Ethiopian Children's Literature Development: Quality Checklist

Readability
- Text is accessible to targeted reading level
- Decodable
- Simple syntax, simple font
- Appropriate length

Language
- Title is engaging
- Language has rhythm and flow
- Word choice reflects age-appropriateness and targeted reading level
- Uses standard language; refrains from slang

Relevance of text
- Targeted to a particular audience
- Of interest to an Ethiopian reader
- Culturally accurate and appropriate
- Relates to readers' lives
- Relevant to community needs and issues

Organization
- Logical structure
- Meaningful beginning that creates anticipation
- Identifiable pattern: beginning, middle, end; sequential; point-by-point analysis; comparison/contrast, etc.

Content
- Information is accurate and current
- Well-developed theme with interesting, important, informative details
- Content expands the reader's world view
- Setting represents realities of Ethiopian life (urban, rural, different regions, ethnicities, etc)

- Characters are realistic and demonstrate respect for diversity (gender, ability, religion, ethnicity)
- Text provokes thought, interaction and/or discussion
- Free of violence, animal cruelty, bullying
- Neutrality regarding religion, politics, ethnicity

Conventions:
- Text is mechanically correct
- Spelling
- Capitalization
- Grammar and usage
- Paragraphing

Illustrations:
- Created professionally
- Draw readers into book
- Match and enhance text
- Add detail to text
- Offer opportunities for inference and prediction
- Respect diversity (gender, ability, religion, ethnicity)
- Show characters as friendly with obvious emotions
- Use various perspectives (close-up, panorama)

Presentation
- Overall appearance
- Balance of visuals and text