

#### **4. CATEGORIES**

The Children's Book Council of Australia Awards are for books with an implied readership under the age of eighteen.

There are five categories in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards:

**a. CBCA Book of the Year: Older Readers.**

Entries in this category are for outstanding books for young people aged between 13 and 18 years (secondary school level). Readers require a degree of maturity to appreciate the themes and scope of emotional involvement. Books in this category may be fiction, drama, illustrated text, poetry or graphic novels. Judging takes into account the literary qualities of the text, editing and book production.

**b. CBCA Book of the Year: Younger Readers.**

Entries in this category are for outstanding books published for children in the age range from 8 to 12 years (primary school level). Books in the category may be fiction, drama, graphic novels, illustrated text or poetry. Judging takes into account the literary qualities of the text, editing and book production.

**c. CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood.**

Entries in this category are for outstanding books suitable in content and style for pre and beginning readers (pre-school and infants level). These include works of fiction, poetry, wordless, board and concept books. The illustrations reflect all the text on the page and often do not add extra meaning to the storyline. The font size and style, rhythm and meter of the text are important. Clear design, layout and editing are also important.

**d. CBCA Picture Book of the Year.**

Entries in this category should be outstanding books of the genre in which the text and illustrations achieve artistic and literary unity and the story, theme or concept is enhanced and unified through the illustrations. Picture Books can be for any age. A picture book can be written and illustrated by a sole creator or a collaborative effort between two or more creators. The text and illustrations work cohesively. The illustrations are an integral part of, or extend the action on the page. The illustrations are either as important as the text or more important and can be enjoyed separately from the text. Illustrators who have taken an existing piece of work and produced new illustrations that **enhance** that text can only be entered in this category.

**e. The Eve Pownall Award for Information Books.**

Entries in this category should be books with the prime purpose of documenting factual material. Consideration should be given to imaginative presentation, interpretation and variation of style. 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. Referencing of sources are important; books may include a contents page, index, bibliography and glossary which enhance the reader's experience. Autobiographies and biographies are entered in this category. The age range for this category is 0 to 18 years.

See *also* Appendix 1 for further clarification of categories.

## 5. AWARD JUDGING CRITERIA

Entered books are assessed primarily for:

- **outstanding literary merit**, including cohesiveness in significant literary elements;
- **language** chosen for its appropriateness to the theme and style of the work with proper regard to the aesthetic qualities of language; and
- **originality** in the treatment of literary elements as they apply to the form of the work.

Consideration is given to the **quality of illustrations**, book design, editing, production, printing and binding.

An entered book will be judged only in the nominated category against the particular category criteria.

See *also* Appendix 2 for further detail of criteria.

## 6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Only publications that meet both the criteria for books and the criteria for creators will be accepted.

Payment of the entry fee must be received to be eligible.

Decisions by the Awards Committee on regarding eligibility are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

### Eligibility Criteria for Books

6.1.1 Books must be published in Australia between 1 January and 31 December of the year of entry.

6.1.2 Books must be available for purchase by the general public in Australia.

6.1.3 Books must be written in the English language or if bilingual texts where one language must be English.

6.1.4 Books entered must meet at least one of the following five criteria to be eligible:

- a. Not previously published;
- b. New picture book version of previously published text;

- c. Retelling of traditional materials;
- d. Anthology or collection, of which the greater part of the work has not previously been published in a single volume;
- e. Substantially revised edition. (Publishers to provide extent of revisions.)

6.1.5 These awards are only for books in the printed format, as distinct from digital and audio visual formats.

6.1.6 Only entries for readers up to eighteen years will be eligible.

### **Additional Details**

Any entries with accompanying non-book materials will be judged solely on the merits of the book component.

Text books will not be eligible for entry.

Books written as part of a series or published in serial form will be judged as separate entities which must be able to 'stand alone' as a complete work in their own right. Each must have an independent structure and not be reliant on other parts of the series.

Books entered as a boxed set with an ISBN for the set will be judged as a whole and attract one entry fee.

Books in manuscript form are not eligible for these awards.

### **Eligibility Criteria for Creators**

The term 'creator' includes authors, retellers, editors of anthologies, and illustrators whose illustrations in any medium form a substantial part of the book. If there are two or more major creators, publishers must provide information on the eligibility of each one.

A creator must be:

- a. An Australian citizen no matter where resident or
- b. A person resident in Australia for at least two years prior to 31 December in the year of publication or
- c. A person who holds permanent residency status for Australia.

If a creator is not an Australian citizen, eligibility will cease at the time she/he ceases to be resident in Australia.

If a joint creator, in the judges' opinion, has not made a significant contribution to the book, they will not be eligible for an award.

Only if a creator dies in the year of publication is the creator's entry eligible for the Award.

If there is more than one creator, only creators who meet the criteria will be eligible to receive an Award. This does not preclude the other creator/s receiving the Award.

### **Acceptance of Entry**

Entry to the Book of the Year comprises three components: the entry form, payment of entry fee and the required number of copies of the books. Books will not be eligible for entry without a completed entry form and payment of entry fee.

The entry fee should be reviewed every year. The basis of the fee is to cover the administration costs of the Awards.

Eligibility of the book and creator/s will be confirmed by the Awards Committee. Entries deemed ineligible for the Awards will not be returned nor the fee refunded.

Entries to the Awards are open between 1 March and 30 November for books published from 1 January to 31 December.

All entries will be acknowledged and receipted.

While all reasonable care will be taken, no responsibility will be accepted for loss or damage of submitted entries.

### **Copies of Books entered**

The books will be distributed to the appropriate category judges and the Awards Committee. Judges are entitled to keep their copies to be used for judges' presentations and other purposes. The Shortlisted books are kept at the National Office for storage and remaining copies are given to designated recipients. Submitted copies of books whether deemed eligible or not shall become the property of the CBCA and shall not be returned to the entrant.

### **Entry Form**

The information contained in the entry form will be entered and maintained on a secure database. For further information regarding keeping of personal information please refer to the CBCA Privacy Policy.