

Typhlo and Tactus International Tactile Book Competition

Once again, the Typhlo and Tactus group is organising a tactile book competition to encourage the design and production of books with tactile illustrations for children with little or no sight. In November 2011 experts from eight countries will gather in Prague to examine tactile books from all over the world. They will then have the difficult task of choosing the book they consider to be the best.

In the past, the prestigious T&T competition has been won by teachers, graphic designers and creative individuals. UK entrants have had some success in recent years: in 2007, Susannah Phillips from Bath was one of the prize winners with her tactile retelling of *Jack and the Beanstalk*; in 2009, Kathryn Overton's *Hello Tifflo* won second prize and Mary Hulme's *Toad's Tea* was highly commended.



The 2009 competition was won by South African Lynette Rudman with *Spider's Web*.

Everyone is welcome to enter this competition (but please note that there is no separate category for books designed or made by children). The winning book will need to be very appealing to blind children under the age of 12. It will need to have lots of tactile interest and be robust enough to withstand enthusiastic exploration. We know how precious these books are; all entries will be returned to their owners as soon as possible after the competition.

To find out more about designing and making tactile books, see the website of the UK's Tactile Book Advancement Group www.tactilebooks.org. Full competition information and a registration form can be found at www.tactus.org. Once your book is completed, send it to the address below (or to your country's contact organisation if you are based outside the UK), to arrive by 1st September 2011. Each country can forward a maximum of five entries to the judges in Prague; UK entries will be shortlisted by a panel of professionals, with input from visually-impaired children.

The Tactus Award aims to encourage excellence and the sharing of expertise in the creation of tactile books for v.i. children.

The closing date for UK entries is 1st September 2011.

For full details see www.tactus.org or contact Marion Ripley, ClearVision, Linden Lodge School, 61 Princes Way, London SW19 6JB. Tel: 020 8789 9575. info@clearvisionproject.org.