

Guidelines for Evaluating 2008 WILLA entries in the Children's/Young Adult Category

The purpose of Women Writing the West is to become the internationally recognized association of women writers and other professionals engaged in writing and promoting writing about the American West with emphasis on the experiences and sensibilities of women in that region. The WILLA Literary Awards are presented annually for outstanding literature featuring women's stories set in the West.

Entries in the Children's/Young Adult Category can range from a picture book aimed at toddlers to young adult novels with mature themes; from fiction to nonfiction to poetry. The following rubrics were developed to help readers evaluate such diverse entries. They are intended to be guidelines only. Readers should use their own judgment in assessing how well each entry suits its target audience.

Points should be awarded as follows:

- 10 – exceptional in all regards
- 9 – excellent
- 8 – well done
- 7 – majority well done; room for polish
- 6 – good overall with strong points
- 5 – good overall
- 4 – good overall with some weak points
- 3 – good start but needs work
- 2 – good idea but poor presentation
- 1 – needs work throughout
- 0 – ineligible

Note that entries that do not warrant at least four points in the first benchmark, “Women of the West Theme,” should be disqualified.