



Read for Empathy book collections

Assessment criteria

Our judges use the following criteria to assess the titles for the book collection:

- The excellence of the writing and illustrations
- The quality of the characterisation supporting children to explore feelings and motivations
- The authenticity of the contents either through authors' lived experience or particularly in-depth research
- How inclusive the book is and whether it positively represents our diverse communities
- Whether the book:
 - challenges tribal thinking and promotes understanding between individuals and communities
 - supports key empathy skills: perspective-taking (e.g. through different characters' points of view); emotion recognition and vocabulary, empathic communication or social action
 - explores key social issues of the day e.g. refugees, homelessness, food poverty and climate change
 - provides insight into challenging life circumstances e.g. bereavement; mental health, disability

Notes on the subsequent judging process:

We will ask you to send 6-8 copies to a supplied address list in early May, and if the title is successful at the July shortlisting stage, we will need copies for the rest of the primary or secondary judges.

There is an inclusion fee of **£165.00** per title for the books included in the final collections.

We will select books for two separate Guides, one for 3-11-year-olds; one for 11-16-year-olds. Please only submit books which fit within these age ranges. We will not publish age ranges, but are looking for balanced coverage of 3-7, 8-11 and 12-16-year-olds. We will choose a balance of in-print books in a wide range of formats.

In developing the Read for Empathy collection, we often encounter some major gaps in submissions. Please consider how you might reflect these in your submission choices:

- Diversity of all kinds is key
- Books created by writers and illustrators of the global majority
- Early readers and chapter books for 4-7-year-olds
- Graphic novels
- Titles for 12-16-year-olds, especially ones with themes which are not too dark

If you have any queries, please contact lilly@empathylab.uk or visit [RFE Submissions – EmpathyLabUK](#)