

CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL

FAVORITES AWARDS



BOOK CONTENT GUIDELINES

Deadline for Book Submissions: May 28, 2025

ABOUT THE LISTS

The Children's, Middle-Grade, Young Adult, Teacher, and Librarian Favorites Awards are a selection of the favorite books published each year, read and rated by thousands of children, teens, teachers, and librarians across diverse student populations and geographic locations of the United States.

The final lists are compiled and distributed by the Children's Book Council each spring and are broadcast to our audience of over 30,000 teachers, librarians, and booksellers, and on the [CBC Favorites page](#). These reading lists are used to find and buy the best of the best new books for classrooms, collections, shelves, displays, and reading hours nationwide.

ELIGIBILITY

- Books must be published in the calendar year 2025. Books published in November - December 2024 may be eligible, if they have not been previously submitted.
- Books must be intended for grades K-12.
 - Children's Favorites: K-2nd Grade (ages 4 to 6)
 - Children's Favorites: 3rd-5th Grade (ages 7 to 10)
 - Middle Grade Favorites: 6th-8th Grade (ages 11 to 13)
 - Young Adult Favorites: 9th-12th Grade (ages 14 to 18)
- Books must be shipped to each location in their final physical version.
 - Advanced reading and F&G versions as well as e-book and audible formats are not eligible.
- Sticker books, textbooks, workbooks, kits, activity books, calendars, teaching and reading guides, magazines, anthologies, and other novelties that are not practical for multiple-student usage are not eligible for submission.
- Fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and graphic novel formats are eligible for submission.
 - Please consider submitting titles that showcase a diversity of cultures, races, gender identities, experiences, and abilities, reflected through authors and illustrators of K-12 literature as well as the characters and stories they create.
 - This program is excellent for discoverability, so this is a great opportunity to promote your new in-house favorites.
- Books that are a part of a series are not eligible for submission, unless it is the first book in the series or if the books in the series are standalones.
- Books must be published or distributed by a publisher incorporated in the United States.
- Books originally published abroad are eligible only if they have a 2025 U.S. publication date; reprints or licensed editions of books initially published in the U.S. before December 2024 are not eligible.

- Original paperbacks are eligible; paperback reprints are not. If a book is published simultaneously in hardcover and paperback, either edition may be submitted. If both editions are submitted, they constitute separate entries.
- Revised editions of books originally published in the U.S. before 2025 are eligible only if the book has been newly illustrated or if substantial text, constituting at least 25% of the book, has been changed or added.
- Non-English language editions published in North America simultaneously with English-language editions in 2025 are eligible.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Download the [2026 Submissions Spreadsheet](#), fill it out, and email it to sommer.wissner@cbcbooks.org.

- The spreadsheet contains five different tabs: one tab for contact info, and one for each grade level: K-2nd Grade, 3rd-5th Grade, Middle Grade (6th-8th), and Young Adult (9th- 12th).
- Books can be classified into only one of the four grade ranges. If your book overlaps two grade ranges, please choose the one you feel is most appropriate.
- The teachers and librarians will read all the same books as the young people are, meaning any book you submit will also be read for the Teacher and Librarian Favorites. (There is not a separate tab for Teacher or Librarian Favorites.)

SHIPPING YOUR BOOKS

The CBC will send you shipping instructions and addresses in late July. Books must reach the shipping addresses no later than November 1, 2025, but should ship as soon as possible.

For each title you submit, you will ship 1 physical copy of each to 20 locations. You will receive shipping instructions for each grade group you submit books to, up to four grade groups, and up to 80 possible locations. We have done this to achieve reading and rating in all 50 states and across rural, suburban, and urban locations.

Ship titles as early as possible in August and into the fall. Please do not wait to make a large shipment. Shipping early allows for maximum circulation, exposure, and reading, thus increasing the chances of being selected for the final Favorites Award lists!

FEES

- CBC Regular Members: No fee
- CBC Associate Members: ~~\$75~~ \$60 per title (1 free with 3 submissions)
- Non-Member Publishers: ~~\$300~~ \$250 per title

An invoice and payment instructions will be emailed to you after you submit your titles.

NOTE: Publishers who have not paid their 2025 CBC membership dues will be invoiced \$250 per title. Please contact [Carl Lennertz](#) if you'd like to become a member or verify your current membership status, or, if your dues have not been paid yet, to receive an invoice.