Announcing the call for entries into the 15th annual Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards, designed to honor the year’s best children’s books, publishers, authors, and illustrators. The 2021 Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards contest will accept entries through August 9, 2021 for books with 2020 or 2021 copyrights or that were released since October 1, 2019, and is open to authors, illustrators, and publishers of children’s books written in English or Spanish.

The Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards are intended to bring increased recognition to exemplary children’s books and their creators, and to support childhood literacy and life-long reading. Medals will be awarded in 41 print book categories and 4 e-book categories, covering the full range of subjects, styles, and age groups that children’s books are written and published in today. In addition, about 5 Moonbeam Spirit Awards are given to a few selected entrants who demonstrate special dedication to children’s needs and children’s book arts.

As our society has gotten more complex and growing up has become more complicated, children’s book authors and publishers have risen to the occasion, creating books that not only celebrate the joys of childhood, but also help kids and families deal with its challenges. The Moonbeam Awards recognize and reward the best of these books and bring them to the attention of booksellers, librarians, parents, and children.

Last year, a total of 153 medalists were chosen from over 1,100 entries. Gold, silver and bronze medals went to books from 37 U.S. states, 4 Canadian provinces, and 7 countries overseas. Many of our award-winning books encourage children to be generous and compassionate, to stand up to bullies, and to believe in fulfilling their dreams. The diversity of the winning publishers proves that promoting childhood literacy knows no boundaries, as medal-winners came not only from mainstream, long-established publishers and university presses, but from small presses, foundations, and self-published authors.

Good luck to all!

Contact Information

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Please add our emails, plus moonbeam@gibookawards.com to your contacts list so we can keep you updated with award entrant info, judging reports and the results announcement.

Convenient & secure online registration available at: www.MoonbeamAwards.com
Who May Enter
Authors, illustrators, publishers and self-publishers of children’s books, written in English or Spanish (although we have just one Spanish Language category). Authors and Illustrators are welcome to enter their books themselves. In this case, on the entry form, you can mention the publisher by name, but use your own address and contact information.

Eligibility
Books that are published with a 2020 or 2021 copyright or that were released since October 1, 2019 are eligible. The contest is for published books, but ISBN is not required. Submission of galley copies is permissible if finished copies are not yet available. E-books are eligible for entry into our e-book categories, and may also be entered into our regular subject categories where they will be judged alongside print books.

How to Enter
Publishers are to select the category or categories in which the book(s) should be judged. Submission for more than one category is acceptable, but each category entry requires an entry fee. An e-book upload tool comes up when you enter an e-book category.

What to Send
Please include online registration receipt or completed entry form and check in U.S. Funds in the same package as the books -- unless you’re having books shipped directly from a distributor, which is permissible. Submit two copies of the title per category entered. For example, when you enter a title two categories please send four books; when entering three categories, please send six books. All books entered become the physical property of Jenkins Group and will eventually be donated to local libraries or charities. E-book files will be deleted after judging and results announcements.

Book Series Submission
To be judged in our Book Series categories, at least two series titles must be published at the time of entry, and at least one of those series titles must be published within the eligibility timeframe (since October 1, 2019). Send the entire series for judging. (For very large series, the number of titles sent is negotiable.)

Entry Fees (per title, per category)
The first “early-bird” deadline is February 1, 2021 ($75 per entry); the second early-bird deadline is May 31, 2021 ($85 per entry); and the final entry deadline is August 9, 2021 ($95 per entry). Early-bird discounts are in place to encourage early entries and spread out the tasks of processing and shelving books. E-book categories are $55 when added to a regular category; the entry fee is the same as regular categories when entering an ebook category only.

Packaging and Mailing
When entering by mail, please include form below with your entry, preferably folded and inserted inside the front cover. Pack and tape your books well -- lightweight shipping envelopes sometimes arrive empty. Again, please tuck paperwork and checks inside books and seal those packages well!

Judging Process
Judging will be based on content, originality, design, and production quality, with emphasis on innovation and dedication to children’s health and literacy issues. Our judging panel includes experts from the fields of editing, design, reviewing, bookselling and library. Medalists will be named on about September 30th.

Deadlines
The first “early-bird” deadline is February 1, 2021 ($75 per entry); the second early-bird deadline is May 31, 2021 ($85 per entry); and the final entry deadline is August 9, 2021 ($95 per entry). All entries must be posted online or postmarked by the final entry deadline of August 9, 2021, with a ten-day grace period for books to arrive. We will confirm your entry via email and send judging and results updates via email – hence the importance of ‘whitelisting’ our web domain jgibookawards.com.

Awards and Recognition
Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded in each category. Each winning book will receive a medal, personalized certificate, and 20 sample seals. Medalists and their guests are invited to attend the November 13th awards ceremony and celebration at no charge.
Print Book Categories

1. Board Book/Cloth Book
2. Alphabet/Counting Book
3. Book Arts/Pop-up/Cut-out
4. Activity Book 1 – Games/Arts & Crafts
5. Activity Book 2 – Educational/Science/History
6. Best Illustrator
7. Picture Book – Preschool
8. Picture Book – 4-8 Year Old
9. Picture Book – All Ages
10. Juvenile Fiction – Early Reader/First Chapter Books
11. Pre-Teen Fiction – General
12. Pre-Teen Fiction – Fantasy
13. Pre-Teen Fiction – Mystery
14. Pre-Teen Fiction – Historical
15. Pre-Teen Fiction – Mature Issues
16. Young Adult Fiction – General
17. Young Adult Fiction – Fantasy/Sci-Fi
18. Young Adult Fiction – Horror/Mystery
19. Young Adult Fiction – Historical
20. Young Adult Fiction – Religion/Spirituality
21. Young Adult Fiction – Mature Issues
22. Children’s Poetry
23. Non-Fiction – Picture Book
24. Non-Fiction – Chapter Book
25. Animals/Pets – Fiction
26. Animals/Pets – Non-Fiction
27. Social Activism
28. Comic/Graphic Novel
29. Religion/Spirituality
30. Holiday
31. Book with Merchandise (plush toy, etc.)
32. Spanish Language Book
33. Environmental Issues
34. Health Issues
35. Mind-Body-Spirit/Self-Esteem
36. Best First Book – Picture Book
37. Best First Book – Chapter Book
38. Best Book by Youth Author (under 18)
39. Best Book Series – Picture Book
40. Best Book Series – Chapter Book
41. Best Book Series – Non-Fiction

E-Book Categories

E1. Children’s Picture Book
E2. Picture Book – Enhanced & Apps (including embedded audio, video, animations, etc.)
E3. Pre-Teen Fiction
E4. Young Adult Fiction

Notes on E-Book Submissions

E-books are eligible in all categories, both e-book and print. They may be submitted electronically in PDF format. When you enter an e-book category you will have the option to upload your e-book after you pay online and receive a confirmation email. To submit an e-book in a print category, please send the PDF as an email attachment to digital@jenkinsgroupinc.com, or have your e-book provider “gift” it to us at that email address. E-book entry fee is just $55 when adding an e-book entry to a regular print book entry; fees are the same as regular category fees when entering an e-book category only.

Notes on Categories

Periodically as a book awards program we add, remove, and alter categories to reflect changes in the collective culture. This year you will note we have removed the “Culture” and “Multicultural” specific categories. As an award focused on children and young adult readers we have always sought to find exceptional books highlighting stories that ALL readers can relate to. For a time, the focus was brought to some titles by creating special categories. We are removing those categories, but want to make it clear it is because we will look for that representation in all categories now.

New category this year: 27. Social Activism
When paying by check, please include this form with your entry, preferably folded and inserted inside the front cover. To enter online with a credit card, visit www.MoonbeamAwards.com. If you enter online, filling out this form isn't necessary. Thanks!

Moonbeam 2021 Entry Form:

Book Title

Author

Publisher Name (as you’d like it to appear in results listing and publicity)

Category(s) Entered  (You may list multiple categories, but don’t forget to pay the fee and send two books for each category entered)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT TWO COPIES FOR EACH CATEGORY ENTERED!

Early-Bird entry fee – now through May 31, 2021 ($85 per title, per category)  

Final entry deadline is Aug 9, 2021 ($95 per title, per category)

Add E-book Entry (per title, per category)  

Contact Person

Email Address

Company / Publisher (for mailing purposes)

Mailing Address

City, State, Postal Code, Country

Telephone

Method of Payment

☐ Check in U.S. funds payable to Jenkins Group

To enter with credit card, visit our online entry page: http://www.MoonbeamAwards.com

How to Send

Ship books with entry fee(s) and entry form(s) to:

Moonbeam Awards 2021
Jenkins Group
1129 Woodmere Ave – Suite B
Traverse City, MI 49686