

Monica Hughes Award for Science Fiction and Fantasy

SUBMISSION & CRITERIA INFORMATION

Criteria:

The Monica Hughes Award honours exceptional writing in the Speculative Fiction genre, which the Canadian Children's Book Centre describes in two categories: Science Fiction and Fantasy, as defined below:

- Science Fiction literature includes stories of time travel, alternate or re-imagined histories, dystopias and utopias, alien contact and/or invasion, steampunk, and space operas.
- Fantasy literature includes domestic, heroic, and urban fantasies, and can include stories of the paranormal, domestic magic, faeries, and talking animals or animate toys.
- The book must be of high literary quality and the story must be believable according to the rules/conventions/criteria of the story's world/setting; the plot must be comprehensive and consistent.
- The story must have well-developed and complex characters whose actions are consistent with their personalities.
- The story should cover new and interesting topics, or familiar topics covered in new ways, demonstrating a rich imagination.

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).
- The book should be aimed at young readers aged **eight to 16 years old**.
- Graphic novels are eligible.
- Picture books are not eligible.
- Short story collections by more than one author are not eligible.
- Stories must be original; while stories inspired by classic works such as fairy tales are permissible, retellings of original stories are not.
- Books written as part of a series or published in serial form will be judged as separate entries and must function as a 'stand-alone' story.
- 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.