

# Jean Little First-Novel Award

## SUBMISSION & CRITERIA INFORMATION

The Jean Little First-Novel Award honours excellence in middle-grade fiction by first-time authors. The celebration of diversity is an equally significant element to achieving excellence. A work of excellence in Canadian children's literature should also be successful in making people feel a sense of belonging in their communities.

### Criteria:

In identifying the achievements of a first-time Canadian children's novelist, each judge shall consider the following criteria for excellence.

- Quality of the text or storyline.
- Interpretation of the theme or concept. Presentation of information including accuracy, clarity and organization.
- Appropriateness of style and presentation. Books should have distinguished qualities in all of the elements pertinent to them, such as interpretation of theme and concept.
- Books need to be self-contained and not dependent on other media for their enjoyment.
- Elements of the story that draw upon or are inspired by real cultures, folklore and history should be done respectfully and authentically.
- Books should have been written for a child audience and should achieve excellence of presentation.
- Each book is to be considered as a contribution to literature.

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Books must be written by first-time authors of novels for a middle-grade reading audience. Only authors who have not previously published a book are eligible for consideration
- Books must be published between **January 1 and December 31, 2022**.
- 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.
- For the purposes of this award, "middles grades" are defined as typically grades 3-7/ages 8-12.
- Author and illustrator (in the case of graphic novels) must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.
- Books must be in English.
- Translations are eligible, provided the translator is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.
- Graphic novels are eligible. If a graphic novel wins, the author and illustrator will share the award.
- Picture books 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.
- 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.

**Publisher and creator expectations prior to submission:**

- Publishers agree to pay the \$35 non-refundable submission fee per title per award.
- If a book is shortlisted, the publisher, author and illustrator may be asked to participate in a series of events highlighting and promoting the shortlisted author and illustrator, in addition to the award celebration.
- The CCBC is unable to assume the costs for travel and accommodation. It is our hope that publishers will assist the award winner(s) with providing the resources for attending the in-person awards ceremony (should we be able to hold an in-person event) or for creating an acceptance speech video of appropriate quality should the creator(s) be unable to attend an in-person event.
- Publishers agree to prepare and encourage their authors and illustrators to participate in all reasonable publicity associated with the award: interviews, readings, appearances, etc.
- Publishers agree to spend an appropriate sum on media advertising the winning book (i.e., whatever your advertising budget allows).