

SYMPHONY OF STORIES

It's showtime for a symphony of stories -
The virtuoso's gift of verse and prose.
From comedy to tragedy, a skilfully played melody
Of literacy and imagery composed.



The stage has been prepared for the performance.
The players have perfected their own parts.
The audience is seated. They're all ready to be treated
To some orchestrated opuses of art.

A drumroll, please. We start with **Early Childhood** -
Books written for the very, very young.
Illustration and narration help to fortify foundations
Of the love of reading books for years to come.



The **Picture Books** arrive with a crescendo,
For children who are just a little older.
Conceptual depth and synergy, continuing that energy,
With themes that can be altogether bolder.

Trumpet in the books for **Younger Readers**.
These narratives are structured to engage,
With strong characters and conflict and capacity to inflict
A desire to keep on turning every page.



Raise the baton for the **Older Readers**,
With stories that are relevant and real.
Deserving recognition of their linguistic ambition,
And their literary merit and appeal.

The world around us plays to its own tempo,
And some stories are accurate and true.
Such subjects are explored within the **Eve Pownall Award**,
Educating and informing our world view.



Let's all applaud the brand-**New Illustrators**
For their storytelling skills and fine technique.
With their fresh originality and picture personality,
They complement the words and help them speak.

We hope you have enjoyed this year's performance.
The high notes have been hit, the trumpets blown.
But don't just stay there sitting. There are more books to be written.
Choose your audience and orchestrate your own.

