



ARTS Office  
Division of Teaching and Learning



September, 2024

**TO:** Librarians, Visual Arts Teachers and Teachers in All Departments, Grades 3 - 12

**FROM:** Melissa Jacobs, *Director, Library Services*  
Paul Thompson, *Executive Director, Arts Office*

**RE:** The Annual Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition

## **EJK BOOKMAKING COMPETITION**

- Competition Guidelines
- Timeline/Important Dates
- Criteria
- Submission Form Instructions
- Resources

The Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition is a **collaboration among the NYCPS, the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, and Brooklyn Public Library.**

Through **writing and illustrating their own fiction or nonfiction picture books** students combine literacy with art skills to tell their own story. This activity gives students a chance to enjoy using the skills they learn in school and pride in having created a book that reflects their view of the world.

# EJK BOOKMAKING COMPETITION GUIDELINES

## ELIGIBILITY

**Books are judged in the following three categories.** Districts 75 & 79 submissions are considered in all categories with the other submissions, and often are winners.

- **Elementary School: Grades 3-5**
- **Middle School: Grades 6-8**
- **High School: Grades 9-12**

## PROCESS

- One or more classes, or clubs, **engage in the book making process under the supervision of a teacher(s) or librarian(s).**
- Each school convenes a team (principal, art teacher, librarian, language arts teacher) **to select ONE entry as its School winner\*\***
- The **ONE School winner is submitted to be considered** as a City winner, Borough winner or for an Honorable Mention
- **Books will be mailed back to the school** to be returned to students by mid-June, 2024

### \*\*SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS:

- Schools with multiple-grade categories may submit one book per category. (Example: K-8 schools may submit a book for the 3-5 grade category, as well as the 6-8 grade category.)
- Individual schools within one campus building, can each submit a book, per grade category (Elementary, Middle and High).

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## EJK BOOKMAKING COMPETITION TIMELINE/IMPORTANT DATES

### Tuesday February 11, 2025 Submission Deadline

- **Electronic submission form MUST be received by February 11th.**
- **Submitted books MUST be scanned or photographed** prior to mailing
  - (all pages including the cover).
- Submitted books **MUST be mailed and postmarked by February 11th.\***
- **Tracking information MUST be preserved** in case the book does not arrive.
  - **Mail to: Ben Perry**  
**Brooklyn Public Library**  
**Central Library**  
**10 Grand Army Plaza**  
**Brooklyn NY 11238**

**\*Note:** We are not able to accept hand delivered books

## February 28, 2025 Judging

- Judging is based on quality of writing and illustrations, layout, and general presentation.
- The jury is composed of noted authors, librarians, artists, and educators

## Late March, 2025 Award Notification, by the Arts Office and Office of Library Services

- **City Awards - EJK Bookmaking Medal & \$600\*** (Invited to Ceremony)
  - One elementary school prize
  - One intermediate school prize
  - One high school prize
- **Borough Awards - EJK Bookmaking Medal & \$200\*** (Invited to Ceremony)
  - Five elementary school prizes
  - Five intermediate school prizes
  - Five high school prizes
- **Honorable Mentions - EJK Bookmaking Medal** (Invited to Ceremony)
  - Up to 27 throughout the five boroughs
- **School Awards - EJK Bookmaking Medal**
  - All school winners receive medals with returned books
- **Teachers/Librarians of winners & honorable mentions** (Invited to Ceremony)
  - Recognized for their work with their students
- **All students** who complete a book
  - Receive a Certificate of Commendation, even if the book was not chosen as the **school winner**.

\* **NOTE:** For books with 2 collaborators, monetary awards are shared equally.

## May 16, 2024 Award Ceremony (4:00 - 5:30 pm)

- **Student winners and honorable mentions AND their teachers/librarians** are honored during the ceremony and **receive a gift bag of new picture books donated by Penguin Random House\***
- The ceremony is held at Brooklyn Public Library, Central Library at Grand Army Plaza, Dweck Auditorium and Lobby.

\* **NOTE:** Gift bags cannot be mailed or held for those who do not attend the ceremony.

## May 1 to May 28, 2025 Exhibition

- All entries exhibited at Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch at Grand Army Plaza, in the Youth Wing.

## Mid June, 2025 Books Returned

- Each book is returned to the teacher/librarian who submitted the book so it can be handed back to the student before the end of the school year.\*

\***NOTE:** If two students created the book, one student must receive a photocopy of the original.

## EJK BOOKMAKING CRITERIA

- No more than **two students may collaborate** on a book.
- **All writing and art must be original and created solely by the student(s).**
- **NEW: No use of any form of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, to create or refine text or images.
- No clip art of any kind (electronic or hard copy)
- **There must be a story or narrative**, with a beginning, middle and end, or a discernible arc
- Correct spelling and use of grammar, clear and legible printing
- **All art media are accepted**, including **original** computer images created by student(s).
- **Photographs** are allowed if taken or staged by student or used as an element in a collage
- Books must be created as part of ongoing class instruction, or as a group extracurricular activity, under teacher and/or librarian supervision.
- Books must be handmade and firmly bound by the student. No pre-made books or components will be accepted.
- Students are free to choose the subject of their book.

## PHYSICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Books must be **no smaller than 6' x 8' and no larger than 15" x 18"**.
- Books should have **at least 12 single side pages and no more than 32 including the cover.**
- Text should be **no longer than 1,000 words.**
- Platforms or stands for books are not accepted.
- All parts of the book must be securely fastened.

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Concise and condensed text (books with too much text will be at a disadvantage).
- Clarity of storytelling through words and pictures.
- Equal attention paid to every page.
- Clear design concept for the whole book. (Illustrations support and further the storyline)
- Text used as part of the illustration to add to visual interest.

## SUBMISSION FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the entire [EJK Bookmaking Competition Submission Form](#)

- Submission Form Includes:
    - **Contact Information**
    - **Declaration of Originality and Student(s) Statement** - student(s) description of their creative vision and bookmaking process
    - **Educator(s) Confirmation and Statement**
    - **School Information**
    - **Guardian Consent and Release**
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## RESOURCES

The following **Handbook and Tutorials** contain all the support information necessary to running a successful Bookmaking program in your classroom.

[EJK Bookmaking Teacher and Student Handbook](#)

[Bookmaking Tutorials](#)

[EJK Foundation Bookmaking Information](#)

[Ezra Jack Keats Award Winners and Honorees](#)