

Factors to consider when nominating - Book of the Year Awards

1) The book has a strong narrative format. It:

- tells a good tale
- has a definitive beginning, middle and end
- develops and addresses an issue(s)
- is well-plotted and child-oriented
- uses great social communication

2) The book contains characters that appeal to the intended audience. They:

- are readily identifiable
- encourage the reader to make an imaginative and/or emotional connection
- have aspects that the reader will recognise from own life
- avoid gender, race and/or other stereotypes.

3) The book encourages the reader to explore new ideas and concepts. It:

- arouses emotions
- is thought-provoking
- educates about life/events
- explores moral dilemmas
- gives reader the opportunity to consider the complexities of the world
- encourages the reader to recognise and talk about personal beliefs.

4) The book encourages the development of imagination and curiosity by:

- creating a sense of wonder, mystery and excitement
- leaving the reader eager to know what happens next
- allowing the reader to feel connected with events in the story
- arousing interest in the natural world
- leading to conversation during reading, and long after the book has finished.

5) The book uses appropriate language:

- the language is kept to the level of the reader and uses appropriate form for the level of the reader (eg repetition, narrative etc)
- there is good use of metaphors
- the characters talk and act in a way children can recognise and relate to, and would use in their own daily 'chat'
- words are used to tap into the absurdities of a young child's sense of humour.

6) The book is engaging because it:

- contains a sense of the ridiculous
- is gripping; has element of suspense
- is entertaining
- lends itself to oral language extension activities
- has universal appeal to adults and children.

7) The book is well presented because:

- the pictures are appropriate and add to the story
- the pictures allow further language development (through language extension)
- the font type and size is appropriate
- there is an appealing layout and use of colour
- the book is attractive to children.

