

SEPTEMBER 2019

TO: Visual Arts Teachers, Librarians, and Teachers of English and Social Studies, Grades 3 - 12
FROM: Karen Rosner, Director of Visual Arts
RE: The Annual Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition

Bookmaking was a long process that I enjoyed. The experience made me realize that the plotline and illustrations must follow from the beginning to the end. I was able to draw some of the ideas from personal experiences, and that made it very meaningful to me.

Sabrina Aquilone, Student at Intermediate School 7, Staten Island
2019 Borough Winner

The Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition, collaboration between the NYCDOE and the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, has resulted in the creation of thousands of student-made picture books. It is named for Ezra Jack Keats, creator of over 20 children's books, including the classic Caldecott-winning *The Snowy Day*.

When students write and illustrate their own picture books, **fiction or non-fiction**, they engage in creative thinking, incorporate literacy and art skills, and experience the rewarding feeling of a job well done. *Exploration of both genres is encouraged, and there are no limits on the topic a student may choose for his or her book.*

Each school is allowed to submit ONE book into the competition. (See exceptions under Eligibility.)

All Borough and City Winners elementary, middle and high school, are featured in the annual Bookmaking Award Catalogue, and recognized at the annual award ceremony in May where they receive medals, a Certificate of Commendation, and monetary awards.

All Honorable Mentions are invited to the May ceremony and presented with a medal and a Certificate of Commendation. They are listed on the Ezra Jack Keats website and in the catalogue, along with the titles of their books, schools, teachers, and principals.

All School Winners receive medals and Certificates of Commendation at their schools. They are listed on the Ezra Jack Keats website and in the catalogue along with the titles of their books, schools, teachers and principals.

All City, Borough, Honorable Mention, and School Winner entries are included in an exhibition in the spring of 2020 at Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch.

All students who complete a book receive a Certificate of Commendation.

All students attending the award ceremony receive a tote bag with a selection of grade appropriate books.*

All students who complete a book receive a Certificate of Commendation.

All teachers/librarians attending the award ceremony receive a tote bag with a selection of picture books.*

*These books are generously donated by Penguin Random House, the publisher of Ezra Jack Keats's books.

This memo contains:

- Competition Guidelines and Timeline
- A Word from the Selection Committee Judges
- *This is More than a Competition!* Suggested Enrichment

Also in this memo (**and new this year**) is a link to the:

- *Declaration of Originality and Author's Statement and Consent and Release Form*

c: Paul King, Melissa Jacobs, Esther Friedman

Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition

GUIDELINES

School team (principal, art teacher, librarian, language arts teacher) selects **ONE** entry and completes the following steps.

Deadline: Submissions must be postmarked by Friday, January 17, 2020.

NEW and STREAMLINED Submission Procedures!

Declaration of Originality and Author's Statement and Consent and Release Forms must be completed online and submitted electronically. Then printed, signed by all parties and attached to the inside back cover of the book.

- 1) Complete online *Declaration of Originality and Author's Statement* (student description of their bookmaking process) and *Consent and Release Form*, [EJK Bookmaking Submission Forms](#)
- 2) Submit forms electronically.
- 3) You will receive an email confirmation with a PDF attachment of your completed forms.
(If you do not receive an email contact dvozza@ezra-jack-keat.org)
- 4) Print the PDF version of the *Declaration of Originality and Author's Statement and Consent and Release Form* and insert all necessary written signatures.
- 5) Attach *Declaration of Originality and Author's Statement and Consent and Release Form* securely to the back inside flap of the book being submitted.
- 6) Mail book to: Office of Arts and Special Projects
Attn: Jennifer Macaluso
Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition
4360 Broadway – 4th Floor < **THIS FULL LINE MUST BE INCLUDED**
New York, New York 10033

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Books submitted without the electronic forms and the hard copies will NOT be accepted.

Eligibility:

Elementary: Grades 3-5
Middle School: Grades 6-8
High School: Grades 9-12

Schools with multiple-grade categories may submit one book per category. (Example: a K – 8 school may submit a book by a 3rd grader and a book by a 7th grader.)

NOTE: Districts 75 and 79 submissions are considered along with all other submissions, and are often winners.

Criteria:

- Students may select their own themes
- Emphasis should be placed on illustrated stories
- All work must be **original**.
- No more than **two** students may collaborate on a book
- Books must be created as part of ongoing classroom instruction, under teacher and/or librarian supervision

Measurements:

Books must include at least 12 single side pages, but no more than 32.
Books must be no smaller than 6" x 8" and no larger than 15" x 18"

Special Media Note:

- Books **MUST** be handmade and firmly bound by the student
- Please do not include elaborate platforms or stands for books
- All art media are excepted
- Judges will disqualify
 - Any pre-bound or spiral bound books, Books with plastic slip bindings
 - Re-made and recycled books, pre-formatted material such as clip art

For Important Tips:

A Word from the Selection Committee Judges (Document below)

Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition

TIMELINE / IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, January 17, 2020 Submissions Deadline

Submissions do not have to arrive in our office by January 19th but **MUST** be mailed and postmarked by January 17th.

Early February 2020 Judging

- Judging is based on quality of writing and illustrations, layout, and general presentation
- The jury is composed of noted authors, librarians, artists, and educators.

Week of March 9, 2020 Award Notification by the Office of Arts and Special Projects

Citywide Awards - Ezra Jack Keats Medal & \$500*

- One elementary winner
- One intermediate winner
- One high school winner

Borough Awards – Ezra Jack Keats Medal & \$100*

- A total of fifteen awards throughout the boroughs

School Awards – Ezra Jack Keats Medal

- All school winners will receive medals with returned books

* For books with 2 collaborators, monetary awards are shared.

May 17, 2020 Awards Ceremony

City and Borough winners honored as well as Honorable Mentions. *Details TBA*

May 2020 Exhibition

All entries exhibited at Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch at Grand Army Plaza.
Details TBA

Early June 2020 Return of Books

Books will be returned to schools **no later than June 12, 2020**



A Word from the Selection Committee Judges

To help your students and you, we are sharing some key criteria used during the selection process as we review all the school wide entries for the bookmaking competition. Along with what has been already noted in the memo, please keep the following in mind...and of course share it with your students!

Judges' Basic Criteria

- All work must be ORIGINAL and made exclusively by students.
Judges eliminate:
 - a. Plagiarized work
 - b. Work obviously beyond grade level, and reflecting help from parents and/or teachers
- Judges look for a story or narrative that has a beginning, a middle and an end.
- The use of all art media are encouraged. Note that the following *is allowed* by the judges:
 - a. The use of computer images, *only if* art is original and not part of a pre-made program.
 - b. The use of photographs, *only if* taken or staged by the student.
 - c. Images from printed media, *only if* used as elements of a collage

However, judges frown upon commercial computer programs or pre-formatted material such as clip art and templates.

- Judges look for creatively handmade and firmly bound books made by the students.
They do not accept plastic slip bindings or pre-bound, spiral-bound or recycled books.

Text/Story: Qualities Looked for By Judges

1. Concise and condensed text...Remember this is a *picture* book!
2. Interesting and engaging storytelling and effective use of language
3. Correct spelling and use of grammar
4. Clear and legible printing
5. Indication of title and author on the cover of the book and on the title page

Illustrations: Qualities Looked for By Judges

1. Coherence and cohesiveness in helping to extend the story
2. Effective use of color
3. Appropriate use of unusual materials
4. Cohesive design with illustration and/or text on inside face of front and back covers.
5. Thoughtful creation of a cover whose illustration offers a clue to the book's story.
6. Clever use of text as an illustration, or as part of illustration.

Overall Considerations

1. Emphasis on integrating images and text
2. Dependence equally on text and image to convey the message
3. Attention paid to every page
4. Use of blank pages only when called for in the story
5. Care that each page can stand alone as a unified piece
6. Cohesive design concept for the whole book

THIS IS MORE THAN A COMPETITION!

*Creating picture books should be embedded within the study of the picture book genre.
Here are ways this may be accomplished:*

Introduce your students to a variety of texts and to a variety of narrators:

Fiction

Realistic or fantasy
Animals/people as main characters
Rich text or no text
Inspired by actual events or totally imaginative

Non-Fiction

Biographies and autobiographies
Stories about an actual event
Instructional texts (related to various content areas)

Discuss what qualifies as a picture book.

*(Illustrations **and** text move the story along, set a mood, supply information.)*

Explore the use of a variety of media, textures, contrasts, colors, lines, shapes and uses of space in the illustrations of Ezra Jack Keats, as well as those of other noted picture book illustrators.

Study page layouts in picture books and note:

- relationship of image and text on each page
- similarities and differences from page to page
- patterns throughout the book, in text as well as in illustrations

Note the different shapes of the stories:

- **circular** begins and ends at the same place
- **linear** progresses in one direction (e.g. *alphabet book*)
- **triangular** builds to a problem that is solved
- **snapshot** reads like a photo album....each page can stand alone

Examine the qualities of the text on a page and ask questions such as:

- Is there dialogue?
- Is text made up of a word, a phrase, or one or more sentences?
- Are sentences on the page in their entirety, or continued onto the next page?

Consider how different authors treat the same topic.

Engage students in an author study and discuss the style (or various styles) of that one author/illustrator.

Visit school or public libraries. Ask for the librarian's favorites. Invite older students to visit independently.

Research the following websites for more information about Ezra Jack Keats and children's picture books:

[EJK Foundation Bookmaking Information](#)

[Ezra Jack Keats Book Award Winners](#)

[de Grummond Collection](#)

[Caldecott Medal Winners](#)

[Children's Book Council](#)