

# Mock EJK Toolkit



## Preparation

**Sign up, Select Your Books, Build Excitement, Personalize Criteria,  
Choose Voting Method, Plan Celebration**

### Sign-up Begins November 7, 2024

Go to this link ([bit.ly/3X7O8yy](https://bit.ly/3X7O8yy)) to sign up. You'll receive our suggested eligible booklist and updates to the list as it develops.

### Select & Obtain Your Books

- Decide how many books to include in your Mock EJK based on reading levels, time and budget.
- Choose your books from the Mock EJK booklist provided.
- Find out if your institution or an auxiliary organization (i.e. PTA) can fund the purchase of your books or find them at the library, either has books or ebooks.
- Develop a classroom schedule to read, evaluate, and vote on your award and honor books.
- Designate a space where all the books can be easily located by your students.
- Decide on break-out sessions or a buddy system to encourage discussion.

### Build Excitement

#### Materials to Create & Display

Creating posters to promote your program as it progresses can be a fun and engaging activity. Involving your group in this effort will boost their excitement and enthusiasm for the project.

- Here's the **Mock EJK Award Seal** you can use in your posters or as a medallion to put on the Award and Honor book covers. (<https://bit.ly/3Yhite1>)
  - Mock EJK AWARD Seal
  - Mock EJK HONOR Seal
  - Mock EJK AWARD 8inches for poster
- Students can create collages, drawings, or a poster featuring the Mock EJK Award Medal with the books being considered.
- Get creative! Brainstorm additional art projects with your students.



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## Preparation (cont'd)

### Personalize Criteria

The criteria below was developed by Friends School of Baltimore (**FSB**) and can be used as is or adjusted to fit your needs. Print out and display criteria for easy reference.

- **Childhood:** What does “childhood” mean and how is it represented in the text? The illustrations? What are the book’s messages about being a child? Did you see yourself and your childhood in the book?
- **Family/Community:** What’s being celebrated about family? What are things that are similar/different from your family? What message about family does this book send? What is “community” and why is it important?
- **Diversity:** What does “diversity” mean and how is it a topic that is presented in the books you’re reading? How do you see or define diversity? Why is diversity important?
- **Words and Pictures Go Together:** Do the words and pictures work well together? Show us pages that support your opinion. What information do you get from the pictures that isn’t in the text? Why is it important that the words and pictures give different information?
- **Excites Your Brain:** When you read the book can you not wait to get to the next page? How did it excite your brain? Do you want to read this book again? Why?
- **Hugs Your Heart:** How does this book touch your heart? How do the story and pictures make you feel? Does it remind you of something special in your life?
- **Makes You Want to Learn:** What does this book inspire you to find out more about? What did you enjoy about, or learn from, this book? Would you enjoy reading another book like it?
- **Social and Personal Change:** Did the book make you think about how you, and the people around you, can change or improve your community?

This **FSB Criteria** slide presentation can be part of your presentation and discussion of how the criteria will be applied. (<https://bit.ly/40eHHwW>)

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## Preparation (cont'd)

### Choose Your Voting Method

#### Vote By Criteria:

- **Ballot:** Create a ballot for each book with the book cover and each of the criteria you are using. Each voter indicates which criteria that specific book meets.
  - Take a look at the **FSB** ballot. They voted using star stamps, but students can also circle their choice. ([https:// tinyurl.com/uo3y2dl](https://tinyurl.com/uo3y2dl))
- **Show of Hands:** Hold up a book, say your criteria one at a time and have the students raise their hands if the book meets that particular criteria. Keep track of the number of hands for each criteria either on the board for the students to see or privately so the results aren't known until the Celebration/Ceremony.
- **On-line:** Some schools use Seesaw ([seesaw.com](https://seesaw.com)) or another electronic portfolio system where students can cast ballots, and with the guidance of a leader (depending on which system you use), they can discuss and record the reasoning behind their votes.

#### Vote By Overall Book:

- **Paper Ballot:** Lay eligible books out on a table and put a basket next to each book. Give each student 6 small pieces of paper with which to vote. Ask students to walk around and place paper votes in the basket of the books they like:
  - 3 votes = favorite    2 votes = 2nd choice    1 vote = 3rd choice
    - Count the votes (Math project!)
  - Books that receive one or no votes are eliminated. Then a second round of voting is held for the final results.
- **Show of Hands:** Hold up a book and have the students raise their hands if they like the book. Keep track of the number of hands for each criteria either on the board for the students to see or privately so the results aren't known until the Celebration/Ceremony.

### Decide when to tell the students the outcome of their vote

If you'd like them to know what their Award and Honor books are immediately, let them see the tallies in real time. If you prefer surprising them at the Celebration/Ceremony, keep the voting tallies secret

**Tip: the anticipation of a big "reveal" at the ceremony gives students a tremendous charge.**

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## Preparation (cont'd)

### Plan Your Award Celebration

- **Set the Date:** Whether or not your students know the Award and Honors books they've chosen, a celebration of their hard work will still be exciting. The actual EJK Award results are announced in late February and the Award Ceremony is in April. Even though the Award and Honor books are known, the event is amazing.  
Tip: You may want to plan your ceremony to correspond with the April EJK Award ceremony.
- **Invite Special Guests:** Share the celebration with school administrators, colleagues, community leaders and parents.
- **Notify the Award and Honor Book Creators:** Consider writing to the Award/Honor authors and illustrators to let them know of your student's decision. If you hear back from them you can share the news with your students to further excitement.



## Run the Program

January-February

### Stock Up - Discuss Process - Read - Deliberate

Review the process with your students. Let them know why you think it will be fun. Discussion points are provided for each of the following sections:

- Your Book Selection
- Your Criteria: How To Apply It
- Reading and Discussing Eligible Books
- Guided Reading Ideas
- Your Voting Method
- How You Will Announce and Celebrate the Award & Honor Books
- Final Planning for your Ceremony, Decoration Ideas, Day of details

### Your Book Selection

#### Discuss:

- The huge variety of children's books published each year from fiction and nonfiction to fantasy and poetry.
- How the books being considered were chosen.

#### Tell them:

- How many books they will read and how many awards and honors you will give:
  - We suggest 1 Award and 2 Honors, making the total number 3 books to be chosen.
- That they may be examining some of the same books as the actual EJK Award Committee, but they may select different award and honor books.
- The EJK Foundation is eager to know what books they choose.

### Apply Your Criteria

#### Analyze, Evaluate, and Compare Books:

- Examine and discuss the text and illustrations of each book.
- Compare these elements to those in other books.
- Evaluate how each book meets the established criteria.

#### Study Past EJK Award Award and Honor Books:

- Review and assess previous EJK Award Award and Honor books.
- Demonstrate how these books align with your criteria.

# Mock EJK Toolkit



## Run the Program (cont'd)

### Reading & Discussing Eligible Books

- **Review & Discuss Your Schedule** to read, evaluate and vote on your Award and Honor books, as well as how and when the Awards and Honors will be announced.
- **Show students** where all the books can be found.

### Guided Reading Ideas

- **Read Alouds:** Introduce and read the book(s) aloud. Facilitate discussion including going over your selected criteria in-depth.
- **Projected Read Alouds:** If possible, project the pages onto a large screen for a read aloud to inspire students to see a book in a different way.
- **Quiet Reading Time:** Set time aside for students to read, and reread the books. As they read the books, have each child take notes, for reference during discussion and voting.
- **Discussion Time:** Encourage at-home reads and discussions with families if they have access to the eligible books.
- **Breakout Sessions & Buddy Systems:** Facilitate breakout sessions so students can ponder specific questions or books with peers. Younger students can have brief, meaningful discussions with guided questions and an assigned “reading buddy” from a group of older students.

### Present Your Voting Method & Vote

- **Voting Process**
  - Explain your voting method and remind the students of the number of awards to be given.
  - Layout the timeline for voting discussion, evaluation and decisions.
    - Remind the students when they will hear the results of the voting, either upon voting or at the celebration/ceremony.
  - Spread all the books out and allow students to examine the books before they vote.
  - Vote according to your method (see “Choose Your Voting Method” section above).

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## Run the Program (cont'd)

### Final Planning for your Ceremony

- Confirm Special Guests and Speakers.
- Draft Your Remarks: Include a brief introduction of the award, your process, your criteria, your great discussions, how much fun you had, etc. and include the announcement of your Mock EJK Award and Honor books.
- Create a Ceremony Schedule: include a list of school, library or other special guests attending and how you will progress from speaker to speaker. Total time approximately 30 minutes.
- A sample schedule:
  - 9:45 - 10:00: Special guests arrive. Students enter and are seated.
  - 10:10: Event Begins: Group leader welcomes everyone and gives introductory remarks about the process & results.
  - 10:13: Group leader introduces special guest(s).
  - 10:17: Special guest(s) speak and name the award and honor books.
  - 10:22: Photos are taken.

### Decoration Ideas

Collect and create any materials you want on stage such as the books or items your group has made, which may include:

- A Mock EJK Award poster or projection slide of your Award and Honor books including the Mock EJK medallion for display after the announcement.
- Materials created and used throughout the program, i.e. ballots, quoted comments from students about the books.
- A sign announcing the name of your group (school/class).

### A Few Days Before Your Award Ceremony

- Review your schedule.
- Update and finalize all remarks.
- Finish and display artwork and signs.
- Order or buy any snacks or drinks for a reception.

### Day of your Ceremony

- Designate a group of students to help set up and decorate the room.
- Reserve seats for invited or special guests.
- Have students welcome special attendees and guests.

**You've finished your Mock EJK Award • Time to Celebrate**

Share Results with EJK ([jmccarthy@ejkf.org](mailto:jmccarthy@ejkf.org)) • Take Photos • Get Quotes

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## Collected Links for Easy Access

Mock EJK Award Sign Up Form: <https://bit.ly/3X7O8yy>

Mock EJK Award Medallion: <https://bit.ly/3YhiteI>

Friends School of Baltimore Criteria Slides: <https://bit.ly/40eHHwW>

Friends School of Baltimore Paper Ballot: <https://tinyurl.com/uo3y2dl>

Mock EJK Award webpage: <https://www.ej kf.org/mock-ejk-award/>

EJK Award Origin: <https://www.ej kf.org/about-the-ejk-award>

EJK Award webpage: <https://www.ej kf.org/ezra-jack-keats-award/>

EJK Foundation Homepage: <https://ej kf.org>

USM Kaigler Children's Book Festival (EJK Award Ceremony): [usm.edu/childrens-book-festival](http://usm.edu/childrens-book-festival)