

WINNER MAX AND MEI AWARD FOR FICTION GROUP 1

HKYWA 2021

Student: Siena Almeida

School: Canadian International School

Q. Please share with us a few benefits of entering a writing competition.

A. The writing process is really fun. It's very exciting to think if you win your story might be published (on Kindle and in a REAL Book!)

Q. Describe how you felt when it was announced that you were the winner of Fiction Group 1?

A. Very happy but also sad for my friends who had lost.

Q. How did you prepare for HKYWA 2021?

A. I thought of various potential story lines about dragons and picked out elements I liked the most and combined them. I also spent some time thinking about the characters and really understand their personalities. Finally, I thought about the message I wanted to convey about respecting the natural order despite being a work of fiction. I wanted to incorporate a twist a deeper meaning.

Q. Do you have any writing tips for students looking to enter this year's competition?

A. My recommendation for research is not to spend too much time researching. Instead spend time creating your characters and turning the dial up high in your imagination.

I suggest reading a TON to develop your writing skills. I read as much as I can in every spare minute to the point for being told I read far too much!