

3rd September 2018

The Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2019

Dear Principal/Teacher/Librarian,

We invite your students to enter the 10th anniversary competition of the Hong Kong Young Writers Award!

Year—upon—year, we are continually amazed by the research and thought that goes into each child's work and I'm positive this year we will continue to see some truly amazing entries.

Once again, the awards are being organised by Playtimes, one of Asia's leading parenting and lifestyle magazines.

The Hong Kong Young Writers Awards (HKYWA) is an annual competition and fantastic opportunity for aspiring writers to showcase their talents and creativity. Our entry categories are in fiction, non-fiction, poetry and cover art.

Over the years, the awards have been sponsored by Search Group, SCAD, Cyberport, Faber—Castell, Bookazine, International New York Times, Techni Photo, Print Plus, Shamrock Catering and Asia Exhibits House

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, aged from 6—18, of various age groups, diverse backgrounds and different learning abilities. Since its inception in 2010, the competition has been a resounding success, with over 1,000 entries coming in from approximately 200 participating schools across Hong Kong, Macau and China in 2018.

All entries should be based on the theme for 2019, *New Tales of the Ming Treasure Voyages*. One winner will be chosen in each of the groups, and one lucky student will be named **The Hong Kong Young Writer of 2019**.

New Tales of the Ming Treasure Voyages

Pirates usually travel the seas looking for gold to steal.

But in the early 1400s, a fleet of ships set sail from China which did the exact opposite!
It carried cargoes of gold and silk and other precious items for the captain and the sailors to give away as gifts.

There were seven voyages by the Ming Treasure Fleet—and the people on board had many adventures. Sometimes they met peaceful people and did give away the wonderful presents they had brought from the Emperor, making new relationships with a variety of countries.

On other occasions, they had to fight battles with hostile armies, or deal with nasty pirates of the more usual sort. Luckily, the ships also carried military forces and weapons.

But this group of travellers also did something wonderful: they won for themselves a place in history as some of the first great explorers of planet Earth, reaching India and Africa and Arabia. Historians looking back say China truly “ruled the seas” in those days.

What sort of adventures do you think they had? What would it be like to have been a young person on such a journey?

What sort of jobs would have to be done on the ship, and what sights would you see that you would remember forever?

We hope this rich topic will get the imaginations of young writers' floating into whole new waters!

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 2018/19.

Elements of the competition and contributions of each sponsor are outlined below:

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 and gift bags to all overall award winners.

Shamrock Catering Group

Catering sponsors for the Awards Ceremony

AE Exhibits

Support at the Awards Ceremony

Techni–Photo

Official photographer for the Awards Ceremony.

For your students to participate in this exciting 10th anniversary competition, your school must register. Please find registration instructions attached. We would prefer that all registrations are done by e–mail, but you may also print and post the registration form to our office.

All registrations must be completed by 5th November 2018 – given the volume of application expected this year, no further registrations will be accepted after this date.

Where appropriate, schools should register their primary and secondary sections separately. Schools may also have multiple registrations completed by individual teachers. Upon registration completion, your school will receive a confirmation email with instructions on the submission process.

The submissions deadline is 15th January 2019. For cover art entries, we require the entries posted to our office no later than 12th January 2019 for inclusion in the judging process.

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 1–2	Group 3
	Year 10–11	Form 3–4	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

For literary categories, each registered teacher can submit a total of 10 entries across the 3 categories.

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

There is a separate category for cover art. Only Primary schools can also submit 10 entries in each of the 2 cover art groups. Each student can only submit either literary or cover art entries.

The award categories and corresponding word limits are as follows:

Schools	HKYWA Group	Category and word limit			
		Fiction	Non-Fiction	Poetry	Cover Art
Primary	Group 1	Up to 500 words	Up to 500 words	No limit	No limit
	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
	Group 4	Up to 3000 words	Up to 3000 words	No limit	
	Group 5	Up to 3000 words	Up to 3000 words	No limit	

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

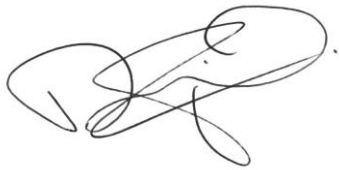
The awards ceremony will be held on 27th March 2019. The shortlisted entries will be published in an anthology, which will be given to all shortlisted students at the Awards Ceremony and will be available for sale at Bookazine Landmark Prince's Building. All entries will be published on the www.hkywa.com as an ebook.

All shortlisted writers will be invited to the awards ceremony to collect their certificate and a winner will be announced in each group. Winners in each of the 23 award categories will receive trophies and prizes. From these winners, the judges will choose the overall Hong Kong Young Writer for 2019.

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

For further information, please do visit our website at www.hkywa.com, for access to submission forms and instructions for teachers, competition rules, writing tips for students and much more. If you have any further questions, please contact us at hkywa2019@ppp.com.hk.

Yours sincerely



David Tait
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