

# John Spray Mystery Award

## SUBMISSION & CRITERIA INFORMATION

### Criteria:

- The award honours excellence in the mystery book genre. A mystery book can be a thriller, a crime novel or a 'whodunit'.
- The book must be of high literary quality with the story having a logical and predetermined endpoint.
- Storyline must be plausible, well-researched and filled with tension and suspense.
- The story must have well-developed characters whose actions are consistent with their personalities.
- The book should be aimed at young readers aged **eight to 16 years old**.

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Books must be published between January 1 and December 31, 2012.
- Both the author and illustrator (if applicable) must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada (who have lived in Canada for at least two years).
- Books may be published in Canada or abroad.
- Books must be first foreign or first Canadian editions. New editions or re-issues of previously published titles are not eligible for submission.
- Books must be in English.
- Translations are eligible, provided the translator is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada (who has lived in Canada for at least two years).
- Graphic novels are eligible.
- Picture books are not eligible.
- Novels involving fantasy, supernatural, science-fiction plots (e.g., ghosts, time travel, etc.) are not eligible.
- Short story collections by more than one author are not eligible.
- Stories must be original (i.e., not a retelling of an already published mystery for adults).
- Books written as part of a series or published in serial form will be judged as separate entries and must be able to 'stand-alone'.
- The award is only for books in the printed format, as distinct from digital (i.e., eBooks) and audio visual formats.
- Books in manuscript form are not eligible.
- All books must have an ISBN and be distributed in Canada.
- Self-published books are eligible for submission provided they have a valid ISBN.