



SELECTION CRITERIA HACKMATACK CHILDREN'S CHOICE BOOK AWARD

Books MUST:

- be from a Canadian publisher
- have been published in Canada within the last two years
- be appropriate for readers age 9-12 (grades 4 to 6)
- have been written by no more than three Canadian authors (or combination of three authors and illustrators)
- be in print and readily available in sufficient quantities for reading club orders
- be a printed book (ebooks and audiobooks are welcomed as options for reading clubs)

Reprints: A book that has been republished with a new cover and minor corrections/changes is considered a reprint.

If major changes to the text have been made, the book can be submitted.

If the book is a reprint but the original was published before Hackmatack was founded in 1999, or for French submissions, before there was a French category (French books were added in 2002), the Book Selection Committee would then consider it.

Translations: Books must be submitted in the original language.

If a book is bilingual (contains two languages), publishers should note which language is the original.

Bilingual books can be written in French or English and include a second language; a combination of only French and English is not a requirement. For example, a book can be written in French and Arabic, or English and Mi'kmaq.

Committees look for:

1. Atlantic-Canadian content, authorship, illustrations, and/or publication

This is **not a requirement**, but a book with Atlantic content would be chosen over another if the two were equal in every other regard.

2. Diversity and Inclusion

Our book selection committees are diligent in their efforts to emphasize books that engage readers in objective and equitable portrayals of persons and groups within our society.

We are committed to ensuring that children feel that their culture, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, religion, and geography are affirmed by the books they read.

Our goal is to present shortlists that ensure children who are underrepresented and marginalized are able to see themselves in these books, and we recognize we need to go further: Children who have always been able to see themselves in books must also be given a true sense of the diversity in the wider world, which may not be reflected in their own communities.

As part of our commitment to raise up the voices and stories of the rich racial, cultural and Indigenous history and contemporary presence in Atlantic Canada, we have pledged to an equity approach in our selection process.

As we work toward making our commitment a reality, we have set a goal: To present shortlists where at least 15% of the titles are created by BIPOC authors, with a minimum of one title in each of our four categories. We are asking publishers to join us in this endeavor.

It's important to note that our commitment to full representation of our diversity is not limited to this equity approach.

If an author identifies as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) or LGBTQ+, and/or if they are writing in their own voice, please be sure to indicate this clearly in book submission(s).

3. Literary Quality

- authority
- organization
- illustrations
- design
- prose style
- documentation

4. Overall appeal to children in grades 4 to 6 (ages 8 to 11)

- a range of reading levels within the age group
- content appealing to readers across the full spectrum of gender identification