



1st September 2018

The Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2018

Dear Principal/Teacher/Librarian,

Based in Hong Kong, Mandarin Matrix is one of Asia's leading independent publishing houses. Mandarin Matrix is organising **The Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2018** for the eighth year. Sponsored by Search Group, SCAD, Cyberport, Faber–Castell, Bookazine, International New York Times, Playtimes Magazine, Techni Photo, Print Plus, Shamrock Catering and Asia Exhibits House, **The Hong Kong Young Writers Awards** is an annual competition for aspiring writers to showcase their talents and creativity in fiction, non–fiction, poetry, cover art and digital storytelling.

The competition's main aim is to foster excellence in creativity by providing students with the opportunity to develop their expressive talents and expand their horizons. The awards encourage and recognise excellence in English writing and artwork among students of various age groups, diverse backgrounds and different learning abilities. Since its inception in 2010, the competition has been a resounding success, with more than 980+ innovative entries coming in from 200+ participating schools across Hong Kong, Macau and China in 2017.

All entries should be based on the theme for 2018, *New Journeys to the West*. One winner will be chosen in each of the groups, and one lucky student will be named **The Hong Kong Young Writer of 2018**.

Exciting opportunities for your students this year

This document provides an overview of the prizes, recognition and learning opportunities available to your aspiring students during this academic year with the HKYWA 2018. Elements of the competition and contributions of each sponsor are outlined below:

New Journeys to the West

Almost 1400 years ago, a brave young monk made a multi–year journey from China across the southwestern mountains to India. His trip was celebrated in a novel called *Journey to the West*, written about 500 years ago.

In the novel version of the tale, the young monk, whose name is Xuanzang, is accompanied by magical companions, including the Monkey King, a friar and a talking pig. The odd group of friends battle strange monsters and suffer hardships, before learning that overcoming difficulties is necessary for the monk to find true spiritual fulfilment.

But the true story on which the novel is based is also remarkable. The real life Xuanzang travelled for years and found a magical community of learning in India called Nalanda – which historians believe might be the first campus university in human history.

So *Journey to the West* is really two collections of tales – one from the novelist's imagination, and one from history. And it also launched a fascinating literary character. In real life, the monk learned about an Indian god called Hanuman. In the novel, we meet the Monkey King, a creature with magical powers who is mischievous but ultimately on the side of good.

Digital Storytelling Category

Digital Storytelling (Group 4 and 5). This award invites students in upper secondary school (aged 13–18) to produce short films in the style of either a drama or documentary. We hope to connect with every film studies and media studies teacher in Hong Kong to ensure the largest amount of students gain the recognition they deserve. For more information please request/consult the ‘Digital Storytelling’ brief document.

South China Morning Post – Education Post

South China Morning Post is our media partner. They will be sending out information about the competition to their schools and parents database. They will also be covering the Awards Ceremony. Representatives from Education Post will select a winner from the literary categories which will be published in the HKYWA 2018 anthology. The HKYWA Writer for 2018 will have the opportunity to spend a day in the news room!

Search Investment Group

The Search Investment Group has been a generous contributor to the competition for the past three years. Representatives from Search will select the winners from three of this year’s categories who will be published in the HKYWA 2018 anthology.

Faber–Castell

Faber–Castell has agreed to renew as the sponsor for Cover Art. The prestigious stationery company will assess every piece with a panel of artistic experts to determine the best 10 pieces.

Bookazine

- Book signing venue
- Gift bags to all overall award winners
- Recommended reading lists

Entrants will be divided into groups based on the following table:

Division	School Year Equivalents		HKYWA Group
Primary	Year 1–3	Primary 1–3	Group 1
	Year 4–6	Primary 4–6	Group 2
Secondary	Year 7–9	Form 1–3	Group 3
	Year 10–11	Form 4–5	Group 4
	Year 12–13	Form 5–6	Group 5

Schools	Age Group	HKYWA Group
Different Learning Abilities	Age 13 and under	Group 6
Different Learning Abilities	Age 14–18	Group 7

Each registered teacher can submit a total of 10 entries for literary categories

Each registered teacher can submit 10 entries in each of the 6 individual categories for literary work for students with different learning abilities.

There is a separate category for cover art. Only Primary schools can also submit 10 entries in each of the 2 Cover Art groups.

Secondary Schools Groups 4 and 5 can also submit entries each in the Digital Storytelling category.

The award categories and their corresponding word limits are as follows:

Schools	HKYWA Group	Category and word limit				Digital Storytelling
		Fiction	Non-Fiction	Poetry	Cover Art	
Primary	Group 1	Up to 500 words	Up to 500 words	No limit	No limit	N/A
	Group 2	Up to 1000 words	Up to 1000 words	No limit		
Secondary	Group 3	Up to 1500 words	Up to 1500 words	No limit	N/A	N/A
	Group 4	Up to 3000 words	Up to 3000 words	No limit		No longer than 6 mins
	Group 5	Up to 3000 words	Up to 3000 words	No limit		No longer than 6 mins

Schools	HKYWA Group	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Poetry	Cover Art	Digital Story Telling
Different Learning Abilities	Group 6	No limit	No limit	No limit	N/A	N/A N/A
Different Learning Abilities	Group 7	No limit	No limit	No limit		

The awards ceremony will be held on 21st March 2018. The shortlisted entries will be published in an anthology, which will be given to all shortlisted students at the Awards Ceremony and will be available for sale at Bookazine stores across Hong Kong. All the entries will be published on the competition's website as an ebook. All shortlisted writers will be invited to the awards ceremony to collect their certificates for being shortlisted. Winners in each of the 23 award categories will receive trophies and prizes.

Winning entries will be selected by an independent panel of judges, headed by journalist and author, Nury Vittachi, Our Chairman of Judges.

Submissions deadline is 15th January 2018, but for your students to participate in this exciting competition, your school is required to register. Registration instructions are enclosed. We would prefer all registration to be done by e-mail but a registration form is attached for the option of registering by post.

Registrations must be completed by 31st October 2017. Schools should register their primary and secondary schools separately. Schools can also have multiple registrations completed by individual teachers. Upon registration, your school will receive a confirmation email with instructions on the submission process.

Visit our website at www.hkywa.com for further details, submission forms and instructions for teachers, competition rules, writing tips for students and much more. If you have any queries, please contact us at hkywa2018@ppp.com.hk.

Yours sincerely,



David Tait
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