



5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## The Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2023

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 2023 (HKYWA)** for the thirteenth year.

The Awards 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, Max and Mei, Nury Vittachi 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 1200+ innovative entries coming in from 200+ participating schools across Hong Kong, Macau and China in 2022.

All entries should be based on the theme for 2023, **New Tales of Judge Pao**. One winner will be chosen in each of the groups, and one lucky student will be named **The Hong Kong Young Writer of 2023**.

### New Tales of Judge Pao

#### Judge Pao, China's Sherlock Holmes, really existed

BEFORE THERE WAS Detective Pikachu, before there was Batman, before there was Sherlock Holmes. . . there was Judge Pao. A crusading figure with a passion to fight crime and clean up the land, Judge Pao lived more than 1,000 years before any of the other justice fighters mentioned above were dreamed up by authors. His name may ring bells worldwide, as there have been many books and movies inspired by his life, including books written in Chinese, English and French.

This hero really existed. Not only that, but his fame spread while he was alive, with people saying that he dispensed justice as a human during the day, but at night, he became the immortal Yama of a Department of Hell known as “the Infernal Bureaucracy” and worked as a supernatural judge sorting out the affairs of the Afterlife.

He also has a really interesting Hong Kong connection. His line of descent has been carefully recorded, and a famous family in the city, known for the patriarch Sir Y.K. Pao (short for Pao Yue-Kong).

And Hong Kong, home of his grandchildren, regularly wins awards in global indexes for having a world-class legal system and one of the planet's best corruption-fighting operations. China's famous supernatural judge would have been proud.

### 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 2022/23. 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

#### 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 shortlisted students

#### Print Plus Group

Printing sponsor

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](mailto:hkywa@ppp.com.hk), but you may also print and post the registration form to our office.

Registrations must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. 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](mailto:anise@ppp.com.hk)

The submission deadline is 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023. For Cover Art we need the entries posted to our office by 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 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	

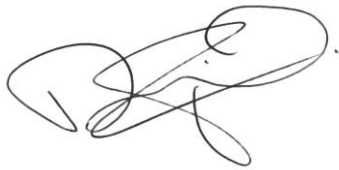
Schools	HKYWA Group	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Poetry	Cover Art
Different Learning Abilities	Group 6	No limit	No limit	No limit	N/A
Different Learning Abilities	Group 7	No limit	No limit	No limit	

The awards ceremony will be held in March 2023. The shortlisted entries will be published in an anthology on Amazon as Kindle and print on demand versions. All the entries will be published on the [www.hkywa.com](http://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 2023.

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](http://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](mailto:hkywa@ppp.com.hk).

Yours sincerely,



David Tait  
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