

Debbie Zimmerman Early Years Niagara Literary Award Definitions and Selection Criteria 2007



DEFINITIONS

1. A “distinguished book for young children” is one for children from birth to six years. The book displays respect for children’s understandings, abilities, and appreciations.
2. “Distinguished” is defined as:
 - marked by eminence and distinction
 - marked by excellence in quality
 - individually distinct

CRITERIA

1. In addition to the criteria implicit in the definitions, the committee may wish to consider whether:
 - a. The book is exceptionally notable and a leading example of the genre to which it belongs.
 - b. The book has established a new type or kind of book available for young children.
2. In identifying a distinguished book for young children,
 - a. Committee members need to consider:
 - excellence of execution in the artistic technique employed;
 - excellence of pictorial interpretation of story, theme, or concept; of appropriateness of style of illustration to the story, theme, or concept;
 - excellence of development of the plot, theme, or concept in a manner that is engaging, captivating, and suited to sharing
 - b. Committee members must consider excellence of presentation in recognition of a child audience: infant, toddler, preschooler. They may also wish to consider other components including the written text, overall design of the book, accessibility etc. See “Choosing Books for Children”.
3. The book to be chosen must be a current publication (within the last 2 years), in English or French.