

EJK/NYC DOE Bookmaking Competition Selection Criteria



Award Categories:

1. One city winner (two if students collaborate on writing and illustrating) in each level.
2. Five borough winners (more if students collaborate) in each level.*
**(Note that it is not necessary to have a winner in every borough).*
3. 27 (maximum) Honorable Mention Books.
4. Special Mentions are occasionally chosen when a book, not created according to our accepted Guidelines, is submitted and deemed outstanding.

Required criteria:

- All work must be ORIGINAL and must be made exclusively by students.
 - a. Plagiarism is grounds for elimination from consideration.
 - b. Undue help from parents and/or teachers is grounds for elimination from consideration.
 - c. To address questions regarding originality of work:
 - Reference previous catalogues
 - Have students of this teacher won before? What did their books look like?
 - Has this student won before and how has his or her work changed?
 - Is the student's work beyond grade level to a questionable extent?
- No more than two students may collaborate on a book.
- All subjects and genres will be considered.
- There must be a story or narrative with a beginning, middle and end.
- All art mediums are permitted EXCEPT commercial computer programs or pre-formatted material such as clip art and templates.
 - a. Use of computer to create images is allowed so long as the art is original and not part of a pre-made program.
- Books must be handmade and firmly bound by the students; plastic slip bindings or pre-bound, spiral-bound or recycled books are not acceptable.
- All parts of the book must be securely attached and the book easily transported as one piece.
- Books must be no larger than 15 x 18 inches and not smaller than 8 x 6 inches.
- Books must include at least 12 single side pages and no more than 32 single side pages.
- The use of photographs is permitted if taken or staged by the student.
- Photographs are also allowed if used as an element of collage.

Qualities to be considered and evaluated:

Text/Story:

1. Originality
2. Concise and condensed text - while mature subject matter is allowed, the amount of text should be aligned with that normally found in a children's picture book.
3. Coherence
 - a. interesting and engaging storytelling.
 - b. effective use of language.
4. Correct spelling and use of grammar.
5. Clear and legible printing.
6. Title and author indicated on cover of book and on a title page.
7. Original use of text as illustration allowed.

Illustration:

1. Originality
 - a. Anime has become an overused idiom and can decrease the originality of the images.
2. Illustrations that are coherent, cohesive and establish continuity within the story.
3. Use of color that supports the story and furthers the action.
4. Appropriate use of unusual materials to further the story line.
5. Presenting coherent composition in each illustration.
6. There should be design, illustration and/or text on inside face of front and back covers.
7. The cover has an illustration that offers a clue the book's story.
8. Text can be used as, or as part of illustration.

Overall:

1. Emphasis should be placed on integrating images and text.
2. Books that contain too much text will be at a disadvantage. There should be a balance between text and image with the understanding that each supports and enhances the other.
3. Use of anime idiom can put a book at a disadvantage.
4. Clarity of storytelling through words and pictures.
5. Students should keep in mind that they are creating picture books for children and therefore the books should lean equally on text and image to convey the message.
6. Creative and sturdy construction of book.
7. Equal attention paid to every page.
8. Image and/or text on every page, unless the story calls for a blank page.
9. Use of size and scale of illustrations to support the text and interest of reader.
10. Each page looks like a completely executed concept.
11. Recurring patterns of text and/or images used throughout the book.
12. Clear through line design concept for the whole book.
13. Use of typographical design or font to add to the visual interest of the book.