

Now Open for Entries for all aspiring children's book illustrators

Closing date: 25th April 2025, 17:30

4 YEARS



Becky Colvin 2023



Kate Rolfe 2021



Bethan Woollvin 2014



Emily Gravett 2004



Gemma Merino 2011



Jake Alexander 2019



Morag Hood 2014



Cara Rooney 2021

Open to non-professional illustrators who are aged 18+ and UK residents
No fees for entry
Full terms and conditions at
www.panmacmillan.com/mac-prize-terms-and-conditions


MACMILLAN
Children's Books



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Established in 1985 by Macmillan Children's Books, the award celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The aim is to stimulate new work from young illustrators and to help them start their professional lives.

THE BRIEF

All entrants must submit:

- A.** Pencil roughs or sketches for a children's picture book - cover to cover - including text or a clear indication of the storyline.
- B.** Finished artwork for at least four double-page spreads, or at least three spreads and a front cover.
- C.** There is no theme for the competition and entries may work on different levels, but it is important to remember that the main audience for the book is a child.
- D.** The competition is for a series of outstanding illustrations that show the artist understands how to match pictures to text. The pictures should also demonstrate the entrant's grasp of narrative, pacing, and characterisation.
- E.** The judges are ultimately looking for high-quality illustrations suitable for children's books, which are considered to be an original contribution to the field.

THE FORMAT

Length: Picture books should be between 24-32 pages long; this includes the front and back endpapers, a title page and a copyright page. The cover is not included in this page count.

Format: Although submissions are digital only, we can accept books with novelty elements (e.g. flaps, fold-out pages), and these should not exceed 24 pages. Pop-up books should not exceed 6 double-page spreads. Novelty entries should be scanned artwork. Photographs to demonstrate novelty elements may also be included but should be part of the PDF.

Size: The page size of the finished book should not exceed 300mm in width or height.

THE TEXT

The book may be fiction or non-fiction.

The entrant may:

- A.** Devise their own text/story
- B.** Collaborate with a writer
- C.** Use a traditional story (e.g. a fairy tale)

Text generated wholly or in part by AI technologies is not eligible and should not be used.

A published text that is in copyright would not be eligible and should not be used.

THE ARTWORK

AI: Artwork generated wholly or in part by AI technologies is not eligible and should not be submitted

Size: Artwork may be prepared either to the same size, or up to 30% larger than the page size of the finished book. Corner marks to show the trim (i.e. the edge of the final printed page) should be clearly indicated outside the area of the actual work.

Bleed: Allow for at least 5mm extra (after reduction) outside the trim if the artwork is to come to the edge of the printed page. Avoid putting important details within 5mm of the edge of the page, or where illustration crosses the spine.

Medium: Any medium may be used, but it is advisable to avoid luminous paint, fragile collage or other media that will not reproduce well.

Lettering: Any lettering should be in black, please incorporate it as part of the page design and make it as legible as possible.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the 2025 competition, you must:

- A.** Be aged 18 or over and resident in the United Kingdom at point of entry.
- B.** Have less than one year of paid or unpaid work experience working as an illustrator at a book, magazine, journal, comic book, or graphic book publisher.
- C.** Not be a professional illustrator in the book, magazine, journal, comic book, or graphic book publishing sectors, where your income is derived exclusively or mainly from illustrating books, magazines, journals, comic books, or graphic books (which includes covers for each of the aforementioned).
- D.** Not have entered into a publishing contract or accepted an offer of publication from a book publisher in the UK or elsewhere in respects to any of your illustrations (including for a cover illustration.)
- E.** Not be a director or employee of Macmillan (or members of their immediate families or households) or be connected with the running or judging of the competition.
- F.** Entrants may only submit one entry.
- G.** There is no fee to enter the competition, although entrants are responsible for all costs associated with preparing and submitting their entries.

First Place: £1,000

Second Place: £500

Third Place: £250

email:

macmillanprize@macmillan.co.uk

full terms and conditions:

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