



The 2018 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature

Eligibility and Entry Guidelines

The Burt Award for Caribbean Literature is an annual award given to up to three English-language literary works for young adults (aged 12 through 18) written by Caribbean authors. Established by CODE – a Canadian charitable organization that has been supporting literacy and learning for over 55 years – with the generous support of the Literary Prizes Foundation and in partnership with the Bocas Lit Fest, the award aims to provide engaging and culturally-relevant books for young people across the Caribbean.

Up to three prizes will be awarded each year to the authors of the winning title. The winning title will be awarded \$10,000 CDN, and two finalists will be awarded \$2,000.00 CDN.

Publishers of winning titles will be awarded a guaranteed purchase of up to **2,500 copies** of each winning book. Copies purchased by the program will be donated to select libraries, schools and literacy organizations for distribution throughout the region. Winning publishers commit to actively market an additional minimum of **1,000 copies** of each winning title through their own retail sales channels. Publishers are encouraged to develop digital versions (ebooks) of winning titles, which CODE can help promote internationally. Digital sales of winning titles will count towards these 1000 additional copies.

Published books, previously self-published books, and unpublished manuscripts are eligible for the award. Eligible books and unpublished manuscripts can be submitted to the Bocas Lit Fest by publishers registered and operating in the Caribbean. Unpublished manuscripts or previously self-published books can also be submitted by authors directly to the Bocas Lit Fest.

Books published between **1 November 2016 and 31 October 2017** and eligible manuscripts must be received at the office of the Bocas Lit Fest by **31 October 2017**. Books that arrive after the deadline will not be considered. The award finalists will be announced in March 2018. The winner will be announced in April 2018.



Award Eligibility and Submission Criteria

Who is eligible?

- The Burt Award is open to authors who were born in or who are citizens of an eligible Caribbean* country, regardless of their current place of residence. See **Appendix 1** for definitions of which territories constitute the Caribbean for the purposes of the Burt Award for Caribbean Literature.
- Authors must have been alive on 31 October 2017.

What books and manuscripts are eligible?

- The Burt Award is open to original, English-language literary works for young adults written by Caribbean authors. For this award, the term young adult generally refers to readers from ages 12 through 18. The work submitted for consideration should appeal to young adults with relevant content and format.

Before submitting a book or manuscript for consideration, you should review the story and consider these questions:

- Is it written at the appropriate reading level?
- Does the story appeal to young adults aged 12 through 18?
- Is it emotionally relatable?
- Does it contain one or more of the many issues and subject matters that teenagers deal with?
- Is the main character (or one of the main characters) ages 12 to 18?

Not all of these are required, but if you can answer yes to most of these questions then you have a young adult book or manuscript eligible for consideration and we look forward to receiving it.

- Published books, previously self-published books, and unpublished manuscripts are eligible.
- Works of literary fiction, graphic novels, short story collections by a single author, and creative non-fiction written for young adults **are** eligible. We accept any theme: science fiction, horror, mystery, social, humor, romance, and historical fiction. Works of poetry, drama, or anthologies, textbooks, or instructional manuals **are not** eligible.
- We are not accepting poetry or non-fiction titles at this time (science, biology, facts and stats, math, current affairs, social studies, or history).
- Books and manuscripts must be in English. Works that have been translated from another language into English are also eligible. In these cases, the award would be shared equally between the author and translator.
- Books and manuscripts must be written by a single author.
- Eligible books and manuscripts can be submitted by publishers registered and operating in the Caribbean*. See **Appendix 1** for definitions of which territories constitute the Caribbean for the purposes of the Burt Award for Caribbean Literature.
- Eligible self-published books or manuscripts can also be submitted by their authors directly.



- Published books previously submitted to the Burt Award cannot be resubmitted for consideration in subsequent years; manuscripts previously submitted to the Burt Award can be re-submitted for consideration in subsequent years but **ONLY** if they have been significantly revised.
- Works should be engaging and entertaining and reflect issues of interest to Caribbean youth. The Award is given for literary and artistic excellence. Publishers and authors should submit works accordingly.

I. Eligibility of published books

- Must have been published for the first time in book form between **1 November 2016 and 31 October 2017**.
- Must have an ISBN.
- Must be a minimum of approximately 80 pages or 20,000 words in length, except in the case of graphic novels.
- Must be submitted by publishers registered and operating in the Caribbean*
- Published books previously submitted to the Burt Award cannot be resubmitted for consideration in subsequent years.

II. Eligibility of self-published books

- Must have been published for the first time in book form between **1 November 2016 and 31 October 2017**.
- Must be a minimum of approximately 80 pages or 20,000 words in length, except in the case of graphic novels.
- In the case of a self-published book submitted by an author, the author must agree to have the work published by an eligible publisher within six (6) months of notification that it has been successful in the competition.
- Self-published books previously submitted to the Burt Award cannot be resubmitted for consideration in subsequent years.

III. Eligibility of ebooks (digital-only editions)

- Must have been published for the first time in book form between **1 November 2016 and 31 October 2017**.
- Must have an ISBN.
- Must be a minimum of approximately 80 pages or 20,000 words in length, except in the case of graphic novels.
- May be submitted by eligible publishers and self-published authors.
- Must be submitted to the Bocas Lit Fest electronically via email, either as a manuscript or as a pdf that retains the text size and formatting of the original ebook.
- Manuscripts must be written using 12 point, Times New Roman font, and double spaced.



- In the case of self-published ebooks, the author must agree to have the work published in a print edition by an eligible traditional publisher within six (6) months of notification that it has been successful in the competition.

IV. Eligibility of unpublished manuscripts

- Must be a minimum of approximately 80 pages or 20,000 words in length, except in the case of graphic novels.
- Must be submitted to the Bocas Lit Fest electronically via email.
- Must be written using 12 point, Times New Roman font, and double spaced.
- Manuscripts will be assessed alongside published books: it is recommended that manuscripts be carefully edited.
- Manuscripts previously submitted to the Burt Award can be re-submitted for consideration in subsequent years ONLY if they have been significantly revised.

****See Appendix 1 for definitions of which territories constitute the Caribbean for the purposes of the Burt Award for Caribbean Literature.***

Award Terms and Conditions

- Publishers must notify authors of titles entered for the award. Winning authors will be invited to attend the award ceremony in April 2018 and to participate in activities to promote themselves, their titles, and the award.
- Publishers or authors must provide five (5) copies of each title entered at the time of submission. Publishers and authors must agree to provide a further five (5) copies of the titles if they are shortlisted.
- Each submitted title must be accompanied by a completed entry form, including a short biographical note about the author.
- Publishers or authors of shortlisted titles must agree to provide digital photos of authors and participate in media and promotional activities related to the award.
- Once the winners have been contacted, they must confirm acceptance of the prize and agree to keep the results of the competition confidential until CODE and Bocas Lit Fest makes the official announcement.
- Publishers of winning unpublished manuscripts they submitted must agree to publish the work within six (6) months of notification that it has been successful in the competition.



- Authors of winning unpublished manuscripts or previously self-published titles that they submitted must agree to be published by an eligible publisher within six (6) months of notification that it has been successful in the competition.
- Publishers of winning titles are requested to provide to CODE, at no cost, ten copies of winning books for promotion and sponsorship purposes.
- Publishers must commit to actively market an additional minimum 1,000 copies of each of the winning titles.
- CODE's Burt Award supports and promotes the writing and publishing of high quality, culturally relevant books. While a quantity of copies of the winning title is purchased in print form, it is CODE's strong desire that the Publisher will endeavour to actively market the title and to make the book available in electronic versions to ensure young people's love of reading is possible in as many digital formats as possible. CODE commits to support winning publishers in these endeavors.
- Authors and publishers of winning books must participate fully in all award events, including the prize presentation, receptions, media interviews and press conferences. They must also allow photographs and public information about themselves to be used for promotion of the awards and in other CODE promotional initiatives.
- The support of CODE should be clearly acknowledged in any public announcements, advertising or publications related to books that receive a Burt Award.
- **Winning titles will be chosen based on their literary merit and their ability to engage young readers. There is no guarantee that all three prizes will be awarded every year. Only titles that meet the criteria and standards of the jury will be deemed worthy of winning prizes.**
- The decisions of the jury are final.

*****UPDATED 26 SEPTEMBER 2017:**

- Due to ongoing disruptions in postal and courier services in parts of the Caribbean affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, published and previously self-published books may be submitted electronically in PDF that retains the layout and formatting of the printed book, following the guidelines noted below for electronic submissions.



Deadline:

In the case of published or previously self-published books, eligible publishers or authors must send **five copies** of each title entered by courier to the Bocas Lit Fest.

The Bocas Lit Fest

Attn: Burt Award for Caribbean Literature

#2B Alexandra Street

St. Clair

Port of Spain

Trinidad and Tobago

Telephone: 1 (868) 222-7099

SEPT 26th UPDATE: Published or previously self-published books may be submitted electronically in print-ready PDF format to burtaward@bocaslitfest.com with the subject line "2018 Burt Award Entry".

In the case of unpublished manuscripts, publishers or authors must send 1 copy of the manuscript electronically to the Bocas Lit Fest at burtaward@bocaslitfest.com with the subject line "2018 Burt Award Entry".

All submissions must be accompanied by a completed entry form, including a short biographical note about the author.

Titles must be received by the award administrators by **31 October 2017**. Titles that arrive after the deadline will not be considered.

Works will be accepted at the discretion of the chair of the jury, who will determine questions of eligibility when necessary. Works deemed ineligible will not be returned to publishers or authors.

Judging:

The Burt Award for Caribbean Literature will be judged by an independent jury administered by the Bocas Lit Fest. The jury will consist of three members and will consist of one Chair and two representatives chosen by The Bocas Lit Fest. The decisions of the jury are final.

For queries about eligibility requirements or the submission process please contact the prize administrators at: burtaward@bocaslitfest.com

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Entry Form

Please refer to the eligibility and entry guidelines when completing this form. Each title entered for the prize must be accompanied by a completed copy of this entry form.

Date: _____

Name of author: _____

Address of author: _____

Country of author's birth: _____

Country of author's current citizenship: _____

Author email address: _____

Author telephone numbers: _____

Name of Publisher (if applicable): _____

Contact Name and job title (if applicable): _____

Country of Publisher (if applicable): _____

Publisher email address (if applicable): _____

Publisher telephone numbers (if applicable): _____

Title of book: _____

Genre of book (fiction/non-fiction/graphic novel) _____

Date of first publication (if applicable): _____

Please attach a short biographical note (approx. 50 words) about the author, including biographical data and information on any previously published work or literary awards.

I confirm that I have read and will abide by the eligibility guidelines and terms and conditions for the 2017 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature.

I confirm that the above information is accurate.

I agree to allow the Burt Award for Caribbean Literature administrators to disclose that this title has been entered for the 2018 competition, and to participate fully in all Award activities as outlined in the terms and conditions.

Signature: _____

Appendix 1



Definition of the Caribbean

For the purposes of the Burt Award for Caribbean Literature, the Caribbean is defined as including the following countries and territories:

Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda
Aruba
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bermuda
Bonaire
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Cuba
Curaçao
Dominica
Dominican Republic
French Guiana
Grenada
Guadeloupe
Guyana
Haiti
Jamaica
Martinique
Montserrat
Puerto Rico
Saba
St. Barthélemy
St. Kitts and Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Martin/Sint. Maarten
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Sint. Eustatius
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Turks and Caicos
U.S. Virgin Islands.

Please note: only English-language titles are eligible for the award.