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KELPIES PRIZE 2009

AUTHOR GUIDELINES - what the judges are looking for

1. Manuscripts must be set wholly, or mainly, in Scotland.
2. Manuscripts should incorporate contemporary settings and/or subject matter to which today's children can relate.
3. Manuscripts should be suitable for children aged roughly between nine and twelve years old.
4. The judges are looking primarily for a cracking story with strong characters, believable dialogue and compelling atmosphere which will engage the target readership (see above).
5. Please bear in mind that stories with animals as the main characters are, on the whole, more suitable for a younger age group than the Kelpies Prize.
6. Equally, stories with strong romantic themes are, on the whole, more suitable for an older age group than the Kelpies Prize.
7. All entries must be primarily in English. Vernaculars are accepted, but authors should bear in the mind the language abilities of the children for whom the book is written.
8. Manuscripts must be 40,000-60,000 words in length.
9. Manuscripts should be typed in a 12-point font, double-spaced and printed on one side of the page only. Page numbers should be included on every page.