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THE NATIONAL BOOK PRIZE 2024 - REGULATIONS

National Book Prize for Adults (NBP) and the Terramaxka Prize for Children and Young Adults (TP) 2024 (Books 2023)

I. Definitions and Structure

The National Book Prize, organised by the National Book Council, is the highest literary prize assigned in Malta to authors, editors, translators, publishers and illustrators for work published locally during the preceding year.

The National Book Prize comprises the National Book Prize for Adults (NBP), and the Terramaxka Prize – the National Book Prize for Children and Young Adults (TP).

The shortlisted titles and the winning titles in the 8 categories of the NBP and the 6 categories of the TP are selected by an independent adjudication board. The members of this board are to follow a set of criteria in their evaluation in order to ensure the highest degree of transparency and fairness as is appropriate for such important and prestigious prizes.

The award-giving ceremony will be held on Friday 20 September for both the National Book Prize for Adults and the Terramaxka Prize for Children and Young Adults.

For the purposes of these regulations, the National Book Council is providing these definitions:

Author – the living writer of creative works of an original nature.

Translator – the living writer who concerns himself with translation of literary texts.

Book – a printed book or an ebook with an ISBN issued by the National Book Council.

Publisher – an individual or group of individuals that have published at least one book.

Illustrator – the living illustrator of creative works of an original nature.

NBP – short for National Book Prize for Adults

TP – short for Terramaxka Prize for Children and Young Adults

II. Eligibility

1. All the categories of the National Book Prize, excluding the translation categories, are bilingual (Maltese and English).
2. The publication date for the 2024 edition must be 2023.
3. Only original works are eligible to receive the National Book Prize; at least 80% of the book's content must not have been published before. Literary adaptations for different demographic groups (such as adaptations for children) are not considered original works.
4. Collected works or anthologies are only eligible if at least 80% of the content has not been previously published.
5. Textbooks, defined as publications intended for use as a standard work for the study of a particular subject in school (all levels), are not eligible to receive the National Book Prize.
6. The ISBN number for the submitted books must have been issued by the National Book Council (Maltese ISBN).
7. Books which were granted funding by the Malta Book Fund are eligible for submission to the National Book Prize. Winners of the Novels for Youth Literary Contest are eligible for submission to the National Book Prize.
8. A copy of the publication must have been legally deposited at the National Library of Malta.
9. The National Book Prize is awarded only to living authors. Only books by living authors are eligible to be submitted for consideration and can receive the National Book Prize. In any other eventuality the book will be considered ineligible to receive the National Book Prize.
10. Employees of the National Book Council cannot submit works, as authors, translators or publishers, to be considered for the National Book Prize.

III. Adjudication process and Prizes

1. Every book will be evaluated according to criteria set by the National Book Council and outlined in the guidelines and criteria for each respective category. All decisions taken by the National Book Council and the adjudication board are final and binding.
2. The adjudication board is responsible for compiling a longlist of all submitted and eligible books. The longlist will be published on 2 April 2024. The classification exercise verifies eligibility according to the NBP Regulations, including the following criteria:
 - Correct year of publication.
 - Eligible books carry a local ISBN number.
 - Eligible books contain at least 80% original content.
 - Books are submitted to the appropriate category.

During the compilation of the longlist, adjudicators are not required to assess works through marking or provide any further comments on the quality of the submissions.

3. After 15 weeks from the publication of the longlist, the adjudication board is responsible for compiling a shortlist of up to 5 (five) titles for each category, from which the adjudicators may later choose a winner. At shortlisting stage, the adjudicators are to ensure each shortlisted publication satisfies the set criteria, but no marks are given.
4. Adjudicators are to provide consolidated comments for the books which are NOT shortlisted, answering the following question: *based on the criteria of the respective prize category, why is this book not being shortlisted?* Comments are to be provided to the NBC administrators according to templates provided; one file per adjudication team, containing each adjudicator's comments. Those publications that do not meet the set criteria will not feature in the shortlist.
5. During the final adjudication stage, the adjudication board will judge each of the shortlisted publications according to the established criteria and marking scheme for each respective category. A winner is selected only if the required level (90 marks) is reached. The board may not award the prize if no publication satisfies the set criteria and does not reach the required level.
6. The shortlisted nominees for all categories in both the NBP for adults and the TP for children and young adults will be announced on 27 August 2024. The winners will be announced on 20 September 2024.
7. Only one prize in each category may be awarded, if the required level (as per point 2) is met.
8. Any winning publication in every category (excluding the Translation categories of the Terramaxka Prize) will be given an award of €4,000, a trophy and a certificate. Publishers of awarded books receive €1,000 for each prize-winning book.

9. The Terramaxka prizes in the categories for original books for children and young adults are awarded to both the writer and the illustrator, if any. The prize is split between writer and the illustrator, if any.
10. The Terramaxka prizes in the categories for translated books for children and young adults are awarded to the translator only - awarded translators of books submitted to TP translation categories receive a prize of €2,000, alongside a trophy and a certificate.
11. A certificate will be awarded to the publishers of the winning books in every category of the NBP and TP.

IV. Special prizes

1. A trophy, certificate of merit and a prize of €4,000 will be awarded to the publishing house behind the best-produced book of 2023. The Prize for Best Book Production will be awarded to any of the shortlisted publications in the adult categories and the Terramaxka categories of the National Book Prize, for a total of two prizes. Evaluation encompasses aspects like design, print quality, formatting, and innovation assessing criteria which include cover design, print quality, typesetting, and accessibility.
2. A trophy, a certificate of merit and a money prize of €4,000 will be awarded to one writer who has given a notable contribution to the fields of literature or book publishing (Lifetime Achievement Award). The recipient to this award is nominated by the National Book Council and chosen by the Council's Board. The name of the winner will be announced during the award-giving ceremony.
3. A trophy, a prize of €4,000 and a certificate of merit will be awarded to one emergent author, who is a promising young writer or a debut writer, and who have distinguished themselves in their writing and books. The Best Emergent Writer Award recipient is nominated by the National Book Council and chosen by the Council's Board. The name of the winner will be announced during the award-giving ceremony.

V. Prize Categories

Adults (NBP)

1. Novels
2. Short-stories
3. Poetry
4. Drama
5. Literature in Translation¹
6. Non-fiction²
7. Research³
8. Historiographic Research⁴

Children and Young Adults (TP)

1. Picture books for children (ages 0-7)
2. Children's Literature (ages 8-12)
3. Young Adult Literature
4. Picture books translated into Maltese (ages 0-7)*
5. Children's Literature translated into Maltese (ages 8-12)*
6. Young Adult Literature in Maltese Translation*

¹ See Specific guidelines for Translation categories below.

² The Non-fiction category includes: prose works which employ the literary techniques usually associated with fiction or poetry to report on persons, places and events in the real world in the form of travel writing, nature writing, science writing, sports writing, and the genres associated with life writing more broadly, including the biography, autobiography or memoir, the interview, and both the familiar and personal essay.

³ Books submitted to the Research category may cover a wide range of topics and may adopt an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating findings from various fields. Books in this category may include books that address current issues or advancements in a particular field. Books specifically focused on historical research and interpretation should be submitted to the Historiographic Research category.

⁴ Books submitted to the Historiographic Research category should be specifically focused on historical research and interpretation with an emphasis on the study of past events, people, and societies. Historiographic research involves critical analysis and interpretation of historical sources and may explore different methodologies and perspectives. Books in this category should make significant contributions to our understanding of history, possibly challenging existing interpretations or offering new insights.

***Specific guidelines for Translation categories:**

- The accepted categories of literary genres to be presented as translated texts into Maltese are Prose Fiction (including short stories) and Literary Non-Fiction, Drama and Poetry.
- For these prizes, only translations of literary texts into Maltese from the following languages will be accepted: (a) English; (b) Italian; (c) French; (d) Spanish; (e) German. In cases of translations from any other language into Maltese, the submitted publication must be accompanied by a bridge language text in English. Books translated from English, Italian, French, Spanish and German must be accompanied by a copy of the work in the source language, either in its original or latest edition version thereof. Books submitted for the competition unaccompanied by the original version or bridge language text will not be considered as eligible. A copy of the source text, or a photocopy of the original in the case of the translation of rare texts, is to be submitted.
- Ideally, all translated texts should be translated directly from the source text. In the case of bridge translations or translations of other translations, the version/edition used is to be declared. Likewise to be declared is the translator's use of sources other than the original one, or other bridge translations, if any.
- Judges competent in the respective languages of both the source and target languages will be engaged locally. In some cases additional judges may have to be brought in for specific language combinations.
- While prizes for the original work categories of the Terramaxka Prize (€4,000) are awarded to both the writer and the illustrator, if any, and split between them, prizes for the translation categories of the Terramaxka Prize are only awarded to the translator, who receives €2,000.

I. Submissions

Participants must submit an application for every book entered for the competition. An online application form is available at the NBC's website: www.ktieb.org.mt. A hard-copy of the same form is also available.

Entries for the competition may be submitted by: the authors themselves or those who own the authors' publishing rights with the consent of the publishers; as well as publishers with the consent of the authors or those who own the authors' rights.

Applicants are to indicate clearly under which category the book is being entered. The National Book Council reserves the right to change a category indicated by the authors and/or publishers if, in the opinion of the adjudicating board, it is decided that works were entered in the wrong category. In this case participants will be notified accordingly.

As part of the application form, participants should also submit an author's bio (150 words max.) and profile picture, as well as four copies of the book.

Four copies of the book entered should be sent to the National Book Council by post, or delivered at the address below by 29 February 2024 at noon:

**National Book Council
Bice Mizzi Vassallo Complex,
Arnhem Road,
Pembroke - PBK 1776**

Book deliveries are received at the National Book Council offices Mon-Fri from 08:00-16:00. For any queries email Michael Mercieca on michael.mercieca@gov.mt.

The FULL application, including the submission of the online application form and delivery of the books, should reach the National Book Council not later than **29 February 2024 at noon. Late entries will not be accepted.**

If a book is found ineligible and is not longlisted, the applicant will be contacted and the copies submitted may be returned. However, books that enter the shortlisting process shall not be returned.

Annex I - The 2024 National Book Prize - Criteria

1. Novels

Technique 20%

Does the author present his/her work with a distinctive and original voice? (5 marks)

Is the story told in a clear and focused manner? (4 marks)

Is the pacing appropriate for the unfolding story? Does the rhythm work to sustain interest? (4 marks)

To what extent does the author balance *showing versus telling* to make the flow of the story active and engaging? (7 marks)

Plot, Situation and Conflict 20%

Has the author constructed convincing and compelling storyline/s and/or situations? (6 marks)

Is there sufficient conflict (internal and/or external) to sustain the reader's interest? And does it arise from the characters' motivations and goals? (4 marks)

Does each scene have a clear and necessary relationship with the scenes that precede and follow it? (4 marks)

Is/are the plot and/or situation/s well handled? (6 marks)

Characterisation and Dialogue 20%

Does each major character exhibit a unique voice and distinguishing personality traits and is this voice consistent and appropriate given his/her role in the narrative? (4 marks)

Are the main characters multidimensional, with evidence (or at least hints) that they have weaknesses as well as strengths? And do they behave, speak and interact appropriately for the time period and genre of the novel? *Note that this criterion need not be applied to characters that are clearly intended to be prototypes and caricatures.* (4 marks)

Are the various points of view in accordance with the narrative strategy? (4 marks)

Do the dialogue and narrative provide characterization and move the story and/or relationships forward? (4 marks)

Is the dialogue natural or stylistically appropriate (that is, not stilted or overly explanatory)? (4 marks)

Mechanics 20%

Does the novel open with a compelling hook that makes you want to continue reading? (5 marks)

Do the introductory pages establish the narrative setting in an artful and well-balanced manner? (5 marks)

Does the rhythm of the prose enhance the meaning? (3 marks)

Is the publication free of typographical, spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors? (4 marks)

Are the dominant themes well developed? (3 marks)

Overall Impression 20%

Does the author manage to concretize his/her ideas through the characters and their actions and not through a didactic voice? (6 marks)

Is the usage of language good, fresh and innovative? (6 marks)

Does this story engage your emotions and do you feel stimulated and enlightened by the experience of reading this story? (8 marks)

2. Short-stories

Technique 20%

Does the opening of each story set the tone of the entire story? (7 marks)

Are the stories told in a clear and focused manner? And is the use of language appropriate? (6 marks)

To what extent does the author balance *showing versus telling* to make the flow of the story active and engaging? (7 marks)

Plot, Situation and Conflict 20%

How much would you say that the stories aim at unity of effect and often concentrate on the creation of the mood? (7 marks)

Are the scenes well described and do they sustain the reader's interest? (3 marks)

How much would you say that the plot is just a means to an end and that the real interest of the author centres on the analysis and exposition of a character? (5 marks)

Do the stories culminate in surprising twists? (5 marks)

Characterisation and Dialogue 20%

Does each major character exhibit a unique voice and distinguishing personality traits and is this voice consistent and appropriate given his/her role in the narrative? (8 marks)

Do the various points of view play out in accordance with the narrative strategy? (4 marks)

Does the author present his/her work in a distinctive voice and an engaging style of expression? (4 marks)

Is the dialogue natural or stylistically appropriate (that is, not stilted or overly explanatory)? (4 marks)

Mechanics 20%

Do the short stories possess unity of form? (8 marks)

Does the author artfully balance the facts to suppress and the facts to elaborate? (4 marks)

Does the rhythm of the prose enhance the meaning? (4 marks)

Is the publication free of typographical, spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors? (4 marks)

Overall Impression 20%

Is the form that the author has chosen suitable to what he tells? (5 marks)

Does the author manage to concretise ideas through the characters and their actions and not through a didactic voice? (3 marks)

Do the stories grab you and engage your emotions? Do you feel enlightened by the experience of reading this work? (4 marks)

How much would you consider these short stories as an “art of miniaturisation”? (8 marks)

3. Poetry

Originality 20%

To what extent do the poems in this anthology strike you as authentic and imaginative? (6 marks)

Is the subject matter tackled in a fresh and unique way? (5 marks)

Would you consider the phraseology, rhythm and style of the poems distinct? (4 marks)

How unusual and fresh is the imagery (metaphors, similes, etc)? (5 marks)

Technical Excellence 20%

Is there proper “economy” of thoughts and words? (4 marks)

To what extent are the poems sensitive to the theme/s they treat? (6 marks)

Do the poems connect with the reader? (4 marks)

Is the publication free of typographical, spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors? (6 marks)

Form 20%

Do the poems display a fluid writing style? (2 marks)

Do the poems have a flow and a texture? (8 marks)

Does the rhythm create a pleasant effect? (4 marks)

Does the persona maintain a consistent voice? (6 marks)

Choice of words and readability 20%

Is the voice in each and every poem strong and distinct? (3 marks)

How much do you think the poems manage to avoid clichés, unless these are clearly intentional? (5 marks)

How much would you say that the poem pay attention to the sound of the words? (4 marks)

Do the poems have more than one level of meaning? (8 marks)

Overall impact 20%

Do the poems “work” – do they accomplish what they set out to do? (6 marks)

Do these poems engage your emotions? (7 marks)

Would you consider these poems powerful? (7 marks)

4. Drama

Technique 20%

Does the author manage to present his work in a distinct and original voice? (4 marks)

Are these stories retold in a clear and focused manner? (4 marks)

Does the author make sure to take into consideration the space in which the play unfolds? (4 marks)

Is the length of the play adequate and well planned? (4 marks)

Do the characters' entrances and exits from one scene to the next (as well as on and off set) work? (4 marks)

Plot, Situation and Conflict 20%

Are the plot/situations convincing and exciting? (4 marks)

Is there enough conflict (internal or external) to keep the readers interested? And does this conflict come across via the motivations and scope of the characters themselves? (4 marks)

Do the scenes/situations bind coherently with previous and following scenes? (4 marks)

Are the plot and/or situations well wrought? (4 marks)

Are the analepsis and prolepsis techniques well used? (4 marks)

Characterisation and Dialogue 20%

Does every main character have a unique voice and distinctive characteristics? Do you feel that this voice is consistent and adequate for the role of the character? (4 marks)

Are the main characters multidimensional, with evidence (or at least hints) of both weaknesses and strengths? (4 marks)

Do they act, speak and appear in tune with the genre and the time in which the play is set? (Naturally, this criteria is dispensed with in cases where a character is intended to appear as a prototype or caricature. One must however be aware of equally valid instances where a multidimensional/realistic character also serves as a caricature/ stereotype/prototype.)

Do the dialogue and actions help build the characters and transport the plot and/or relationships forward? (4 marks)

Is the dialogue natural as opposed to forced and/or too didactic? (Naturally, this depends on the genre of drama – for example, in the Theatre of the Absurd one would expect the dialogue to be less natural and more heightened.) (4 marks)

Are the stage directions clear and well-wrought and do they help the director and reader? (4 marks)

Mechanics 20%

How effective are the opening and closing of the play? (4 marks)

Do the first pages establish the setting in a balanced and artistic way? (4 marks)

Is the rhythm of the play adequate for the themes explored throughout? (4 marks)

Is this text faultless in terms of typography, orthography and grammar? (4 marks)

Is/are the main theme/s well developed? (4 marks)

Overall Impression 20%

Does the author manage to put into effect his ideas via his characters and their actions rather than via a didactic voice? (8 marks)

How fresh and innovative is the use of the language? (6 marks)

Does this play manage to evoke emotion in you? Can you visualize it being produced on stage? (6 marks)

5. Literature in Translation

Definitions

The definition of *Translation* in this context for the purpose of competing for the National Book Prize is the following:

a linguistic interpretation of a literary text of universally-accepted literary genres originally written in any language (to be referred to as the Source Language) into Maltese (to be referred to as the Target Language).

The phrase *Linguistic interpretation* is hereby defined as:

*a textual rendering where a reasonable balance is kept between 'faithfulness' to the original authorial intention in both content and form, **and** the translated/interpreted text incorporating intrinsically accepted literary values in its own right.⁵*

Criteria used in adjudicating translated texts of literary content

The texts in all the accepted genres – **Prose Fiction** (including *short stories*) and **Non-Fiction, Drama and Poetry** – are to be evaluated as per the adjudicating criteria listed below. Applications will be evaluated on the basis of a rigorous examination of both the Source Text (and its relation to the finished translated work in Maltese) and the translated Target Text, based on the **quality of the translation**, with an eye to the potential impact of the original Source Text on the Target Text, and to the pertinent experience of the translator or translators.

Significance of the translated work

In its source culture (12 marks)

In its target culture (12 marks)

Translation accuracy and precision (faithfulness to original)

Retaining of the content/spirit of the original text (8 marks)

Accuracy and consistency of idiomatic rendering 8 marks)

Translator's experience (understanding of the sense and meaning of the original author and historical, political, socio-cultural & literary context in which the text was produced; knowledge of both source language and target language) (8 marks)

Evidence of close, critical and creative reading of original text leading to valid & faithful interpretation and lack of overt errors (not-translated words or phrases, change in meaning - slight or significant - or distortion of meaning, breach of the language system, creative translation, cultural filtering) (8 marks)

⁵ In such cases, the wedding of 'fidelity' and 'effectiveness' is ideal. Both schools of translation theory (the one subscribing to *les belles infideles*, and the other upholding 'the faithful ones') have their virtues and limitations. In this respect, it may be advisable, though not obligatory, for the translator to declare upfront (ideally in the Foreword) his intention regarding his balanced allegiance to text-faithfulness and text-creativity. Another authorial intention to be specifically included in the Foreword by the translator should refer to the roles of form and function (i.e. expected outcome of the translated text), and the target reader/s.

Additions and deletions (comments, footnotes/endnotes, bibliography, etc.) instrumental to finding an equivalence of meaning (6 marks)

Translation stylistics and aesthetics (effectiveness: text incorporates intrinsically accepted literary values and merits in its own right, as distinct from their adherence to the original form and content)

Distinctive and original voice (14 marks)

Nuanced sense and appreciation of the discourse-stylistics of the original (i.e. use of language for the desired effect/s) (12 marks)

Readability and smoothness (12 marks)

6. Non-fiction

Technique and Literary Style (40%)

The ideas and content are creative, evocative and compelling. (10 marks)

The structure is clear and focused. The author conveys clear ideas and messages. (10 marks)

There is a distinctive literary style that gives distinctive characteristics to the book. (10 marks)

The book has a distinctive narrative voice and tone. (10 marks)

Originality and objectives (30%)

The book is well researched. (7 marks)

The nature of the research is original. (6 marks)

The book is built on a consistent theme. (7 marks)

The book achieves a desired goal (persuade, inform, inspire, amuse etc.) (10 marks)

Relevance (30%)

The book provides an overall interesting read and it arouses curiosity in the reader on its subject matter. (10 marks)

The book conveys new information. (10 marks)

The book is relevant. (10 marks)

7. Research

Importance and Originality of the Subject 20%

Research enters uncharted territory, and discovers new theories and new facts which were previously unknown. (5 marks)

The study can be considered as a contribution to advancing the field of the humanities/sciences. (5 marks)

The research work is sound, original and persuasive. (5 marks)

Theories used are well-founded and put into context. (5 marks)

Research Methodology 30%

The objective of the study is sufficiently and clearly described. (8 marks)

The study design is evident and appropriate. (5 marks)

The study provides a connection, a theoretical framework and a wider body of knowledge. (7 marks)

The research strategy described is relevant and justified. (5 marks)

Statements and conclusions are sustained with evidence/results. (5 marks)

Evidence and Support 20%

All evidence used is properly referenced. (5 marks)

The work is extensively documented and has an extensive bibliography or a list of works cited. (5 marks)

The text contains illustrations, diagrams, charts and tables. (5 marks)

Figures and illustrations are properly presented, analyzed and referenced. (5 marks)

Clarity and Style 15%

The context for the study is clear. (5 marks)

The work presents a clear and effective argument. (5 marks)

The language used includes jargon, terms and/or statistical figures that are used in the discipline. (5 marks)

Overall Impression 15%

Mastery of the subject. (5 marks)

Excellence in research. (5 marks)

Excellence in writing, organization and presentation. (5 marks)

8. Historiographic Research

Importance and Originality of the Subject 25%

The work identifies the major debates in the field. (5 marks)

The study can be considered as a contribution to advancing the field of historiography. (5 marks)

The work is relevant to Maltese History. (5 marks)

The work adheres to issues of historical interest. (5 marks)

The work presents new research questions and areas which still need to be investigated. (5 marks)

Research Methodology 25%

The objective of the study is sufficiently and clearly described. (8 marks)

The study uses a theoretical approach. (5 marks)

The study is based on a working hypothesis. (7 marks)

Statements and conclusions made are supported by evidence/results. (5 marks)

Evidence and Support 20%

All evidence used is properly referenced. (5 marks)

The work is extensively documented and has an extensive bibliography or a list of works cited. (5 marks)

The text contains illustrations such as diagrams, charts and tables. (5 marks)

Illustrations are properly presented, analyzed and referenced. (5 marks)

Clarity and Style 15%

The context for the study is clear. (5 marks)

The work presents a clear and effective argument. (5 marks)

The language used includes jargon, terms and/or statistical figures that are used in the discipline. (5 marks)

Overall Impression 15%

Mastery of the thesis. (5 marks)

Excellence in research. (5 marks)

Excellence in writing, organization and presentation. (5 marks)

The 2023 Terramaxka Prize - Criteria

1. Picture books for children (ages 0-7)

Technique 20%

Does the author present his/her work with a distinctive and original voice? (4 marks)

Is the story told in a clear and focused manner? (5 marks)

Is the subject matter presented in a fresh and original way? (6 marks)

Does the opening set the tone of the entire story? (5 marks)

Text and Characters 30%

Does the text flow naturally when read aloud? (4 marks)

Are there pleasing sounds, rhymes, rhythms or repetitions? (5 marks)

Does the plot structure engage the readers? (4 marks)

Are the characters enjoyable and fun? (5 marks)

Is the usage of language good, fresh and innovative? (5 marks)

Is this work free of typographical, spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors? (7 marks)

Text/Illustration relationship 30%

How much would you say that the illustrations relate to the text? (5 marks)

How much would you say that the illustrations relate to each other? (5 marks)

Do the pictures follow a logical sequence? (4 marks)

How much would you consider the illustrations to be fresh, rather than old-fashioned? (6 marks)

Is there an overall sense of unity in the illustrations? (5 marks)

Do the illustrations take the story beyond its words? (5 marks)

Overall Impression 20%

Does the book “work” – that is, does it accomplish what it sets out to do? (6 marks)

Would you consider the book as a fun read? (8 marks)

Would you consider the subject matter appropriate for the age group it is addressed to? (6 marks)

2. Children's Literature (ages 8-12)

Technique 20%

Does the author present his/her work with a distinctive and original voice? (4 marks)

Is the story told in a clear and focused manner? (5 marks)

Is the subject matter presented in a fresh and original way? (6 marks)

Does the opening set the tone of the entire story? (5 marks)

Text and Characters 40%

Has the author constructed a convincing and compelling story? (6 marks)

Are there pleasing sounds, rhymes and rhythms? (3 marks)

Does the plot structure engage the reader? (5 marks)

Is the usage of language good, fresh and innovative? (5 marks)

Is the dialogue natural, that is, not stilted or overly explanatory? (6 marks)

Are the characters in this work sufficiently interesting? (6 marks)

Does the author manage to concretise his/her ideas through the characters and their actions and not through a didactic voice? (4 marks)

Is this work free of typographical, spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors? (5 marks)

Text/Illustration relationship 20%

To what degree would you say that the illustrations relate to the text? (5 marks)

How much would you consider the illustrations to be fresh, rather than old-fashioned? (6 marks)

Is there an overall sense of unity in the illustrations? (4 marks)

Do the illustrations take the story beyond its words? (5 marks)

Overall Impression 20%

Does the book "work" – that is, does it accomplish what it sets out to do? (6 marks)

Would you consider the book as a fun read? (8 marks)

Would you consider the subject matter appropriate for the age group it is addressed to? (6 marks)

3. Young Adult Literature

Technique 20%

Does the author present his/her work with a distinctive and original voice? (4 marks)

Is the story told in a clear and focused manner? (5 marks)

Is the subject matter presented in a fresh and original way? (7 marks)

Is the pacing appropriate for the unfolding story? Does the rhythm work to sustain interest? (4 marks)

Text and Characters 40%

Has the author constructed a convincing and compelling story? (6 marks)

Does the plot structure engage the readers? (3 marks)

Are the scenes/situations well described and do they sustain the reader's interest? (6 marks)

Is the usage of language good, fresh and innovative? (5 marks)

Is the dialogue natural, that is, not stilted or overly explanatory? (8 marks)

Are the characters in this work sufficiently interesting? (6 marks)

Does the author manage to concretize his ideas through the characters and their actions and not through a didactic voice? (6 marks)

Mechanics 20%

Does the novel open with a compelling hook? And does the opening set the tone for the entire story? (8 marks)

Does the rhythm of the prose enhance the meaning? (6 marks)

Is this work free of typographical, spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors? (6 marks)

Overall impression 20%

Does the book "work" – that is, does it accomplish what it sets out to do? (6 marks)

Would you consider the book as a fun read? (8 marks)

Would you consider the subject matter appropriate for the age group it is addressed to? (6 marks)

4. Picture books translated into Maltese (ages 0-7)

Adjudication criteria for children and adolescent literature in translation

Definition of *Translation* in this context for the purpose of competing for the Award is the following:

a linguistic interpretation of a literary text of universally-accepted literary genres originally written in any language (to be referred to as the Source Language) into Maltese (to be referred to as the Target Language).

Linguistic interpretation is hereby defined as:

a textual rendering where a reasonable balance is kept between “faithfulness” to the original authorial intention in both content & form, and the translated/adapted text incorporating intrinsic and accepted literary values in its own right.

Broadly speaking, there are **two main criteria**, to be adhered to:

1. The texts translated are to have **as close and as faithful an interpretation as possible to the original**, whether this text is **directly** translated from the source, or whether through the intermediary bridge language of English.

Faithfulness (accuracy and precision) 60%

significance of the translated work in terms of subject matter for the target culture/audience (15 marks)

evidence of close, critical and creative reading of original text leading to valid & faithful interpretation (15 marks)

translator's knowledge of the *source text* historical, political, socio-cultural & literary context in which the text was produced (15 marks)

nuanced sense and appreciation of the discourse-stylistics of the original (i.e. use of language for the desired effect/s) and use of additions and deletions to find an equivalence of meaning (15 marks)

2. The translated texts for the three categories: children – ages 0-7, children – ages 8-12, and young adult literature, that is, those translated **directly** in the target language Maltese from the four languages: French, Italian, German, Spanish are to be **judged on their own literary linguistic merits, as distinct from their adherence to the original form and content**. Effectively, these translated texts in all the accepted categories (Books for Children, ages 0-7 and 8-12, and Books for Young Adults) are to be adjudicated through the criteria as stated below. The mark calculated from the criteria marked below should reflect **40% of the total mark**.

Technique 10%

Does the translator present the work with a distinctive and original voice? (5 marks)

Is the text presented in a clear and focused manner? (5 marks)

Text effectiveness 20%

Does the translation flow naturally when read aloud? Is the use of language good, fresh and innovative? (4 marks)

Are there pleasing sounds, rhymes, rhythms or repetitions? (4 marks)

Is this work free of typographical, spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors? (7 marks)

Do illustrations relate to the text, do they follow a logical sequence, and do they relate to each other? (5 marks)

Overall Impression 10%

Does the translation “work” – that is, does it accomplish what it sets out to do? (6 marks)

Would you consider the translated text as a fun read? (2 marks)

Would you consider the translation appropriate for the age group it is addressed to? (2 marks)

5. Children's Literature translated into Maltese (ages 8-12)

Definition of *Translation* in this context for the purpose of competing for the Award is the following:

a linguistic interpretation of a literary text of universally-accepted literary genres originally written in any language (to be referred to as the Source Language) into Maltese (to be referred to as the Target Language).

Linguistic interpretation is hereby defined as:

a textual rendering where a reasonable balance is kept between "faithfulness" to the original authorial intention in both content and form, and the translated/adapted text incorporating intrinsic and accepted literary values in its own right.

Broadly speaking, there are **two main criteria**, to be adhered to:

1. The texts translated are to have **as close and as faithful an interpretation as possible to the original**, whether this text is **directly** translated from the source, or whether through the intermediary bridge language of English.

Faithfulness (accuracy and precision) 60%

significance of the translated work in terms of subject matter for the target culture/audience (15 marks)

evidence of close, critical and creative reading of original text leading to valid & faithful interpretation (15 marks)

translator's knowledge of the *source text* historical, political, socio-cultural & literary context in which the text was produced (15 marks)

nuanced sense and appreciation of the discourse-stylistics of the original (i.e. use of language for the desired effect/s) and use of additions and deletions to find an equivalence of meaning (15 marks)

2. The translated texts for the three categories: children – ages 0-7, children – ages 8-12, and young adult literature, that is, those translated **directly** in the target language Maltese from the four languages: French, Italian, German, Spanish are to be **judged on their own literary linguistic merits, as distinct from their adherence to the original form and content**. Effectively, these translated texts in all the accepted categories (Books for Children, ages 0-7 and 8-12, and Books for Young Adults) are to be adjudicated through the criteria as stated below. The mark calculated from the criteria marked below should reflect **40% of the total mark**.

Technique 10%

Does the translator present the work with a distinctive and original voice? (5 marks)

Is the text presented in a clear and focused manner? (5 marks)

Text effectiveness 20%

Does the translation flow naturally when read aloud? Is the use of language good, fresh and innovative? (4 marks)

Are there pleasing sounds, rhymes, rhythm or repetition? (4 marks)

Is this work free of typographical, spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors? (7 marks)

Do the illustrations relate to the text, do they follow a logical sequence, and do they relate to each other? (5 marks)

Overall Impression 10%

Does the translation “work” – that is, does it accomplish what it sets out to do? (6 marks)

Would you consider the translated text as a fun read? (2 marks)

Would you consider the translation appropriate for the age group it is addressed to? (2 marks)

6. Young Adult Literature in Maltese Translation

Definition of *Translation* in this context for the purpose of competing for the Award is the following:

a linguistic interpretation of a literary text of universally-accepted literary genres originally written in any language (to be referred to as the Source Language) into Maltese (to be referred to as the Target Language).

Linguistic interpretation is hereby defined as:

a textual rendering where a reasonable balance is kept between “faithfulness” to the original authorial intention in both content and form, and the translated/adapted text incorporating intrinsic and accepted literary values in its own right.

Broadly speaking, there are **two main criteria**, to be adhered to:

1. The texts translated are to have **as close and as faithful an interpretation as possible to the original**, whether this text is **directly** translated from the source, or whether through the intermediary bridge language of English.

Faithfulness (accuracy and precision) 60%

Significance of the translated work in terms of subject matter for the target culture/audience (15 marks)

Evidence of close, critical and creative reading of original text leading to valid & faithful interpretation (15 marks)

Translator’s knowledge of the *source text* historical, political, socio-cultural & literary context in which the text was produced (15 marks)

Nuanced sense and appreciation of the discourse-stylistics of the original (i.e. use of language for the desired effect/s) and use of additions and deletions to find an equivalence of meaning (15 marks)

2. The translated texts for the three categories: children – ages 0-7, children – ages 8-12, and young adult literature, that is, those translated **directly** in the target language Maltese from the four languages: French, Italian, German, Spanish are to be **judged on their own literary linguistic merits, as distinct from their adherence to the original form and content**. Effectively, these translated texts in all the accepted categories (Books for Children, ages 0-7 and 8-12, and Books for Young Adults) are to be adjudicated through the criteria as stated below. The mark calculated from the criteria marked below should reflect **40% of the total mark**.

Technique 10%

Does the translator present his/her work with a distinctive and original voice? (5 marks)

Is the text presented in a clear and focused manner? (5 marks)

Text effectiveness and mechanics 20%

Does the translation flow and does the rhythm of the translation enhance the meaning? (4 marks)

Are the scenes/situations and characters well rendered in translation and do they sustain the reader's interest? (5 marks)

Is this work free of typographical, spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors? (7 marks)

Is the usage of language good, fresh and innovative? Is the dialogue natural, that is, not stilted or overly explanatory? (4 marks)

Overall Impression 10%

Does the translation "work" – that is, does it accomplish what it sets out to do? (6 marks)

Would you consider the translated text as a fun read? (2 marks)

Would you consider the translation appropriate for the age group it is addressed to? (2 marks)