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**.
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](#)