

NEW ADULT FICTION

Definition: This category includes novels written primarily for, and targeted to, readers aged 18 to 29. In New Adult Fiction, at least one main character must be aged 18 to 29 and dealing with one or more life “firsts”—e.g., first job, first apartment, first serious relationship—and/or with adult situations for the first time. New Adult Fiction focuses on life after legal age, and how one deals with the beginnings of adulthood. Entries must have a minimum of 40,000 words to qualify for judging.

Judging Guideline: In this category, new adult themes must be the focus. These novels can be romance, science fiction, or any other genre, but must focus on the 18 to 29 age group. Events do not necessarily have to take place in the present. These novels must include significant themes, characters, situations, or other content about women or sapphically aligned nonbinary people who are romantically and/or sexually attracted to women or sapphically aligned nonbinary people.

Evaluation Items:

1. Thinking back on the GOLDIE entry you are about to judge, what were your overall impressions, positive and/or negative?

Using a 10-point scale where “1” means you “Totally Disagree” and “10” means you “Totally Agree,” please indicate how much you disagree or agree that each of the following statements describes this GOLDIE entry.

2. The opening of this novel draws readers into the story and makes them want to read further.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

3. The premise of this novel does not depend too heavily on implausible coincidence or far-fetched circumstances that are inappropriate for this type of book.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

4. This novel has enough conflict—that is, obstacles standing in the way of characters achieving their goals—to keep readers interested.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

5. The plot of this novel is free of holes and logical inconsistencies—dropped story lines, puzzling disappearance of characters, underdeveloped or contrived story elements, actions leading to illogical consequences, etc.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

6. This novel is appropriately paced. The story moves along smoothly without being too spare, rushed, saggy, bloated, or cluttered with unnecessary detail.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

7. By the end of the novel, the author(s) has reasonably resolved all important plots, subplots, and character conflicts other than those clearly intended to remain unresolved.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

8. This novel features compelling, three-dimensional main characters with credible strengths and flaws.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

9. Secondary and/or minor characters are appropriately developed and do not detract from the main characters or plot.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

10. The characters in this novel are portrayed in a believable way—dialogue is reflective of age and social class, actions are consistent with personalities, career levels are age-appropriate, backstories help deepen reader understanding, etc.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

11. This novel has engaging, natural-sounding dialogue that brings the characters to life.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

12. This novel is written in an engaging style. The story flows smoothly, with a sufficient variety of sentence structure and length; the language is fresh, vivid, and original; word choices are effective and fit the style, tone, and mood of the novel; etc.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

13. This novel is virtually free of factual errors, incorrect spelling, poor punctuation and grammar, unnecessary repetition, paragraph structures that don't make sense, and confusing or missing dialogue tags that make it difficult to know who is speaking.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

14. The novel does not jump unnecessarily from the "head" of one character to another within a given scene or describe things a given character can't possibly know, see, hear, or feel. Point-of-view transitions within a scene, if any, are clearly signaled to the reader.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

15. This novel has an effective balance between "showing" what happens (via actions, dialogue, and/or vivid details from a given character's point of view) and "telling" what happens (via explanations and summary).

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

16. This novel has a distinct sense of time and place that skillfully captures the mood, tone, and setting of the story.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

17. This novel has elements (stories, characters, themes, settings, evocative writing, a distinct voice, enjoyable confusion, etc.) that will linger in the reader's mind long after the book is finished.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

18. This novel includes significant themes, characters, situations, and/or other content about women who are attracted to women or sapphic individuals.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

19. Characters of various races, classes, cultures, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, etc. portrayed in this novel are presented in ways that avoid offensive stereotypes.

| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

20. This novel should be of considerable interest to new adults aged 18 to 29.

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| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

21. This novel successfully focuses on one or more of the life “firsts” that must be central to new adult themes—complex rites of passage (e.g., first job, first apartment first serious relationship), evolving identities and friendships, uncertain futures with increased responsibilities, increasing self-awareness and growth, etc.

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| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

22. The details in this novel are accurate for the time period(s) presented as far as events, dress, technology, popular culture, and everyday life are concerned. Exceptions, if any, are appropriate for this type of work—science fiction, fantasy, paranormal, alternative histories, etc.

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| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
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23. This novel has natural-sounding dialogue that realistically reflects people in the new adult age group.

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|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

24. By the end of the novel, one or more of the new adult characters develops and/or changes in significant ways or—in the case of an anti-hero—provides an encouraging lesson by this failure to do so.

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| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

25. This novel has a strong supporting cast of secondary characters that helps one or more of the new adult characters develop and/or change in significant ways.

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| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

26. Others who have read this novel will be highly likely to recommend it to a relative, friend, or other acquaintance aged 18 to 29.

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|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

27. This GOLDIE nominee is a splendid example of high-quality books in the **New Adult Fiction** category.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------------|
| Totally Disagree | | | | | | | | | Totally Agree |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

28. Please summarize your overall thoughts about this book. Constructive criticisms, if any, would be especially helpful. An edited version of your insights and those of other judges—absent any identification—may be shared with the author(s).