Dear Student,

You will be working diligently on this project for the Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition, and spending a lot of time writing and illustrating your book. We have worked with judges over the years and we know what they look for in an exemplary picture book. And so we have put together:

**Fifteen Questions Winning Authors Ask Themselves**

It is *strongly* suggested that you use this list in evaluating your picture book. Enjoy the process of creating your own book, and good luck!

The Office of Arts and Special Projects

**To make sure your entries demonstrate the winning qualities of a picture book ask yourself:**

□ Did I bind this book myself?

□ Did I bind this book creatively and securely?

□ Have I created a book with an equal balance of text and illustrations?

□ Is the spelling and grammar *absolutely* perfect?

□ Did I pay equal attention to every page and not just make a flashy cover? □ Does my book fit within the 15”x18” limitation?

□ Is there an illustration on the cover that offers a clue to what’s inside?

□ Does the back cover have a design, illustration or some text?

□ Are the inside front and back covers decorative?

□ Is there a title page?

□ Does my book indicate the author, publisher and date of publication?

□ Do illustrations vary in size and scale?

□ Does each page look like a piece of the whole; with recurring patterns of text and /or images?

□ Does the page layout vary throughout the book?

□ Does design/typography/fonts or the written word add to the visual element of the book?

□ Is the text printed clearly?