



# CALL FOR ENTRIES 2021

The New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults promote excellence in, and provide recognition for, the best books for children and young adults published annually in New Zealand.

The New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults are supported by Creative New Zealand, HELL Pizza, Wright Family Foundation, LIANZA, Wellington City Council and Nielsen Book.

Publishers and authors are now invited to submit entries, online, for the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults 2021.

**Please read the following information carefully  
before completing your online submission form.**

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## Introduction to the Awards

The New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults recognise excellence in New Zealand children's books. Entries are invited in six categories plus one Best First Book Award (chosen across all categories). Each year the judges will shortlist the best five (5) books submitted in that year in each category, based on the judging criteria. If only five (5) titles are submitted in a category, or if the judges feel the number or quality of the entrants is not sufficient to nominate five titles, then they have sole discretion to reduce the number of shortlisted books in that category.

The Awards and their prizes are as follows:

Picture Book Award	Author \$3,750/Illustrator \$3,750
Wright Family Foundation Esther Glen Award for Junior Fiction	\$7,500
Young Adult Fiction Award	\$7,500
Elsie Locke Award for Non-Fiction	\$7,500
Russell Clark Award for Illustration	\$7,500
Wright Family Foundation Te Kura Pounamu Award for te reo Māori	\$7,500
Best First Book Award	\$2,000
Margaret Mahy Award: Book of the Year	\$7,500

If there are multiple contributors to a book, its publisher will decide how the prize money is to be distributed amongst the contributors. In the case of the author/illustrator of the winner of the Picture Book Award being the same person, the total prize money will be awarded to that person.

E-books should be entered into one of the genre categories, where the title will compete against print books. There is no specific award for e-books.

# Entry Details

- Publishers must specify the age group for which each submission has been primarily published.
- Publishers should categorise their fiction entries as 'Young Adult' Fiction or 'Junior' Fiction.
- Graphic novels should be entered in the category befitting the target age group. Please select the appropriate target age and category on the entry form.
- If the judges believe a book has been submitted in the wrong category, or they believe it would be better judged in a different category, the Awards Administrator will be directed to discuss this change with the publisher. The final decision on the category in which a book is considered will rest with the judges.
- The eligibility of all entries will be confirmed by the Awards Administrator, in consultation with the New Zealand Book Awards Trust, which governs the awards, prior to submitting to the judges.

**NOTE:** Titles submitted in both English and te reo Māori editions are to be judged individually and assessed as stand-alone works in their relevant categories. The judges may however, at their discretion select as joint finalists both the English and te reo Māori editions of the same work where they believe the books to be of an equal standard.

## Picture Book Award

- A picture book is defined as one in which the illustrations, with the text, carry the impact of the story. Except in exceptional circumstances, there should be an appropriate balance between text and illustrations (which does not need to be 50/50.)
- Books entered in the Picture Book category are generally aimed at pre-school and primary levels, but may include intermediate school level.
- New editions of previously published books must have a minimum of 50% new content (both text and illustrations) to be considered for this award.
- Reprinted illustrations compiled from other sources are not eligible.
- The winning book will be chosen from a shortlist of up to five books.

## Wright Family Foundation Esther Glen Award for Junior Fiction

- Single works of fiction, written collaboratively by up to three authors and/or illustrators, are eligible.
- Junior Fiction books should be considered as being suitable for primary or intermediate school level.
- Entries may be graphic novels.
- Entries may include books whose stories are traditional in origin if the retelling and interpretation are the author's own.
- The winning book will be chosen from a shortlist of up to five books.

## Young Adult Fiction Award

- Single works of fiction, written collaboratively by up to three authors and/or illustrators, are eligible.
- Young Adult Fiction books should be considered as being suitable for secondary school students.
- Entries may include books whose stories are traditional in origin if the retelling and interpretation are the author's own.
- Entries may be graphic novels.
- The winning book will be chosen from a shortlist of up to five books.

## Elsie Locke Award for Non-Fiction

- The award is for books which present well-authenticated data, with consideration given to imaginative presentation, interpretation and style. Books that are not considered fiction may be entered in this category (including poetry, folklore and retellings of myths and legends).
- Non-fiction books with intended audiences ranging from children through to young adults may be entered in this category.
- Text books and resource kits are not eligible. Books created for the educational market that are also suitable and available via bookstores for a general readership will be considered.

- The winning book will be chosen from a shortlist of up to five books.

### **Russell Clark Award for Illustration**

- The award is for a book which best demonstrates the craft and skill of illustration.
- The winning book will demonstrate a high quality of draughtsmanship and will develop and sustain character successfully. It will feature illustration that is credible and consistent, of a style that is appropriate to the readership, that supports and complements the text, and that reflects the text accurately in detail where it needs to and also enhances it and brings it to life visually.
- Reprinted illustrations compiled from other sources are not eligible.
- A reprint or new edition of a text may be considered only if the illustrations are being published for the first time.
- Text books and resource kits are not eligible. Books created for the educational market that are also suitable and available via bookstores for a general readership will be considered.
- Entries may be graphic novels.
- If a book has been entered in another category, it must be entered again in the Illustration category, and an additional fee paid, to be eligible to be considered for the Russell Clark Award for Illustration.
- The winning book will be chosen from a shortlist of up to five books.

### **Wright Family Foundation Te Kura Pounamu Award for te reo Māori**

Judging is conducted by a panel selected by Te Rōpū Whakahaui, the national body representing Māori within the Library and Information profession in Aotearoa New Zealand.

- This award is for a book that is written *entirely* in (or translated entirely into) te reo Māori.
- There are no limitations on the character of the book except that it is original work, or if traditional in design, new to children's literature and the result of individual research, the re-telling and interpretation being the writer's own.
- Text books and resource kits are not eligible. Books created for the educational market that are also suitable and available via bookstores for a general readership will be considered.
- The winning book will be chosen from a shortlist of up to five books, from across all the Awards subject categories.
- Bilingual books are not eligible.

### **Best First Book Award**

- The judges may, at their discretion, announce up to five finalists and award a special prize for the Best First Book by a previously unpublished author or illustrator (see eligibility criteria). Prize money of \$2,000 is awarded for the Best First Book. Where, in the opinion of the judges, the book is jointly created by an author and illustrator, each of whom is previously unpublished, the prize may be shared.

### **Margaret Mahy Award: Book of the Year**

- The objective of the Margaret Mahy Book of the Year Award is to recognise, in any one year, a book of outstanding overall excellence for children or young readers. The Award will go to any one of the six main category winners (excluding the Best First Book Award winner) which, in the opinion of the judges, achieves outstanding excellence in all general judging criteria. The judges will consider the impact of the book on children or young readers, its contribution to New Zealand's national literature for children and young adults, and the extent to which it will encourage further exploration of books and reading.

# Eligibility

1. Entries are open to books on first publication in New Zealand. The New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults 2021 are open to books published between **1 April 2020** and **31 March 2021**.
2. Principal authors, illustrators and translators must be New Zealand citizens (by birth, naturalisation, or immigration) or be permanently residing in New Zealand. Evidence of permanent residency is required to confirm that all principal contributors meet this requirement. The work of New Zealand citizens living overseas is eligible if the book meets other criteria (below) and has been published during the period stipulated for eligibility.
3. The works of deceased authors and illustrators are not eligible for entry unless the author or illustrator died after the book's manuscript, translation or illustrations were submitted to and accepted by its publisher.
4. A book entered for the Awards must be a single, stand-alone entry and must contain at least 16 pages of text and/or illustration. Series or boxed sets are not considered as single, stand-alone book entries, and are therefore not eligible, unless submitted as individual titles.
5. Books published exclusively for an educational market (e.g. textbooks, resource kits, literacy texts, reading schemes etc.) are not eligible. Books created for the educational market that are also marketed to a general readership and available via bookstores will be considered.
6. Reprints and re-issues of previously published works are not eligible. New editions which contain substantial revision and reinterpretation, adding a minimum of 50% new content (of both text and illustrations), are eligible. Where a new edition is submitted, the publisher must supply a copy of the previous edition of the book, with an explanation of the degree of revision. Selections or collections of previously published work by a single author are eligible if they offer a new view of the author's past work, and if the new work they contain would meet the criteria for a book in its own right, in the relevant category.
7. Anthologies of work by more than three authors are not eligible in any category.
8. Where a book with an attachment (e.g. a CD) is submitted, the book will be considered the primary vehicle to be judged.
9. An author or illustrator is eligible for the Best First Book award as long as the entry is a complete, first-published book of at least 16 pages, for which the author or illustrator is a major contributor with at least 50% input. If an author or illustrator has previously published a book/s of at least 16 pages in any genre, they are not eligible for entry into this award. If a previously published book is less than 16 pages, or if the author or illustrator has contributed less than 50% to a previously published book/s, they are eligible to be considered for the Award.
10. Publishers are required to declare all related editions for each book submitted (e.g. previous editions (now revised), other languages, overseas editions etc). The final decision on the eligibility of any submission rests with the Awards Administrator, to be determined in consultation with the Book Awards Trust.

**Please note: In completing a submission for the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, the responsibility for clarifying the interpretation of eligibility criteria and conditions of entry lies with the publisher. Where a book is accepted as eligible by the Awards Administrator, and it is subsequently determined that the book is ineligible due to the publisher's misinterpretation of eligibility criteria and/or conditions of entry, and/or failure to disclose relevant information, the publisher will be liable for any costs associated with rectifying the situation.**

# Conditions of Entry and Entry Dates

1. Eligible books must have been published between **1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021**.
2. Entries are to be made in accordance with the following dates:
  - Titles published between **1 April 2020 and 30 November 2020** should be submitted no later than **5pm on Tuesday 15 December 2020**.
  - Titles published between **1 December 2020 and 31 March 2021** should be submitted online no later than **5pm on Friday 19 February 2021**.
  - For titles scheduled to be released after **19 February**, the entry forms must be submitted by **19 February**, and publishers must supply page proofs in lieu of the book if the printed book is not yet available by 19 February. In these cases, physical copies of the book must be supplied no later than **5pm on Wednesday 24 March 2021**.
  - **Late submissions will absolutely NOT be considered.**
3. Authors, illustrators or publishers may enter books, but authors/illustrators are requested to ask publishers to submit their work whenever possible. It will be assumed that all books submitted by publishers have been entered with the knowledge and agreement of the authors/illustrators concerned.
4. **Physical copies/e-book access as appropriate must be provided at time of submission.** No entry will be deemed to be eligible until copies/e-book links are received.
5. **Eight (8) copies of each title should be sent for every entry.** One copy of each title will be sent to each of the judges and will be retained by them. The additional copies will be retained and may be provided to specialist advisors and/or used for display and promotional purposes as necessary.
6. All entries must be accompanied by the following materials which should be uploaded with your entry:
  - A detailed title information (TI) sheet
  - A hi-res print quality digital head and shoulders image (JPEG at 300 dpi) in colour of the author, and images of the illustrator and/or translator where applicable
  - A hi-res print quality digital image (JPEG at 300 dpi) of the book cover
  - For e-books, metadata proof of the publication date, and advice on download expiry dates

Unless these requirements are met, the entry will not be considered eligible
7. **Entry fees: A flat fee of NZ\$100.00 plus GST (total \$115.00) will apply for all entries. If one book is submitted in two categories, then two entry fees must be paid.** The same entry fee is payable for print books and e-books.
8. All entries must have been allocated an International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and must have the title's data registered with Nielsen before publication (making the book visible to potential customers such as bookstores and libraries, see more at <https://www.nielsentitleeditor.com/titleeditor/>).
9. All **print entries** must have been widely offered nationally to retail bookshops by the time of their submission, with in-store release intended no later than 31 March 2021.
10. All **e-book entries** must be widely available online at the time of submission, including at least two of these major online retailers: Amazon, Apple iBooks, Google Play and Kobo. It is recommended that you submit book covers and blurbs with e-books, also submit metadata proof of publication date. Please advise any expiry date for the download of e-books submitted for entry.
11. Publishers are required to guarantee that all books submitted will be readily available to the public, and can be easily by obtained by all booksellers at standard trade terms. These terms would generally include

discount to bookshops (based on GST inclusive retail price) of no less than 35 percent, delivery free to store within one week of order (small order surcharges may apply), and advance agreement on sale or return or firm sale terms. If a publisher does not have established relationships with bookstores, they must provide clear contact details and the offer of trade discounts for retailers on their website.

12. In submitting books in the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, publishers agree to manage stock at a level sufficient to meet the increase in demand to be expected if a submitted title is announced as a finalist. **Stock levels of any titles selected as finalists should be monitored, and where this necessitates a reprint, this should occur in sufficient time so as not to detract from potential sales. Finalists must be nationally available for sale through all retail bookshops at standard trade terms throughout the period of the promotion (June-September 2021).**

## Conditions of Entry – Finalists and Winning Titles

1. Publishers will be advised by early May 2021, in confidence, if any of their entries has been selected as a finalist and will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement at that time. Award finalists will be publicly announced on Thursday 10 June 2021. Publishers of finalist titles are advised of their selection in advance of the public announcement, so that there is sufficient time to reprint finalist titles to meet demand.
2. Publishers may, during the Awards period, publish a paperback edition of a book selected as a finalist in a hardback edition. This must be managed in such a way as to ensure that no booksellers are disadvantaged. **Full details of the paperback edition (ISBN, RRP, release date etc) must be provided to the Awards Administrator and loaded with Nielsen as soon as these are available.**
3. **By early May 2021, the following are to be supplied on request for each finalist title:**
  - Up to 20 additional copies of each title, to be used for various publicity and marketing promotions;
  - Comprehensive background information about the book, author/illustrator and publisher;
  - All relevant press clippings and, where possible, a summary of all major interviews and feature articles conducted with the author/illustrator about their work in the past two years.
4. Authors/illustrators of finalist titles must be available for interviews, readings and promotions. Advance notice of their schedule will be provided. Publishers are expected to maximise the opportunity to promote, and obtain publicity for, finalist titles. The Awards Publicist will liaise directly with publishers.
5. **Publishers must guarantee that, with the exception of extreme unforeseen circumstances, finalist authors/illustrators will be present at the awards ceremony in Wellington in mid-August 2021.**
6. **Airfares and accommodation for finalist authors/illustrators attending the Awards Ceremony are the responsibility of the publisher.**
7. Publishers of finalist and winning titles must ensure that books supplied to bookstores carry the appropriate stickers if their books are announced on the shortlist. Any subsequent reprint should include an appropriate reference on the jacket (current sticker artwork is available on request, and cover artwork should be submitted to the Awards Administrator for approval before printing).
8. Books entered in the awards will not be returned under any circumstances.
9. Publishers must in all instances refer to the category awards by their full names, including any sponsor names, e.g. the Wright Family Foundation Esther Glen Award for Junior Fiction
10. The decision of the judges is final. No correspondence will be entered into between publishers or authors and the judges.

# Checklist

This checklist has been provided to help Publishers determine their books' eligibility for the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults and should be read in conjunction with the eligibility criteria and conditions of entry outlined above.

- This book was first published in New Zealand between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021.
- The author, illustrator, translator(s) of this book are either New Zealand citizens (by birth, naturalisation or immigration), or are permanently residing in New Zealand
- This book is not the work of a deceased author or illustrator (if the author or illustrator passes away after the manuscript, translation or illustrations are submitted to and accepted by its publisher, the book is eligible).
- This book is a single, stand-alone entry.
- This book contains at least 16 pages of text and/or illustration.
- This book is not a textbook or a resource kit.
- This book is not provided free to centres of learning.
- This book is not a reprint or reissue of a previously published work.
- This book is not an anthology of work by three or more authors.
- This book is submitted with the knowledge and permission of the authors/illustrators/translators.
- All finalist authors/illustrators/translators are able to attend the Awards Ceremony in Wellington in mid-August 2021.
- Either  PRINT: This book has been offered for sale through retail bookshops at standard trade terms and will be readily available, should the book be selected as a finalist, throughout the period of the Book Awards promotion.
- OR  E-BOOK: The e-book is available for purchase from at least two leading online retailers, and will be readily available should the book be selected as a finalist. The book is available as an e-book only, and is not available in print.

Please tick box OR circle Not Applicable:

- N/A This book is a new edition of a previously published title and contains substantial revision, adding significant new content and interpretation (Important: In the case of new editions, *a copy of the previous edition and an explanation of the nature of the revision must be provided*).
- N/A This book has an attachment but I understand that the book will be considered as the primary vehicle to be judged.
- N/A This book is submitted in English and other language edition/s. I understand that each language edition will be judged as a stand-alone entry.
- N/A The story told in this book is traditional in origin but the retelling and interpretation are original.

## Picture Book category - Eligibility

N/A

- Illustrations comprise 50% or more of the book.
- This book does not contain illustrations compiled from other sources.

## Young Adult Fiction and Junior Fiction categories - Eligibility

N/A

- This book is a work of fiction.
- This book is a collaborative work but is written by no more than three authors.

## Non-fiction category - Eligibility

N/A

- This book is not fiction.
- This book is not a textbook or a resource kit.

## Illustration category - Eligibility

N/A

- This book does not contain illustrations compiled from other sources.
- This book is not a textbook or a resource kit.
- N/A Illustrations are being published for the first time (for reprints or new editions).



**Te reo Māori category - Eligibility**

N/A

- This book is written entirely in (or translated entirely into) te reo Māori.
- This book is not a textbook or a resource kit.

**Best First Book Eligibility**

N/A

- The first-time author or illustrator is a major contributor of this book with at least 50% input.
- This author or illustrator has previously published a book/s, but a) it was of less than 16 pages OR b) their contribution was less than 50%.

# Definitions

The following notes are provided to clarify some of the terms used in the eligibility criteria and conditions of entry for the 2021 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults.

- **“first publication in New Zealand”**  
Books are considered published when first made available for distribution in New Zealand.
- **“reprint”**  
A new print run of a previously published book, without alteration, is considered a reprint.
- **“reissue”**  
A new issue of a previously published book, where minimal alteration has been made (e.g. jacket design, format, imprint etc), is considered a reissue.
- **“edition”**  
Each issue of a book which includes extensive alteration of a previous version of the same work is considered a new edition.
- **“widely offered nationally to retail bookshops”**  
Books should have been widely and actively presented to bookshops for on-sale to members of the public (i.e. through agency or rep visits to a wide range of bookstores and/or advertising on publisher website and in book trade publications such as The Read etc.)
- **“leading online retailers”**  
Major mainstream online e-book retailers are defined by the 2021 Awards as Amazon, Apple iBooks, Google Play and Kobo. These will be reviewed annually.
- **“nationally available for sale through all retail bookshops”**  
Books should be available on demand for purchase by all bookshops throughout New Zealand (i.e. sufficient stock on hand to meet demand; no restrictions on supply)
- **“standard trade terms”**  
Trade terms should be agreed in advance between the publisher/distributor and bookshops, and these would generally include the following:
  - **Discount to bookshops** (based on GST inclusive retail price) of no less than 35%, negotiated with individual bookshops or chains as relevant;
  - **Delivery free** to store within one week of order (a small order surcharge may apply);
  - **Sale or Return, or Firm Sale** terms agreed in advance.
- **“title information (TI) sheet”**  
A title information sheet is a document generally used to present a book to retailers, which at the very least contains:
  - Cover image of book
  - Title (and sub-title, where applicable)
  - ISBN
  - Format of book (size, pages, binding, e.g. HB or PB)
  - Retail Price
  - Publisher imprint
  - Publication date
  - Short description about book
  - Information on author/illustrator

An example of a TI sheet can be provided by the administrator on request.

# How to Enter

1. All entries must be submitted online at <http://www.nzbookawards.nz/new-zealand-book-awards-for-children-and-young-adults/>
2. Submissions may be made singly or you can submit several titles at once. The maximum number of online entries in one session is five.
3. You must complete both the Title Entry details and the Declaration for each entry. At any time you can finish submissions and move to the payment screen.
4. For both print and e-book titles, a Title Information (TI) sheet and hi-res author and book cover images must be uploaded at the time an entry is submitted. If for any reason you are unable to complete this upload, you may email the required files to [childrensawards@nzbookawards.org.nz](mailto:childrensawards@nzbookawards.org.nz) no later than 24 hours after submitting. Your entry will not be considered valid unless these files are received within the allotted timeframe.
5. For e-books: metadata proof of publication date and details on download expiry dates are also required.
6. Payments will only be accepted online by credit card.
7. For **print** titles, **eight (8) copies** of each title being submitted must be forwarded to the Awards Administrator at the same time as online entry is completed. For titles scheduled to be released after 19 February where printed copies are not yet available, **eight (8)** sets of page proofs must be provided at the time of entry, with the physical copies of the books following by no later than 24 March 2021.

The delivery address for physical books and bound proof copies is:

**New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults**  
Attn: Joy Sellen  
72 Te Wharepouri Street  
Wellington 6023

The Awards Administrator will acknowledge receipt - please keep your tracking number in case of any issues.

8. For **e-books**, please email to [childrensawards@nzbookawards.org.nz](mailto:childrensawards@nzbookawards.org.nz)  
Please submit as .epub or .mobi file types or the file type applicable for an e-reader. Please also submit links to the websites where the book is for sale to the New Zealand public to demonstrate the e-book meets the distribution criteria.

## Queries & Assistance



Submission and eligibility queries should be directed to the Awards Administrator, email [childrensawards@nzbookawards.org.nz](mailto:childrensawards@nzbookawards.org.nz)

# Judging Criteria

## General criteria – all categories

- *Appeal*: Does the book have magic, charm, impact (appeal for its intended readership)?
- *Use of Language (and illustration where appropriate)*: Does it have freshness, imagination, style? Is the language (illustration) appropriate?
- *Integrity*: Is the author writing a children's/ young adults' book (i.e. a book written that demonstrates insight into the world of the child/young person)? Is it culturally appropriate? Does it avoid condescension and stereotyping?
- *Plot/Storyline*: Is there a strong unifying story, theme or concept which holds the work together?
- *Character*: Is character established and maintained successfully?
- *Design/Production*: Considering the book as a complete package, does it have strong 'pick up' appeal? Does it have a professional look? What is the overall quality of the design, production and printing of the book with regard to its published price?
- What lasting qualities does it have?

## Additional criteria

### Young Adult Fiction and Junior Fiction categories

#### 1. Extension of Reader's Experience/Understanding of and Insight into the World of Children/Young People

- Is the central idea worthwhile?
- Will the story help the reader to understand more about themselves and their world?
- Will it extend the reader's experience (or is it operating purely at a formula level)?
- Is the writing credible in terms of the author's intention?
- Is it credible and appropriate in its use of cultural material?
- What command of the main idea/theme or content does the author demonstrate?
- Does the story have a ring of authenticity?
- Does it avoid condescension and stereotyping?
- Will the story spark imagination, provoke thought?
- How effectively does the author draw the reader into the 'reality' of the story?
- What qualities of originality and imagination are demonstrated in the story?
- Are there any potentially controversial elements that you as judges should let the Awards administration know about?

#### 2. Storyline/Plot and Structure

- What command of technique does the author demonstrate?
- Is the shape and structure of the story appropriate?
- Is the story told at an appropriate pace? Is it maintained, varied appropriately?
- Does the plot have a dramatic evolution?
- How successfully is tension built and interest sustained over the length of the story?
- Is the climax, resolution of the story satisfactory? Are expectations fulfilled or convincingly overturned?
- Are episodes and characters linked successfully?
- Are transitions of pace, mood, action accomplished effectively?

#### 3. Language

- Is the language appropriate for the readership?
- Is the language appropriate to the theme and characters?
- Is the dialogue appropriate to the characters?
- Is the dialogue effective and credible (rather than merely descriptive)?

- How successfully is mood developed, varied, sustained?
- What qualities of tone are used to convey the story?

#### **4. Character Development**

- How well developed are the characters?
- Are they credible? Can the reader identify the main character/s?
- Will the reader care about the characters?
- How effectively are relationships developed between characters?

For graphic novels entered in these categories, judges may draw upon points 1 and 2 in the Picture Book Additional Criteria.

#### **Non-Fiction category**

As general guidelines the judges may consider the relative success of the book in balancing and harmonising the following elements:

- Style of language and presentation
- Graphic excellence
- Clarity, appropriateness and aesthetic appeal of illustrations
- Integration of text, graphics and illustrations to engage interest and enhance understanding
- Overall design of the book to facilitate the presentation of information
- Accuracy of data and the current state of knowledge

#### **Picture Book category**

##### **1. Text and illustration must complement each other**

- Is there a fair match between the quality of the text and the quality of the illustration?
- Does the design of the book harmonise text and illustrations?
- The match of artistic style, media and artistic elements of colour, line, shape, texture to written text or idea.
- The match of layout and design elements to written text or idea.
- The balance of amount of illustration and written text.
- The combination of illustration and narrative works well as a progression through the book, controlling pace and emotional response from reader.

##### **2. Illustrations**

- What qualities of draughtsmanship are demonstrated?
- Is character developed and sustained successfully?
- Is the illustration credible and consistent?
- Is the style of illustration appropriate to the readership?
- Does it support and complement the text - or dominate or conflict with it?
- Does it reflect the text accurately in detail where it needs to?
- Does it enhance the text, bring it to life visually?

##### **3. Language**

- Is the language imaginative/appropriate?
- Does it flow well? Use rhythm effectively?
- How well does the story read aloud? Is it a successful 'audio visual' experience? (Line breaks should aid meaning i.e. 'chunks' of meaning).

#### **Illustration category**

- The pictures or illustrations must be original work and convey the spirit of the book.
- The pictures or illustrations are the chief consideration for the judges and can be assessed independently of the book's text and its format and physical make-up.

### **Te reo Māori category**

- There are no limitations on the character of the book except that it is original work, or if traditional in design, new to children's literature and the result of individual research, the re-telling and interpretation being the writer's own.
- The format and physical make-up of the book shall be a consideration.
- Te Kura Pounamu will be awarded to the author of a work that is considered to be a distinguished contribution to literature for children or young people written entirely in te reo Māori.

### **Best First Book Award**

The Best First Book award supports new and emerging talent in authors and illustrators. The Award will be presented to an author or illustrator who demonstrates excellence in all general judging criteria and whose work stands out as exceptional amongst that from other new authors and illustrators.

### **Margaret Mahy Book of the Year Award**

The Award will go to any one of the finalists in the Young Adult Fiction, Junior Fiction, Non-Fiction, Picture Book, Illustration and te reo Māori categories which, in the opinion of the judges, achieves outstanding excellence in all general judging criteria. The judges will take account of all existing general judging criteria as well as the extent to which the book best fills its category criteria. The judges will also consider the impact of the book on young readers, its contribution to New Zealand's national literature for children and young adults, and the extent to which it will encourage further exploration of books and reading.