



3rd September 2020

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 2021 (HKYWA)** for the twelfth 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/ylf-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, Hong Kong Maritime Museum, 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 2020.

All entries should be based on the theme for 2021, *Tales from China's Magical Mountains*. One winner will be chosen in each of the groups, and one lucky student will be named **The Hong Kong Young Writer of 2021**.

Tales from China's Magical Mountains.

China's magical mountains

Misty mountains are presented as magical places in stories ranging from *The Lord of the Rings* to the *Avatar* movie. Yet many people don't realize that the concept comes from a real place: the Mountains of the Yellow Emperor in eastern China, now known as Huangshan.

The mountains are breathtakingly beautiful, with their sharp peaks, raised villages and floating clouds. Some of the pine trees are believed to be 1500 years old, and tens of thousands of stone steps may be just as ancient.

A pair of poets, Li Bai and Du Fu, lived on the mountains in the 8th century, and influenced Jack Kerouac and other "beat poets" of 1950s–1960s America.

Even today, the Yellow Mountains are still a huge, mysterious place. Scientists regularly find new species of animals here, and dinosaur bones found in these and other Chinese mountains are the reason that so many stories feature dragons living in secret mountain caves.

What other secrets are there in this district? Why did poets choose to live here? Why does it feel so magical and unearthly? Who lives in the tiny village houses high above the clouds?

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 2020/21. Elements of the competition and contributions of each sponsor are outlined below:

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.

Hong Kong Maritime Museum

Books related to the topic to winners of each category and free admission tickets to all short listed students

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 – hkywa@ppp.com.hk, but you may also print and post the registration form to our office.

Registrations must be completed by 30th October 2020. 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 15th January 2021. For Cover Art we need the entries posted to our office by 13th January 2021 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 1–3	Group 3
	Year 10–11	Form 4–5	Group 4
	Year 12–13	Form 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	

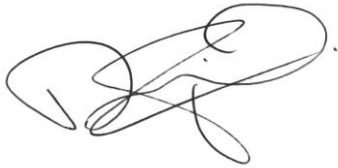
The awards ceremony will be held in March 2021. The shortlisted entries will be published in an anthology, which will be given to all shortlisted students at the Awards Ceremony and will be available for sale at Bookazine (Prince's Building). All the entries will be published on the www.hkywa.com website 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 2021.

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 further questions, please contact us at hkywa@ppp.com.hk.

Yours sincerely,



David Tait
Managing Director
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