

Mathical

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: 2021 Mathical Book Prize

Awarded by the Mathematical Science Research Institute (MSRI)

In partnership with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
and in coordination with the Children's Book Council (CBC)

Deadline for Submissions: September 25, 2020

The Mathical Book Prize is awarded to literary fiction and nonfiction titles written for youth ages 2-18. The aim of the prize is to inspire a love of math in the world around us.

A single title will be awarded the Mathical Book Prize annually in each of five age categories. Additional titles may be named as Honor Books across the same categories:

- Pre-K
- Grades K-2
- Grades 3-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12

Winning titles may inspire a love of math in many ways, often by connecting with children's interests across many different genres and subject areas, from magic, sports, art, music, and poetry, to biography, adventure, graphic novels, and of course, picture books for the very young.

Both literary merit and mathematical interest must be present for a book to be eligible for the prize. Creative approaches that embrace math as logic and problem solving, math as the finding of patterns, and math as critical and artistic thinking, are encouraged.

By analogy, in our schools we teach music theory and music appreciation. While many school curricula teach math as a theoretical subject, the Mathical Book Prize celebrates the appreciation of mathematics: its beauty, and its applications.

The 2021 Mathical winners will join an exclusive and ever-growing resource list that is promoted nationally among librarians, K-12 teachers, mathematicians, science and children's museums, and after-school programs for youth in need.

Publishers are advised to review the portfolio of books [previously awarded](#) to gain a greater sense of eligible titles.

FEES

There is no submission fee for the 2021 Mathical Book Prize.

ELIGIBILITY

Only books published in 2020 will be eligible for the Mathical Book Prize.

Both fiction and literary nonfiction titles may be submitted.

- Books must be intended for grades PreK-12.
- All books must originate with a children's publishing company or division and must be published (not simply distributed) by a publisher incorporated in the U.S.
- Original paperbacks are eligible; paperback reprints are not. If a book is published simultaneously in hardcover and paperback, either edition may be submitted.
- Textbooks, workbooks, kits, experiment-only books, and activity books are not eligible.
- Spanish-language editions published in the U.S. simultaneously with English-language editions are eligible.
- Books translated into English are eligible.
- Publishers agree to share publicity materials (such as high-resolution cover images) for use in marketing of the winning titles, if selected.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Books are chosen to support students' pleasure reading by encouraging the independent pursuit of the joy, beauty, and power of mathematics in the world around us. Titles are

suited for library collections, informal learning settings, and classroom studies.

The selection panel looks first for literary quality; secondly, for well-presented books that contain substantial and inspirational math content; that are clear, accurate, and inviting in their approach to mathematics.

Some books will share easily recognizable math skills through a well-told story. Many others will simply suggest or encourage an enjoyment of mathematics in the broadest sense, by a variety of different approaches.

NUMBER OF TITLES YOU MAY SUBMIT

Publishers may submit a maximum of 3 titles.

SHIPPING YOUR BOOKS

Do not ship any books until instructed to do so.

Due to delays in US mail access since the COVID-19 crisis, we are moving to PDF manuscript submissions for this year only.

You will be asked to submit one PDF copy of each title to an MSRI staff contact. The manuscripts will be held in strict confidence and utilized only for the purpose of Mathical Book Prize selection.

MSRI will send uploading instructions to participating publishers in late September; publishers should begin to upload manuscripts as soon as they receive the instructions. Book manuscripts must be uploaded by October 7, 2020 to be reviewed.

SELECTION OF WINNING TITLES

Title selection will be made in January 2021, and the public announcement of the 2021 Prize winners is planned in conjunction with a live online winners' event in mid-February 2021. Additional announcements will be made at the 2021 National Math Festival (online April 16-18) and during a national conference on mathematics education in April 2021.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Kirsten Bohl, Mathical Book Prize coordinator, for more information: mathical@msri.org or 510.499.5181.

Additional information may be found at mathicalbooks.org.



The Mathical Book Prize is organized by the [Mathematical Sciences Research Institute \(MSRI\)](http://mathicalbooks.org) in Berkeley, California. MSRI is one of the world's preeminent centers for collaborative research in mathematics. MSRI's mission is to advance mathematical research, foster talent, and further the appreciation of mathematics.

MSRI's public programs aim to showcase the importance and beauty of math to the general public. We strive to make mathematics accessible and exciting to those outside the field through the National Math Festival in Washington, D.C., sponsorship of Numberphile (YouTube's most popular informal mathematics channel with 3.4 million subscribers), film production for public television, and the Mathical Book Prize.

MSRI is supported by the National Science Foundation with additional support from other government agencies, private foundations, corporations, individual donors, and nearly 100 academic institutions. MSRI is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.