

FICTION COLLECTIONS

Definition: This category includes single-author collections containing fictional works that share a theme, purpose, style, and/or approach. All entries must be fictional works chosen by the compiler(s)—a single author, editor or publisher, a group of editors, etc. Collections must have a minimum of three individual pieces and a total of at least 40,000 words to qualify for judging.

Judging Guideline: These collections 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. Individual pieces in the collection should be self-contained yet contribute to the book’s overall quality. For GCLS purposes, collections devoted to poetry should not be entered in this category but in the appropriate poetry category.

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. This collection has a compelling theme, purpose, style, and/or approach.

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

3. This collection is organized in an effective manner, flowing smoothly from beginning to middle to end, with individual pieces placed strategically.

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

4. The individual pieces in this collection consistently reflect, illuminate, and/or reinforce important facets of its theme, purpose, style, and/or approach.

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

5. The individual pieces in this collection contain fresh, interesting, entertaining, and/or informative elements relevant to its theme, purpose, style, and/or approach.

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

6. The individual pieces in this collection are self-contained and able to stand alone. Each piece can be comprehended in one reading.

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

7. The opening of the individual pieces in this collection 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

8. The individual pieces in this collection do not depend too heavily on implausible coincidence or far-fetched circumstances that are inappropriate for this type of work.

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

9. The individual pieces in this collection have sufficient 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

10. The individual pieces in this collection are free of plot holes and logical inconsistencies—dropped storylines, puzzling disappearance of characters, underdeveloped and/or contrived story elements, actions leading to illogical consequences, etc.

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

11. The individual pieces in this collection are appropriately paced. The writing skillfully moves the story along 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

12. By the end of each piece in this collection, all important plots, subplots, and character conflicts are reasonably resolved, other than those clearly intended to remain unresolved.

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

- 13.** The individual pieces in this collection feature compelling, three-dimensional main characters with credible strengths and flaws.

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

- 14.** The characters in the individual pieces in this collection 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

- 15.** The individual pieces in this collection have engaging, natural-sounding dialogue that brings the characters to life.

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

- 16.** The individual pieces in this collection are written in an engaging style. The writing flows smoothly, with a sufficient variety of sentence structures and lengths; the language is fresh, vivid, and original; word choices are effective and fit the style, tone, and mood of the book; etc.

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

- 17.** This collection 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

- 18.** The writing 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

19. The individual pieces in this collection have 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

20. The individual pieces in this collection have 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

21. The individual pieces in this collection have elements (stories, characters, themes, settings, evocative writing, a distinctive 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

22. This collection 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

23. 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

24. This GOLDIE nominee is a splendid example of high-quality books in the **Fiction Collections** category.

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

25. 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/editor/compiler(s).