

# Mathical

## Books for Kids from Tots to Teens

### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

#### Mathical: Books for Kids from Tots to Teens 2017

Awarded by the Mathematical Science Research Institute and the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)

#### Deadline for Submissions: September 15, 2016

The **Mathical Book Prize** is given for trade books written for very young children through teenagers, with a view toward inspiring youth to engage with mathematics in the broadest sense and to cultivate a love of mathematics in the world around them. A single front list title will be awarded the Mathical Book Prize in each age category, while additional front list and backlist titles are eligible as Honor Books and will be included on a curated resource list, hosted and promoted on [MathicalBooks.org](http://MathicalBooks.org).

Award Winners and Honor Books make math visible in the world and inspire enjoyment and appreciation of math. The selection committee will choose the best books from each year submitted to include in a reading list that will be promoted nationally among librarians, K-12 teachers, mathematicians, and science museums.

This submissions call asks for books published in any year that remain in print, but only books published in 2016 will be eligible for the Mathical Book Prize. For more information about the program, visit [our website](#).

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Books must be currently in print.
- Both fiction and non-fiction 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.
- Previously submitted titles are not eligible for resubmission.
- Publishers agree to share publicity materials (such as high resolution cover images) for use in marketing of the Mathical Book Prize winning titles and honor books, if selected.

#### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Books should have value for classroom studies and/or library collections supporting students' work and pleasure reading. The selection panel looks first for literary quality; secondly, for well-presented books that contain substantial and/or 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.

By keeping the emphasis on literary quality and otherwise holding the definition of mathematics wide open, MSRI and our partner educator associations (NCTE and NCTM) hope to encourage the writing of interesting and inspiring books and the promotion of these books to a wide audience of youth of all ages who might enjoy what they do not even know they are missing.

Mathematics in its broadest sense includes content that encourages children and/or teenagers to do any of the following:

- Recognize patterns and sequences
- Notice ratios, proportions
- Use formal logic
- Learn analytical thinking
- Sort and classify, compare quantities, and notice shapes and patterns
- Play games, solve puzzles
- Make measurements, manipulate data
- Use statistics and probability
- Solve problems
- Practice experiential, intuitive, and critical reasoning
- Explore mathematical patterns found in nature or created by humans (e.g., symmetry, growth, Fibonacci sequence, prime numbers).
- Recognize mathematical aspects of everyday things and phenomena

Books that inspire a love of math include those that:

- Feature a central character who loves math, or a storyline driven in some way by mathematics
- Tell the life story of a mathematician (biography, autobiography)
- Incorporate problem-solving or other games/exercises as an integral part of a well-told story
- Present a trove of puzzles or historical sketches in a literary fashion
- Use images and/or mathematical tropes to tell a story.

#### **SUBMISSIONS FORMAT**

All submissions must be made by completing the fields identified on the Submission Form OR by using the attached spreadsheet, calling for title, author, illustrator, publisher, ISBN, age category, and book description. For Google Form submissions, data is automatically tabulated. For email submissions, submit the spreadsheet to the Mathical Book Prize Coordinator by emailing it to Jennifer Murawski at [mathical@msri.org](mailto:mathical@msri.org).

The following age categories will be used:

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

#### **NUMBER OF TITLES YOU MAY SUBMIT**

Publishers may submit a number of front list titles (published in 2016) equal to 25% of their annual output. Publishers may also submit up to 7 backlist titles (published prior to 2016,

but still in print) for consideration. Books submitted last year are not eligible for resubmission.

#### **SHIPPING YOUR BOOKS**

**Do not ship any books until instructed to do so.**

You will be asked to send one copy of each title to each of 3 reviewers and two copies to the MSRI office. MSRI will send shipping instructions to participating publishers in early September; publishers should begin to ship books as soon as they receive the instructions. Books must reach reviewers by October 15, 2016.

#### **FEES**

There is no submission fee for the 2017 Mathical Book Prize.

#### **SELECTION OF WINNING TITLES**

Publishers will be contacted in early 2017 regarding shortlist titles. Final selection will be made in February 2017, and the public announcement of the 2017 Prize winners will be held in conjunction with the [National Math Festival](#) in Washington, D.C. in April 2017.

#### **QUESTIONS**

Contact Jennifer Murawski, Mathical Book Prize coordinator, for more information:

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The Mathical Book Prize is organized by the [Mathematical Sciences Research Institute \(MSRI\)](#) 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 over 1.7 million subscribers), film production for public television, and the Mathical Book Prize. MSRI has created a national "math circles" movement of small organizations teaching and engaging children in math as a hobby.

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.