

# KIDS FAVORITES



## BOOK CONTENT GUIDELINES

Deadline for Book Submissions: June 3, 2026

### ABOUT THE LISTS

KIDS FAVORITES are a selection of the favorite books published each year, read and rated by thousands of children, middle-graders, 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 41K+ teachers, librarians, and booksellers, and on [the KIDS 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 2026. Books published in November - December 2025 may be eligible, if they have not been previously submitted.
- Books must be intended for grades K-12.
  - KIDS FAVORITES: K-2nd Grade: ages 4 to 6
  - KIDS FAVORITES: 3rd-5th Grade: ages 7 to 10
  - MIDDLE-GRADE FAVORITES: 6th-8th Grade: ages 11 to 13
  - TEEN FAVORITES: 9th-12th Grade: ages 14 to 18
- Books must be shipped to each location in their final physical version. Advanced reading (ARCs), F&G versions, 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 new book discoverability, so this is a great opportunity to promote your newer authors.
- Books that are a part of a series are not eligible for submission unless they are the first book in the series or if the books in the series are standalones.
- All books must originate with a children’s and/or young adult trade publishing company or division.
- 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 2026 U.S. publication date; reprints or licensed editions of books initially published in the U.S. before December 2025 are not eligible.

- Reprinted titles are not eligible. If a book is published simultaneously in hardcover and paperback, either edition may be submitted.
- 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 2026 are eligible.

## HOW TO SUBMIT

There are two ways to obtain the required spreadsheet that needs to be completed:

- If you prefer to download into Excel, [click this link for a downloadable Google Sheet](#) that can only be edited once it's opened in Excel (please see instructions on the spreadsheet for downloading). Once you have completed the sheet, please [email to Sommer](#).
- If you prefer to work in Google Sheets, [click this link](#) and then click on the blue USE TEMPLATE button in the upper right corner. This will create a duplicate spreadsheet for you to complete and save as your own. Once you have completed the sheet, please send it to Sommer by hitting the SHARE button in the upper right-hand corner, adjusting permissions to Edit, and entering her email address: [sommer.wissner@cbcbooks.org](mailto: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, 6th-8th Grade (MIDDLE-GRADE), and 9th- 12th Grade (TEEN).

- **IMPORTANT:** 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 no separate tab for TEACHER and 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 1st, 2026.

Ship titles as early as possible in August and into the fall. Please do not wait to make a bulk shipment of all of your titles. This allows for maximum circulation, exposure, and reading, thus increasing the chances of being selected for the final KIDS FAVORITES!

For each title you submit, you will ship 1 physical copy of each book to 20 locations. You will receive shipping instructions only for each grade group you submit books to, up to four grade groups, and up to 80 possible locations covering the four grade ranges.

## FEES

- CBC Regular Members: No fee
- CBC Associate Members: ~~\$75~~ \$60 per title
- Non-Member Publishers: ~~\$300~~ \$250 per title

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