



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: The Children's Book Creators' Awards

The **Room to Read Children's Literature Awards** are back for 2026! In their fourth year, these awards continue to celebrate quality literary efforts in the field of children's literature. The awards have primarily been envisioned to fill the gap in recognitions for young creators and publishers striving to contribute to children's literature in Indian languages. It is our hope that these will be a small step in bringing more credibility and significance to the discourse around the genre in India.

NOMINATION CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA

1. The Room to Read Young Author Award (3-8 years)

The Room to Read Young Author Award (8-12 years)

The submitted children's book should be **originally written in Hindi language** and published in India; any works of translation, adaptation or languages other than Hindi will NOT be eligible. However, retellings that have been re-imagined or retold to suit the contemporary context and sensibility will be considered.

Room to Read India defines a 'young author' as

EITHER someone younger than 35 years old

OR someone with not more than three published works for children in the last seven years (2018-2026)

Books being submitted for this category should have been **published during April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026**. In the case that a publisher/individual wants to submit a book published from April 2023-March 2025, which has NOT been sent previously – we will accept exceptional nominations.

The submitted work should NOT be encouraging any kind of stereotype or discriminatory practice.

The submission must be a self-contained entity and not dependent on media i.e. sound, film or computer program for its enjoyment.

2. The Room to Read Young Illustrator Award (3-8 years)

The Room to Read Young Illustrator Award (8-12 years)

In addition to the criteria mentioned above for the author awards, the submitted entry should be a children's book consisting at least **75% illustrated component**.

If your nomination is for the Young Author category, the age/experience restrictions do not apply to the book's illustrator, and vice versa.

In addition to these awards, we will be awarding children's picture books as a whole as well:

3. The Room to Read Children's Book of the Year Award (3-8 years)

The Room to Read Children's Book of the Year Award (8-12 years)

These two awards will be given to the books' respective publishers, and will be **SOLELY** selected from the nominations received for the above four categories and will be based on the Jury's discretion. All nominations received for the above categories will automatically qualify for this category.

Nominations open on May 11th, 2026
The last date for sending nominations is June 15th, 2026



SELECTION PROCESS

Only the submissions that meet all criteria for submission will be considered valid. A jury panel comprising experienced industry professionals and academics will evaluate each nomination. Their evaluations will be purely based on the information provided through the nomination form and the work submitted for respective award consideration. Applicants are advised to provide precise and accurate information in the nomination form.

The decision of the jury and Room to Read's awards committee, pertaining to the shortlist of nominees and awardees, will be final and binding. Room to Read is not obliged to share any details of the jury's evaluation with the applicants.

In case a submitted entry is found more suitable to an awards category other than the one applied for, then Room to Read's awards committee and the jury reserve the right to reassign the submission to the appropriate category(s).

WHO CAN SUBMIT A NOMINATION?

- Indian publishers publishing children's books in the Hindi language
- Individuals who have authored and illustrated their own books

NOMINATE YOUR BOOKS HERE:

Nominators are allowed to submit up to 5 nominations in each of the 4 categories.

For each distinct entry, a separate form needs to be filled. For instance, to nominate both the author as well as the illustrator for a book, two separate entries will be required.

TO COMPLETE YOUR NOMINATION

You will need to send (through courier or registered post) 5 copies of the title you are nominating to the following address:

Room to Read India Trust,
C 21, Block C, Qutab Institutional Area,
New Delhi - 110016.
+91-11-46664999.

*Your nomination will only be considered on successful delivery of the physical copies of the nominated books to the above address on or before **June 15th, 2026**.

*Copies as part of these physical submissions will not be returned to the applicants. Room to Read will ensure that these books are donated to libraries where children can access them.

*For all updates related to the Awards, including the announcement of the shortlists, please refer to Room to Read India's website and social media channels. Write to us at RtRIndia.awards@roomtoread.org if you have any questions.

