literary merit - Theme: Ideas are skilfully crafted, generated and selected to explore recognisable theme/s.

Age appropriate: Most appropriate for pre-reading early years through to beginning reader (0-4 years).

Conventions of writing: The editing is very professional with the conventions of spelling and grammar upheld.

Style of writing: There is a sustained and consistent use of a range of precise and effective words and phrases. Sentence construction is used in a natural and creative manner to reveal purpose and attitude.

Mood: Creates and sets the atmosphere extremely well, fully engaging the reader.

Design: All elements are of the highest quality and combine to make an excellent production. End papers reflect the storyline. Fonts, style and size are highly appropriate for a targeted reader.

Illustrations: The quality of medium use is excellent for the age group. Illustration/s reflect/s the text on each page. The layout is excellent with a balance of space and text.

Younger Readers Category

Literary merit - Setting: The setting effectively contributes to the storyline. The sense of place and time are very strong and maintained throughout the story.

Literary merit - Characterisation: There are strong main and minor characters where dialogue creates distinct characters. There is a convincing dialogue introspective. The book fully engages the reader who can identify with characters.

Literary merit - Plot: The plot development is very strong, keeping the reader transfixed with action, climax and a satisfying final solution

Literary merit - Theme: Ideas are skilfully crafted, generated and selected to explore recognisable theme/s.

Age appropriate: Most appropriate for the targeted reader age group.

Conventions of writing: The editing is very professional with the conventions of spelling and grammar upheld.

Style of writing: There is a sustained and consistent use of a range of precise and effective words and phrases. The sentence construction is used in a natural and creative manner to reveal purpose and attitude.

Mood: Creates and sets the atmosphere extremely well, fully engaging the reader.

Design: All elements of the highest quality combine to make an excellent production. The end papers reflect the storyline. The fonts, style and size are highly appropriate for the targeted reader.

Illustrations: - *If applicable* - To be judged in the Younger Readers category the illustrations should be significant and reflect part or all of the text on the page. The quality of medium use is excellent for the age group, with the layout being an excellent balance of space and text.

Older Readers Category

Literary merit - Setting: The setting effectively contributes to the storyline. The sense of place and time is very strong and maintained throughout the story.

Literary merit - Characterisation: There are strong main and minor characters where dialogue creates distinct characters. There is a convincing dialogue introspective. The book fully engages the reader who can identify with characters.

Literary merit - Plot: The plot development is very strong, keeping the reader transfixed with action, climax and a satisfying final solution.

Literary merit - Theme: Ideas are skilfully crafted, generated and selected to explore recognisable theme/s.

Age appropriate: Most appropriate for lower secondary to college years (13-18 years).

Conventions of writing: Editing is very professional with the conventions of spelling and grammar upheld.

Style of writing: There is a sustained and consistent use of a range of precise and effective words and phrases. Sentence construction is used in a natural and creative manner to reveal purpose and attitude.

Mood: Creates and sets the atmosphere extremely well, engaging the reader fully.

Design: All elements of highest quality combine to make an excellent production. The end papers reflect the storyline. Fonts, style and size are highly appropriate for the targeted reader.

Illustrations: *If applicable.* To be judged in the Older Reader category the illustrations should be significant and reflect part or all of the text on the page. The quality of medium use is excellent for the age group with layout being an excellent balance of space and text.

Picture Book Category

Design: All elements of the highest quality combine to make an excellent production. The end papers reflect the storyline. Fonts, style and size are highly appropriate for the targeted reader.

Illustrations: The quality of medium use is excellent for the intended audience. The illustrations are fully entwined with all the text on page and this enhances/augments the storyline. The layout is excellent with a balance of space and text.

Literary merit - Setting: The setting effectively contributes and adds to the storyline. The sense of place and time are very strong and maintained throughout the story. This may be accomplished through text or illustrations or a combination of both.

Literary merit - Characterisation: There are strong main and minor characters where dialogue creates distinct characters. There is a convincing dialogue introspective. The book fully engages the reader who can identify with characters

Literary merit - Plot: The plot development is very strong keeping the reader transfixed with action, climax and a satisfying final solution.

Literary merit - Theme: Ideas are skilfully crafted, generated and selected to explore recognisable theme/s.

Age appropriate: Most appropriate for readers anywhere in the 0-18 years age group.

Conventions of writing: The editing is very professional with the conventions of spelling and grammar upheld.

Style of writing: There is a sustained and consistent use of a range of precise and effective words and phrases. Sentence construction is used in a natural and creative manner to reveal purpose and attitude.

Mood: The book creates and sets the atmosphere extremely well, engaging the reader fully.

Eve Pownall Category for Information Books

Literary merit - subject matter: The information is very accurate. The book may include a glossary, timeline, index, referencing or bibliography. The book keeps the reader transfixed with subject matter and may challenge the reader to explore the topic further.

Literary merit - Setting: The setting effectively contributes to the storyline, reflecting the factual basis of book. The sense of place is accurate and very strongly maintained throughout the story.

Literary merit - Characterisation: There are strong main and minor characters. The dialogue creates distinct characters who relate to the topic. There is a convincing dialogue introspective. The book fully engages the reader who can identify with characters and subject matter

Conventions of writing: There is a good use of grammar, correct spelling and punctuation. The editing is very professional.

Style of writing: The choice of words and sentences made by the author reveal the book's purpose and attitude; the level of comprehension must be of a high level and suit a targeted audience.

Design - Illustrations: There is integration of text, graphics and illustrations to engage interest and enhance understanding; this must be of a high standard.

Design – Layout: There is a high quality of overall production (binding, end papers, printing).

Design - Font : All elements of size and style are appropriate to the subject matter and of the highest quality combining to make an excellent production

