

Appendix 2: 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.

The Judges assess entries primarily for:

1. Literary merit – aesthetic value, standing the test of time, realistic characters, originality
2. Cohesiveness – language, theme, style
3. Appeal to the implied readership
4. Quality – illustrations, book design, production, editing

Books are judged on the balance and harmony of language style and presentation, graphic excellence, clarity, appropriateness and aesthetic appeal of illustrations, and the overall design of the book.

Early Childhood Category

In this category particular attention is given to the font size and style, rhythm and meter of the text. Clear design, layout and editing are also important.

- 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. If there are introspective sections, then the narrative voice should match the dialogue voice of the character, depending on the point of view. 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 (0-5 years).
- Conventions of writing: The editing is professional, with 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. It is recommended that the imprint page includes information about the medium used by the illustrator to create the illustrations.

Younger Readers Category

In this category particular attention is given to books that enhance the early independent reader's life experience, have considered language without repeated phraseology, well defined characters and are well edited.

- 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

In this category particular attention is given to books that enable the reader to reflect the transitional and chaotic nature of young adulthood. Production quality, good grammar and correct usage of words with sound editing are vital. Contemporary language and speech patterns, character consistency and age of the characters, ensuring readers to form their own opinions in plausible young adult situations.

- 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 professional, with 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

In this category particular attention is given to books where the illustrations augment the text or solely tell the story showing a synergy between the author and illustrator. Ensuring appeal to a diverse range of children of all ages is highly considered.

Illustrators who have taken an existing piece of work and produced new illustrations that enhance that text can only be entered in this category (and Crichton Category if first time illustrator).

Consideration of artistic style and graphic excellence, effective use of media and technique, colour, line, shape and texture.

- 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. It is recommended that the imprint page includes information about the medium used by the illustrator to create the illustrations.
- 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 professional, with 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

In this category particular attention is given to books where there is referencing of sources, books may include information guides such as a contents page, index, bibliography and glossary, which should enhance the book's usage.

Creators of information books need to demonstrate engaging writing, illustrations and book production that highlights accuracy with regard to the current state of knowledge.

- 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: The editing is professional, with conventions of spelling and grammar upheld.
- 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.

Crichton Category

Illustrators who have taken an existing piece of work and produced new illustrations that enhance that text can be entered in this category.

Consideration of artistic style and graphic excellence, effective use of media and technique, colour, line, shape and texture.

- 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. It is recommended that the imprint page includes information about the medium used by the illustrator to create the illustrations.
- Mood: The book creates and sets the atmosphere extremely well, engaging the reader fully.