



9th September 2019

The Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2020

Dear Principal/Teacher/Librarian,

Based in Hong Kong, Playtimes, one of Asia's leading parenting and lifestyle magazines is organising **The Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2020 (HKYWA)** for the eleventh year.

We are also delighted to announce that the award scheme has gained such notoriety that it now boasts the support of a non-profit organisation, THE YOUTH LITERATURE FOUNDATION. For more information on the foundation please go to <https://www.hkywa.com/home3/ylyf-new-non-profit/>

The HKYWA is an annual competition for aspiring writers to showcase their talents and creativity in fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and cover art. Over the years, the awards have been sponsored by Search Group, SCAD, Cyberport, Faber-Castell, Bookazine, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, International New York Times, Techni Photo, Plus Group, El Charro, Delaney's, 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 more than 980+ innovative entries coming in from 200+ participating schools across Hong Kong, Macau and China in 2019.

All entries should be based on the theme for 2020, *Future Adventures of the Greater Bay Area*. One winner will be chosen in each of the groups, and one lucky student will be named **The Hong Kong Young Writer of 2020**.

Future Adventures of the Greater Bay Area

Welcome to a whole new world...

Imagine someone launched a brand new “sort of” country and your home was in it!

It's a pretty exciting thought, right? And it's really happening. Government leaders in this part of the world have plans to launch what they call the GBA, which stands for Greater Bay Area, including southern China, Hong Kong, and Macau.

Of course it won't technically be a country. But it will be a new area of the world with boundaries, so it will feel like a new, fresh place.

The new region will have more land than Switzerland, more people than Canada, and will contain more business activity than the whole of Australia.

The GBA doesn't have a name yet. Some people suggested Cantonesia, strongly connected to the main spoken language.

What would life be like in a place that tries to blend what's best about mainland China, with what's best about Hong Kong and what's best about Macau?

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 2019/20. 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.

El Charro/ Delaney’s

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 competition, your school is required to register. Registration instructions attached. We would prefer all registration to be done by e–mail, but you may also print and post the registration form to our office.

Registrations must be completed by 31st October 2019. 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. If you don’t receive a confirmation within a week of registering, please email anise@ppp.com.hk

The submission deadline is 17th January 2020. For Cover Art we need the entries posted to our office latest by 15th January 2020 at the latest.

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 their 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 25th March 2020. 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 (Prince's Building). All the entries will be published on the www.hkywa.com website as an ebook. All shortlisted writers will be invited to the awards ceremony to collect their certificates, where 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 Hong Kong Young Writer for 2020.

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

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 hkywa2020@ppp.com.hk.

Yours sincerely,



David Tait
Managing Director
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