

## Criteria for assessing a fiction book

### The plot:

- Is it well-constructed?
- Does the author appear in control of the plot, making definite and positive decisions about the direction events take and the conclusions they reach?
- Do events happen, not necessarily logically, but acceptably within the limits set by the theme?
- Is the final resolution of the plot credible in relation to the rest of the book?

### Characterisation:

- Are the characters believable and convincing?
- Are they well-rounded, and do they develop during the course of the book?
- Do they interact with each other convincingly?
- Are the characters' behaviour and patterns of speech consistent with their known background and environment?
- Do they act consistently in character throughout the book?
- How effectively are the characters revealed through narration, dialogue, action, inner dialogue and through the thoughts, reactions and responses of others?

### Style:

- Is the style or styles appropriate to the subject and theme?
- How successfully has the author created mood, and how appropriate is it to the theme?
- Do dialogue and narrative work effectively together?
- How effective is the author's use of literary techniques and conventions?
- How effective is the author's use of language in conveying setting, atmosphere, characters, action etc.?
- Where rhyme or rhythm are used, is their use accomplished and imaginative?
- Where factual information is presented, is this accurate and clear?