AUTHOR'S GUIDE TO AWARDS

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INTRODUCTION

Publishing a book is a remarkable accomplishment. CONGRATULATIONS on reaching this significant milestone! Now comes an exciting opportunity to elevate your work and gain recognition through book awards.

This guide is designed to help you identify awards that align with your book's genre and themes, making it easier to find opportunities where your work can shine.

How to Use This Guide

- Awards are organized by genre to help you quickly locate those most relevant to your book.
- Some awards appear under multiple categories if they accept submissions across genres.
- Each entry provides the award name, due date, cost, website, and a full description to help you assess its suitability.

Important Notes

- You will need to submit your entries directly. This guide is intended to provide guidance, not submission services.
- Award deadlines and fees may change. Always verify details on the official websites before applying.
- Many awards have specific eligibility requirements, so please review these carefully.
- Please Note: Prices may vary as the prices are set by each individual award

We hope this guide empowers you to take the next step in your publishing journey with confidence and excitement. Your book deserves to be celebrated, and this is your roadmap to doing just that.

CHILDREN

Bram Stoker Awards

Due Date: November 30th

Cost: Free

Website: https://bramstokerawards.horror.org

Details: This award is open to book must have been published within the last year in the horror or dark fantasy genres. The awards feature 13 categories. Digital copies are generally accepted, though physical copies may be requested. Finalists are typically announced in February, and the winners are announced in May.

Coretta Scott King Book

Due Date: December 1st

Cost: Free

Website: https://www.ala.org/awards/books-media/coretta-scott-king-book-awards

Details: This Award recognises outstanding books for children and young adults by African American authors and illustrators that reflect the African American experience. These awards include 5 categories recognising African American authors and illustrators of children's and young adult books that reflect the African American experience, past, present, or future. Must submit physical copies of the book for each judge. Winners are announced in January during the ALA Youth Media Awards.

Children's Newbery Medal

Due Date: December 1st

Cost: Free

Website: https://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newbery

Details: Book must be published in the last year. Awarded to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature up to the age of 14. Each entry must submit one physical copy to the committee chair. Winners are announced in January during the ALA Youth Media Awards.

CHILDREN

Caldecott Medal

Due Date: December 31st

Cost: Free

Website: https://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecott

Details: This award goes to the illustrator of the most distinguished American picture book or children's book published during the preceding year. There is only one category. Each entry must submit one physical copy to the committee chair. Winners are announced in January during the ALA Youth Media Awards.

Foreword Indies

Due Date: January 15th

Cost: $199+

Website: https://publishers.forewordreviews.com/awards/#what-to-expect

Details: Any independently published book, including those from self-published authors and university presses, published this year. The INDIES are distinguished by an intense judging process utilizing professional editors, booksellers, and librarians. Our final judging process sees each book evaluated by a librarian and a bookseller, the decision makers for millions of book buys a year. They carefully appraise finalist titles using the following criteria: editorial excellence, professional production, originality of the narrative, and the value the book adds to its genre. There are over 50 genres you can enter your title into. Must submit two physical copies. Finalists are announced in March and the final winners are announced in June.

CHILDREN

Purple Dragonfly

Due Date: Multiple dates

Cost: Varies

Website: https://www.storymonstersbookawards.com/

Details: This book is awarded to children's printed books published in any year and available for purchase. A separate entry fee is required for each category entered; books may be submitted to multiple categories. There are a total of 59 diverse categories designed specifically for these publishing formats -ensuring every outstanding story has a place to shine. Purple Dragonfly Contest winners will be notified during the last week of August for each year's contest

FAITH

The Christy Awards (The Amplify Award)

Due Date: March

Cost: $175

Website: https://www.christyawards.com/
https://www.ecpa.org/page/christy_submissions2

Details: The Christy and the Amplify Award for Christian Fiction was created by publishers and agents to elevate and recognize underrepresented ethnic stories of excellence, and their authors. All nominees for The Amplify Award must first be submitted into a traditional category of The Christy Award before opting to be considered for this additional award. The book must have been published within the last year. Submissions are accepted in nine fiction categories. Finalists are announced in September. Winners are announced in November.

Nautilus Book Awards

Due Date: February

Cost: $95+

Website: https://www.nautilusbookawards.com/entry-guidelines

Details: They accept entries in 35 subject categories, but their core values of spiritual growth, conscious living, wellness, helpful social change/justice, love, beauty, and the health of our shared planet must be highlighted in the day. Must submit the book online as a PDF. Awards are announced in May.

FAITH

Illumination Book Awards

Due Date: Mid December

Cost: $99

Website: https://illuminationawards.com/enter

Details: The Illumination Book Awards honor the best Christian books that illuminate, inspire, and uplift readers with messages of faith, hope, and grace. There are over 25 categories from Bible Study and Devotional to Christian Fiction and Romance. Books can be submitted online or physical books can be sent. Each category has three to five winners. All winners are announced in early February.

Carol Awards

Due Date: March 1st

Cost: $135

Website: https://acfw.com/acfw-contests/carol-awards/

Details: The manuscript should conform to the traditionally accepted understanding of Scripture and the Christian worldview. There are 11 categories your book may be entered into; authors must select the category that is the best fit for their book.The book must have been published within the last year. Books must be submitted as an electronic copy in .pdf form no physical copies will be accepted.

INDIE

IndieReader Discovery Awards

Due Date: March 1- 31st

Cost: $150

Website: https://indiereader.com/the-discovery-awards

Details: There are no restrictions on publication dates. Books can be submitted as eBooks (PDF, epub or mobi files) and paper books. If submitting a paper book please submit a total of 3 books no matter the number of categories. There will be a first, second and third prize winner in both the fiction and non-fiction categories.There is the potential for there to be one winner in each of over 50 subcategories (genres), but only if the book receives a 4-5 star rating. All winners are announced end of May.

Foreword Indies Book of the Year Award

Due Date: January 15th

Cost: $119

Website: https://publishers.forewordreviews.com/awards/

Details: The INDIES are distinguished by an intense judging process utilizing professional editors, booksellers, and librarians. Our final judging process sees each book evaluated by a librarian and a bookseller, the decision makers for millions of book buys a year. They carefully appraise finalist titles using the following criteria: editorial excellence, professional production, originality of the narrative, and the value the book adds to its genre. There are over 50 genres you can enter your title into. Must submit two physical copies. Finalists are announced in March and the final winners are announced in June.

INDIE

Indie Excellence Awards

Due Date: March 31st

Cost: 150+

Website: https://www.indieexcellence.com/

Details: Please send one physical copy of the book per category entered, ebooks are not accepted. There are over 100 categories you can enter to win. Winners and Finalists will be notified in June. National Indie Excellence® Awards (NIEA) so that only one book per category may be designated the "Winner." but there are runners up called "Finalists" that are also recognised.

The Independent Author Network IAN Book of the Year Awards

Due Date: Mid August

Cost: $49

Website: https://www.independentauthornetwork.com/book-of-the-year.html

Details: The IAN Book of the Year Awards is open to all English language print and eBooks available for sale, including small presses, mid-size independent publishers, university presses, and self-published authors. There are a total of 76 categories. A Category Winner will be awarded in each category with recognition of Finalists. Six outstanding titles will be named the Books of the Year. Winners are announced in November.

MEMOIR

Pulitzer Prizes

Due Date: October 15th

Cost: $75

Website: https://bdmentrysite.pulitzer.org/

Details: The Pulitzer Prizes have eight categories you can enter into: Drama, Fiction, History, Biography, Memoir, General Nonfiction, Poetry, and Music. Eligibility is contingent on its availability as a bound book. must have submitted the most finalised iteration of their work (whether a manuscript copy, galley or complete PDF) by the competition deadline in October to be considered. Books first published in the calendar year prior are not eligible(ex. books published in 2025 not eligible for 2027 awards)

NON-FICTION

Pulitzer Prizes

Due Date: October 15th

Cost: $75

Website: https://bdmentrysite.pulitzer.org/

Details: The Pulitzer Prizes have eight categories you can enter into: Drama, Fiction, History, Biography, Memoir, General Nonfiction, Poetry, and Music. Eligibility is contingent on its availability as a bound book. must have submitted the most finalised iteration of their work (whether a manuscript copy, galley or complete PDF) by the competition deadline in October to be considered. Books first published in the calendar year prior are not eligible(ex. books published in 2025 not eligible for 2027 awards)

Bram Stoker Awards

Due Date: November 30th

Cost: Free

Website: https://bramstokerawards.horror.org

Details: This award is open to book must have been published within the last year in the horror or dark fantasy genres. The awards feature 13 categories: First Novel, Non-fiction, short fiction, long fiction, fiction collection, screenplay, anthology, novel, graphic novel/illustrated narrative, young adult novel/works for young readers. Digital copies are generally accepted, though physical copies may be requested. Finalists are typically announced in February, and the winners are announced in May.

NON-FICTION

Foreword Indies

Due Date: June 30th

Cost: $99+

Website: https://publishers.forewordreviews.com/awards/#what-to-expect

Details: The INDIES are distinguished by an intense judging process utilizing professional editors, booksellers, and librarians. Our final judging process sees each book evaluated by a librarian and a bookseller, the decision makers for millions of book buys a year. They carefully appraise finalist titles using the following criteria: editorial excellence, professional production, originality of the narrative, and the value the book adds to its genre. There are over 50 genres you can enter your title into. Must submit two physical copies. Finalists are announced in March and the final winners are announced in June.

The Chautauqua Prize for Author

Due Date: November 30th

Cost: $85

Website: https://www.chq.org/things-to-do/education/literary-arts/chautauqua-prize/

Details: Full-length books of fiction and narrative/literary nonfiction or poetry are eligible. Nonfiction may include history, science, religion, memoir, biography, journalism, and all sub-genres of creative nonfiction. Physical books must be mailed accompanied by entry form. Long-list finalists are confidentially notified in February. Winners announced in May.

NON-FICTION

National Book Awards

Due Date: Mid May

Cost: $135

Website: https://www.nationalbook.org/national-book-awards/submissions/

Details: This award has 5 categories: best Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Translated Literature, and Young People's Literature. This award requires both physical and electronic versions of the book. The top 5 of each category are announced in October and the winner of is announced in mid November.

Nautilus Book Awards

Due Date: February

Cost: $95+

Website: https://www.nautilusbookawards.com/

Details: They accept entries in 35 subject categories, but their core values of spiritual growth, conscious living, wellness, helpful social change/justice, love, beauty, and the health of our shared planet must be highlighted in the day. Must submit the book online as a PDF. Awards are announced in May.

NON-FICTION

Coretta Scott King Book Awards RoundTable

Due Date: December 1st

Cost: Free

Website: https://www.ala.org/cskbart/coretta-scott-king-book-awards-submission-form1

Details: This Award recognises outstanding books for children and young adults by African American authors and illustrators that reflect the African American experience. These awards include 5 categories recognising African American authors and illustrators of children's and young adult books that reflect the African American experience, past, present, or future. Must submit physical copies of the book for each judge. Winners are announced in January during the ALA Youth Media Awards.

POETRY

The Chautauqua Prize for Author

Due Date: November 30th

Cost: $85

Website: https://www.chq.org/things-to-do/education/literary-arts/chautauqua-prize/

Details: Full-length books of fiction and narrative/literary nonfiction or poetry are eligible. Nonfiction may include history, science, religion, memoir, biography, journalism, and all sub-genres of creative nonfiction. Physical books must be mailed accompanied by entry form. Long-list finalists are confidentially notified in February. Winners announced in May.

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Details: This Award recognises outstanding books for children and young adults by African American authors and illustrators that reflect the African American experience. These awards include 5 categories recognising African American authors and illustrators of children's and young adult books that reflect the African American experience, past, present, or future. Must submit physical copies of the book for each judge. Winners are announced in January during the ALA Youth Media Awards.

POETRY

Nautilus Book Awards

Due Date: February

Cost: $95+

Website: https://www.nautilusbookawards.com/

Details: They accept entries in 35 subject categories, but their core values of spiritual growth, conscious living, wellness, helpful social change/justice, love, beauty, and the health of our shared planet must be highlighted in the day. Must submit the book online as a PDF. Awards are announced in May.

National Book Awards

Due Date: Mid May

Cost: $135

Website: https://www.nationalbook.org/national-book-awards/submissions/

Details: This award has 5 categories: best Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Translated Literature, and Young People's Literature. This award requires both physical and electronic versions of the book. The top 5 of each category are announced in October and the winner of is announced in mid November.

SCIENCE

Coretta Scott King Book Awards RoundTable

Due Date: December 1st

Cost: Free

Website: https://www.ala.org/cskbart/coretta-scott-king-book-awards-submission-form1

Details: This Award recognises outstanding books for children and young adults by African American authors and illustrators that reflect the African American experience. These awards include 5 categories recognising African American authors and illustrators of children's and young adult books that reflect the African American experience, past, present, or future. Must submit physical copies of the book for each judge. Winners are announced in January during the ALA Youth Media Awards.

Nautilus Book Awards

Due Date: September

Cost: $95+

Website: https://www.nautilusbookawards.com/

Details: They accept entries in 35 subject categories, but their core values of spiritual growth, conscious living, wellness, helpful social change/justice, love, beauty, and the health of our shared planet must be highlighted in the day. Must submit the book online as a PDF. Awards are announced in May.

YOUNG ADULTS

The Chautauqua Prize for Author

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Cost: $85

Website: https://www.chq.org/things-to-do/education/literary-arts/chautauqua-prize/

Details: Full-length books of fiction and narrative/literary nonfiction or poetry are eligible. Nonfiction may include history, science, religion, memoir, biography, journalism, and all sub-genres of creative nonfiction. Physical books must be mailed accompanied by entry form. Long-list finalists are confidentially notified in February. Winners announced in May.

National Book Awards

Due Date: Mid May

Cost: $135

Website: https://www.nationalbook.org/national-book-awards/submissions/

Details: This award has 5 categories- best Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Translated Literature, and Young People's Literature. This award requires both physical and electronic versions of the book. The top 5 of each category are announced in October and the winner of is announced in mid-November.

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Nautilus Book Awards

Due Date: February

Cost: $95+

Website: https://www.nautilusbookawards.com/

Details: They accept entries in 35 subject categories, but their core values of spiritual growth, conscious living, wellness, helpful social change/justice, love, beauty, and the health of our shared planet must be highlighted in the day. Must submit the book online as a PDF. Awards are announced in May.

OTHER/ UNCATEGORISED

The Chautauqua Prize for Author

Due Date: November 30th

Cost: $85

Website: https://www.chq.org/things-to-do/education/literary-arts/chautauqua-prize/

Details: Full-length books of fiction and narrative/literary nonfiction or poetry are eligible. Nonfiction may include history, science, religion, memoir, biography, journalism, and all sub-genres of creative nonfiction. Physical books must be mailed accompanied by entry form. Long-list finalists are confidentially notified in February. Winners announced in May.

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OTHER/ UNCATEGORISED

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