



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**, has led to the creation of thousands of outstanding student-made picture books.

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 18 months through the books they create for this competition.**

This memo contains:

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

EJK BOOKMAKING COMPETITION GUIDELINES

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 School winner****
- The **ONE School 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 are free to choose the subject of their book.**

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.
- Make a **scanned or photographic copy of every page, including front and back cover.**

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.
- Tracking information MUST be preserved in case the book does not arrive.
 - **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 and Office of Library Services

- **City Awards - EJK Bookmaking Medal & \$500*** (Invited to Ceremony)
 - One elementary school prize
 - One intermediate school prize
 - One high school prize
- **Borough Awards - EJK Bookmaking Medal & \$100*** (Invited to Ceremony)
 - Five elementary school prizes
 - Five intermediate school prizes
 - Five high school prizes
- **Honorable Mentions - EJK Bookmaking Medal** (Invited to Ceremony)
 - Up to 27 throughout the five boroughs
- **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 awards are shared.

EZRA JACK KEATS BOOKMAKING COMPETITION TIMELINE/IMPORTANT DATES (cont'd)

May 19, 2022 Award Ceremony (4:00pm-5:30)

- **Student winners and honorable mentions AND their teachers/librarians** are honored during the ceremony and **receive a gift bag of new picture books donated by Penguin Random House***
- The ceremony is held at Brooklyn Public Library, Central Library at Grand Army Plaza, Dweck Auditorium and Lobby.

* **NOTE:** Gift bags cannot be mailed or held for those who do not attend the ceremony.

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](#)