

OCTOBER 2015

TO: Visual Arts Teachers, Librarians, and Teachers of English and Social Studies, Grades 3 - 12

FROM: Karen Rosner
Coordinator of Visual Arts

RE: 30th Annual Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Project

When I was young, I remember reading "The Snowy Day" and many other books by Ezra Jack Keats. They inspired me.
– Isaiah, past Bronx high school winner

Announcing the 30th annual Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition: a collaboration between the Department of Education and the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation that has resulted in the creation of thousands of student-made picture books. It is named for Ezra Jack Keats, creator of over 20 children's books, including the classic Caldecott-winning *The Snowy Day*. Ezra was inspired to pursue a career as an author/illustrator as the result of an art medal he received while a student at Brooklyn's Junior High School 149.

Students explore the creative opportunities that are offered to them when they write and illustrate their own picture books. They may create picture books on any subject they wish.

This year, we encourage students to consider the question: **Who Tells Your Story?** To inform their own writing, students are asked to investigate a variety of picture books (fiction and non-fiction) and compare who the narrators are in each story.

Each school is allowed to submit ONE book into the competition. (See note under Eligibility.)

- All **school wide** winners receive medals and award certificates. They are listed on the Ezra Jack Keats website and in the annual catalogue, along with the titles of their books, their schools and the names of their teachers and principals.
- All **school wide** winning entries are displayed this spring at the main branch of Brooklyn Public Library.
- All **borough-wide** elementary, middle and high school winners and **city wide** winners are recognized at an award ceremony in May, and receive medals and monetary awards from the Foundation.
- All honorable mentions are invited to the May ceremony and recognized for their accomplishments.

NEW THIS YEAR: ALL TEACHERS OF WINNING STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE A GIFT CERTIFICATE GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE ALLOWING THEM TO PURCHASE 25 BOOKS FROM ITS CATALOGUE.

View the catalogue of the 2014 winning entries at

<http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/EJK/2014%20Ezra%20Jack%20Keats%20Bookmaking%20Competition%20Catalog.pdf>

View an inspiring clip on the 2011 competition at <http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/news/cbs-eye-on-new-york>

This packet includes the following:

1. Competition Guidelines/Timeline (Attachment A)
2. Declaration of Originality and Author's Statement (Attachment B)
3. Consent and Release Form (Attachment C)
4. This is More than a Competition: Suggested Enrichment (Attachment D)

C: Paul King
Richard Hasenyager

Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition Guidelines

Deadline for Submissions: **Friday, January 22, 2016**

Procedure for Submissions: Principals select **ONE** entry and complete the following 4 steps **no later** than **January 22, 2016**

	Check Box
<p>1) Print and complete Attachment B: Declaration of Originality and Author’s Statement.</p> <p>All entries must have this document securely attached to the book submission. Note: This form includes a section for <i>brief</i> author/illustrator comments.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2) Print and complete Attachment C: Consent and Release Form.</p> <p>Pack this document with the book submission but do not permanently attach.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3) Complete the online submission form at the following link:</p> <p>http://www.cvent.com/d/hrqhfx</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>4) Mail the entry to:</p> <p>Jennifer Macaluso-Ciraolo Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition 333 Seventh Avenue – Room 807 NOTE: ROOM # MUST BE INCLUDED New York, New York 10001</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Eligibility: Grades 3-5 (*elementary category*)
 Grades 6-8 (*intermediate category*)
 Grades 9-12 (*high school category*)

} Schools with multiple-grade categories may submit one book per category. (Example: a K – 8 school may submit a book by a 3rd grader and a book by a 7th grader.)

Criteria:

- Students may select their own themes
- Emphasis should be placed on illustrated stories
- All work must be ORIGINAL
- No more than **two** students may collaborate on a book
- Books must be created as part of ongoing classroom instruction, under teacher and/or librarian supervision

Media: **NOTE ►**

- Books **MUST** be handmade and firmly bound by the student
- **Judges will disqualify** any pre-bound or spiral bound books, those with plastic slip bindings, and re-made and recycled books.
- All art media are acceptable

Measurements: **Books must be no larger than 15” x 18” (Please avoid elaborate platforms or stands for books.)**

Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition

TIMELINE / IMPORTANT DATES

January 22, 2016

Submissions Deadline: Submission must be mailed and postmarked by this date.

Week of February 8, 2016

Judging:

- Judging is based on quality of writing, illustrations, layout, and general presentation.
- The jury is composed of noted authors, librarians, artists, and educators.

Week of March 14, 2016

Winner Notification: Citywide and Borough-wide winners notified by the Office of Arts and Special Projects.

Awards

Citywide Awards - Ezra Jack Keats Medal & \$500*

- One elementary winner
- One intermediate winner
- One high school winner

Borough Awards – Ezra Jack Keats Pin & \$100*

- One elementary winner per borough
- One intermediate winner per borough
- One high school winner per borough

District 75– Ezra Jack Keats Pin & \$100*

- One elementary winner
- One intermediate winner
- One high school winner

District 79– Ezra Jack Keats Pin & \$100*

- One high school winner

School Awards – Ezra Jack Keats Pin

- All school winners will receive pins with returned books

** For books with 2 collaborators, monetary awards will be shared.*

May 2016

Awards Ceremony: Citywide and borough wide winners will be honored as well as honorable mentions.
Details TBA

During the month of May 2016

Book Viewing: **All** entries will be exhibited at Brooklyn Public Library at Grand Army Plaza.
Details TBA

Week of June 6, 2016

Return of Work: Books will be returned to schools no later than June 10, 2016

**Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Project
Declaration of Originality and Author's Statement**

This form must be completed and securely attached with tape to the inside back cover of the book.
Work submitted without this form will NOT be accepted.

Please type or print clearly

This book entitled,	Title of Book	is an original work by
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STUDENT #1 - INFORMATION

First Name	Last Name	Grade Level (3 – 12)	Signature of Student	Role of Student
Student's Statement related to the process of making a picture book:				Author <input type="checkbox"/> Illustrator <input type="checkbox"/>

STUDENT #2 - INFORMATION

First Name	Last Name	Grade Level (3 – 12)	Signature of Student	Role of Student
Student's Statement related to the process of making a picture book:				Author <input type="checkbox"/> Illustrator <input type="checkbox"/>

This book was created under the supervision of:				
First Name	Last Name	Signature	Title: <input type="checkbox"/> Librarian <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher	
First Name	Last Name	Signature	Title: <input type="checkbox"/> Librarian <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher	
First Name	Last Name	Signature	Title: <input type="checkbox"/> Librarian <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher	
School Name		District	Borough	School #
School Address			City, State	Zip Code
Principal's Name		Principal's Email		
Principal's Signature			Date	

Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Project

CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM

Student Name: *(Please Print)* _____ **Grade:** _____

Title of Book for the 2016 Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition _____

Borough: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

School City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

I give permission for my book/artwork, any quotes I may give in interviews and any photographs or videotapes of me or my book/artwork displayed at Grand Army Plaza branch of the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL), to be used on the New York City Department of Education's (DOE) website and in any DOE and/or BPL production or publication (including online). I grant to the DOE and the BPL the right to create a facsimile of my book to be displayed at the BPL. I also grant permission for the DOE and the BPL to photograph and videotape me and my book/artwork as well as edit, use and reuse said photographs, videotapes and quotes for all non-profit purposes of the DOE and the BPL, including on their websites, without compensation. I also grant to the sponsors of the contest, the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, the right to use edit, use and reuse said photographs, videotapes and quotes in their productions or publications (including online) in connection with the contest. I understand that the BPL will take care of the above-listed book/artwork but is not responsible for any loss or damage to same, nor the return of same to me. I hereby release the DOE, the City of New York and the BPL and their agents, employees, volunteers and trustees, from all claims, demands and liabilities whatsoever in connection with or arising out of the above. I understand that I retain ownership of all of my submitted artwork.

Signature of Student: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Consent (To be completed if the above student is under the age of 18).

Name of Parent/Guardian *(Please Print)*: _____

Address of Parent/Guardian: _____

I hereby consent to the participation in interviews, the use of quotes, and the taking of photographs or videotapes of my son/daughter and his/her book/artwork by the New York City Department of Education (DOE) and the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) to be used on their websites or in any DOE and/or BPL productions or publications (including online). I give permission for child's book/artwork to be displayed at the Grand Army Plaza branch of the BPL. I grant permission for the DOE and the BPL to create a facsimile of my child's book to be shown at the BPL. I also grant to the DOE and the BPL the right to edit, use and reuse said photographs, videotapes and quotes for all non-profit purposes of the DOE and the BPL without compensation. I also grant to the sponsors of the contest, the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, the right to use edit, use and reuse said photographs, videotapes and quotes in their productions or publications (including online) in connection with the contest. I understand that the BPL will take care of the above-listed book/artwork but is not responsible for any loss or damage to same, nor the return of same to me or my son/daughter. I also hereby release the DOE, the City of New York and the BPL and their agents, employees, volunteers and trustees from all claims, demand and liabilities whatsoever in connection with or arising out of the above. I understand that my child retains ownership of all of his/her submitted artwork.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ **Date:** _____

THIS IS MORE THAN A COMPETITION!

*Creating picture books should be embedded within the study of the picture book genre.
Here are ways to accomplish that.*

Introduce your students to a variety of texts and to a variety of narrators:

Fiction

Realistic or fantasy

Animals/people as main characters

Rich text or no text

Based on actual events or completely imaginative

Non-Fiction

Biographies and autobiographies

Stories about an actual event

Instructional texts (related to various content areas)

Discuss what qualifies as a picture book.

*(Illustrations **and** text move the story along, set a mood, supply information.)*

Explore the use of a variety of media, textures, contrasts, colors, lines, shapes and uses of space in the illustrations of Ezra Jack Keats, as well as those of other noted picture book illustrators.

Study page layouts in picture books and note:

- relationship of image and text on each page
- similarities and differences from page to page
- patterns throughout the book, in text as well as in illustrations

Note the different shapes of the stories:

- circular- begins and ends at the same place
- linear-progresses in one direction (*e.g. alphabet book*)
- triangular- builds to a problem that is solved
- snapshot- each page tells a story and can stand alone (*as in a photo album*)

Examine the qualities of the text on a page and ask questions such as:

- Is there dialogue?
- Is text made up of a word, a phrase, or one or more sentences?
- Are sentences on the page in their entirety, or continued onto the next page?

Consider how different authors treat the same topic.

Engage students in an author's study and discuss the style, or various styles, of that one author/illustrator.

Visit school or public library. Ask for the librarian's favorites. Invite older students to visit independently.

Research the following websites for more information about children's picture books:

Ezra Jack Keats – www.ezra-jack-keats.org and http://www.lib.usm.edu/degrummond/ezra_keats.html

Caldecott Awards – www.ala.org/alsc/caldecott.html

Children's Book Council – www.cbcbooks.org

View the 2014 catalogue of the Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition at

<http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/EJK/2014%20Ezra%20Jack%20Keats%20Bookmaking%20Competition%20Catalog.pdf>