September, 2022

TO: Visual Arts Teachers, Librarians, and Teachers of English and Social Studies, Grades 3 - 12
FROM: Karen Rosner, Director of Visual Arts, Melissa Jacobs, Director of Library Services

RE: The Annual Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition

**EZRA JACK KEATS BOOKMAKING COMPETITION**

**GUIDELINES and SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

The Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition, a collaboration among the NYCDOE, the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, and Brooklyn Public Library, is now entering its 36th year and has led to the creation of thousands of outstanding student-made picture books. The competition 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 nonfiction**, they engage in creative thinking, combine literacy with art skills to tell their own story, and experience the pride of having created a book. While there are no limits on what a student can write about, this year we hope teachers will encourage topics that might **help their students process some of the events and effects of the last few years through the books they create for this competition**.

**This memo contains:**

- EJK Bookmaking Competition Guidelines
- Link to EJK Competition Submission Form
- Timeline
- Resources
ELIGIBILITY

Books are judged in the following three categories. Districts 75 & 79 submissions are considered in all categories with the other submissions, and often are winners.

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

PROCESS

- One or more classes, or a club, engage in the book making process under the supervision of a teacher(s) or librarian(s)
- Each school convenes a team (principal, art teacher, librarian, language arts teacher) to select ONE entry as its Schoolwide winner**
- The ONE Schoolwide winner is submitted to be considered as a City winner, Borough winner or for an Honorable Mention
- Books will be mailed back to the school to be returned to students by mid-June, 2023

**SPECIAL EXCEPTION: Schools with multiple-grade categories may submit one book per category. (Example: K-8 schools may submit a book for the 3-5 grade category, as well as the 6-8 grade category.)

SUBMISSION FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the entire EJK Bookmaking Competition Submission Form

- Submission Form Includes:
  - Contact Information
  - Declaration of Originality and Student(s) Statement - student(s) description of their creative vision and bookmaking process
  - Educator(s) Confirmation and Statement
  - School Information
  - Consent and Release
EJK BOOKMAKING COMPETITION GUIDELINES (cont’d)

CRITERIA

● All writing and art must be original and created solely by the student(s).

● No more than two students may collaborate on a book.

● All art media are accepted, including original computer images created by student(s).
  
  NOTE: Clip art is not considered original and will not be accepted.

● Books must be created as part of ongoing classroom instruction, or as a group extracurricular activity, under teacher and/or librarian supervision.

● Books must be handmade and firmly bound by the student. No pre-made books or components.

● Students may select their own theme but this year we encourage students to reflect on their responses to the impactful events of the last year.

PHYSICAL SPECIFICATIONS

● Books must be no smaller than 6’ x 8’ and no larger than 15” x 18”.

● Books should have at least 12 single side pages and no more than 32 including the cover.

● Text should be no longer than 1,000 words

● No platforms or stands for books.

● Make sure all parts of the book are securely fastened.
EZRA JACK KEATS BOOKMAKING COMPETITION TIMELINE/IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday January 24, 2023 Submission Deadline

● Submitted electronic submission form MUST be received by January 24th.
● Submitted books MUST be mailed and postmarked by January 24th.
  ○ Mail to: Kevin Kelley
    Brooklyn Public Library
    Central Library
    10 Grand Army Plaza
    Brooklyn, NY 11238

Early February, 2023 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.

Mid March, 2023 Award Notification by the Office of Arts and Special Projects

● **City Awards - EJK Bookmaking Medal & $600** (Invited to Ceremony)
  ○ One elementary prize
  ○ One intermediate prize
  ○ One high school prize
● **Borough Awards - EJK Bookmaking Medal & $200** (Invited to Ceremony)
  ○ A total of fifteen awards throughout the boroughs
● **Honorable Mentions - EJK Bookmaking Medal** (Invited to Ceremony)
● **School Awards - EJK Bookmaking Medal**
  ○ All school winners receive medals with returned books
● **Teachers/Librarians of winners & honorable mentions** (Invited to Ceremony)
  ○ Recognized for their work with their students.
● **All students** who complete a book
  ○ Receive a Certificate of Commendation, even if the book was not chosen as the school winner

* NOTE: For books with 2 collaborators, monetary award is shared.

May 19, 2023 Award Ceremony (4:00pm-5:30)

● City and Borough winners are honored as well as Honorable Mentions and educators at Brooklyn Public Library, Central Library at Grand Army Plaza, Dweck Auditorium and Lobby.
● **Teachers/Librarians of winners & honorable mentions** (Invited to Ceremony)
  ○ Recognized for their work with their students.

May 2 to May 31, 2023 Exhibition

● All entries exhibited at Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch at Grand Army Plaza, in the Youth Wing.
Mid June, 2023 Books Returned

- Each book is returned to the submitting school so it can be handed back to the student by the teacher and/or librarian before the end of the school year.

**RESOURCES**

The following **Handbook and Tutorials contain all the support information necessary** to running a successful Bookmaking program in your classroom.

EJK Bookmaking Teacher and Student Handbook

EJK Bookmaking Tutorials

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

EJK Foundation Bookmaking Information

Ezra Jack Keats Award Winners and Honorees