

## **Guidelines for Competition**

### **Eligibility**

Books eligible for the Virginia Literary Awards must have been written by a Virginia author or, for nonfiction books, have a Virginia-related theme. Virginia authors are defined as writers meeting one or more of the following qualifications: native-born Virginians, authors whose permanent residence is in Virginia, and authors who spent their formative years in Virginia and are widely identified as Virginians.

The following types of books are not eligible for the awards: reference works, anthologies, documentary editions, essay and short-story collections, photographic books, self-help books, and "how to" books.

Any individual, organization, or company may nominate books to be considered for these awards. Each year's awards honor books written in the previous calendar year. Thus, entries for the 2024 awards must have been published and distributed between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2023.

### **Categories**

Entries can be submitted for the following categories: Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, or Children's Literature\*.

### **Procedure**

Entry forms can be submitted online or completed as an interactive PDF and mailed to:

Virginia Literary Awards  
Attn: Mary Jordan  
Library of Virginia  
800 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Publishers should submit four copies of each book nominated.

### **Deadline**

The deadline for entries is March 1, 2024. In 2024, the deadline for Children's Literature submissions has been extended to March 31, 2024. The completed entry form and books must be on hand prior to that date. Entries will be forwarded to judges on receipt, so please enter as soon as possible.

### **Judges and Judging**

The Library of Virginia Foundation, as part of its management of the adjudication process, will request adjudication copies of eligible books nominated by interested readers.

Independent panels of judges will consider all entries. Awards will be granted at the discretion of the panel. Panel members will represent a broad spectrum of expertise in writing and publishing. Entries will be judged principally on the quality of the writing, with organization and interpretation also playing a role in the decision.

### **Announcement of Finalists**

Finalists in each category will be notified by August 1, 2024.

### **Special Notes**

Entries must be received by March 1, 2024 (or March 31, 2024, for the Children's Virginia Literature Award).

No entry fee is required. For more information, please call 804.692.3535.

\*The Children's Virginia Literary Award honors excellence in the field of children's literature with a focus on Virginia. Picture books and middle-grade works (recommended reading levels of up to age 12) of both fiction and nonfiction are eligible. Books by authors with a connection to Virginia and books set in Virginia will be considered for the award. The award period for consideration is the preceding calendar year (nominees for the 2024 award must have been published in calendar year 2023).



**LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA**

800 East Broad Street ■ Richmond, Virginia 23219

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