

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.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Books must be published between **January 1 and December 31, 2015**.
- 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 works of fiction. Non-fiction titles are not eligible for submission.
- Books must be in English.
- The book should be aimed at young readers aged **eight to 18 years old**. Adult books are not eligible.
- 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 or science-fiction plots (e.g., ghosts, time travel, etc.) are permissible provided they don't "cheat" the mystery (i.e., the mystery is not solved by these elements).
- 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.

Note to US publishers, foreign publishers and self-published authors using printers in the US: When you are sending your submissions, please make sure that all courier charges, including duty, are billed to the sender. The CCBC cannot incur these costs. Packages flagged as COD will be refused.