

How to use the Mini-books in our Book Week Publication

The mini-books are designed to help you introduce all the shortlisted books to the children. Decide which mini-book you want the children to work with. You may want to work through more than one over a period of time. Or you may work with different books for different levels. The technique is pretty much the same.

1. Give each child one mini-book page. View the video of how to fold them <http://bit.ly/FoldMB>
2. Look at the set of instruction for mini-books and if necessary provide each child or group of children with a copy.
3. Make the mini-books.
4. Have children write their name on the book.
5. In one session talk about the CBCA Book of the Year Awards.

Points to cover:

- The awards are held every year.
- Publishers submit the best books they have published for the year.
- Adult judges all over Australia read the books and choose a list of notable books at the end of February.
- They also select from the notable books a short list announced at the end of March.
- In August during Book Week they announce the winner and up to two honour books from each category.
- There can be up to 6 books in each category.
- There are 5 categories: Older Readers, Younger Readers and Early Childhood are based on the reading maturity of the readers; Eve Pownall Award for Information Books and Picture Books are the other two categories. They can be for any age, including high-school level.

6. Discuss how people say “You can’t judge a book by its cover”. Tell them you will test this out. Show the covers for each book in one category. Children decide which one they think might win based just on the cover. On their mini-book fill in the dot beside the word **Cover** for the one they select.

7. Explain what a blurb is. Read the blurb for each book. Children now select which book they think might win based on the blurb. Fill in the dot beside the word **Blurb** for the one they select.

8. For **Early Childhood** and **Picture Books** work your way through reading the books aloud to the selected audience. This may be done over a number of weeks. After reading each book, have the children mark a rating 1-10 for how they judge the book. They need to be judges! Don’t just pick it because they like the story, but because it is well written and well-illustrated.

9. When all books have been read, select the one book they judge to be the best and why. Is it the same one they selected based on cover or blurb?

For the **Eve Pownall Award for Information Books** you might choose to do the cover and blurb activity, then examine the books more closely through the activity on pp. 69-70 **Escape with Information** before selecting the one they think should win.

For **Younger Reader** category it is more complex to introduce all the books. One way could be to do the cover and blurb activity then introduce the books through Book Hooks, reading aloud selected parts of the book. Older students have to keep in mind the difference in interest and reading levels for these books and not just select the book that appeals to their age group, but look at it from a judging perspective. For children in middle primary, be more careful in introducing books for upper primary level such as **Within these Walls**, pointing out that they are not all suited to them.