



5th September 2023

The Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2024

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 2024 (HKYWA)** for the fifteenth 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, Friday Everyday 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 2023.

All entries should be based on the theme for 2024, **New Tales of China's Inventions**. One winner will be chosen in each of the groups, and one lucky student will be named **The Hong Kong Young Writer of 2024**.

New Tales of China's Inventions

Most people know that paper and gunpowder were invented in ancient China, but don't realise that so were many other things we use today, from noodles to ketchup. The Chinese tried out different economic systems and invented the first paper money more than 1000 years ago. The compass was developed over many centuries.

Even more amazing is the fact that 25 centuries ago, they found natural gas and used bamboo to pipe it to villages, creating the sort of energy distribution system most people think of as a modern invention. They also invented toilet paper—although it was several centuries after toilets appeared! And while gunpowder was used for peaceful purposes such as the creation of fireworks, they later developed missiles too.

But Chinese creativity is not just a thing of the past. Video-sharing websites are copying the style of China's Tiktok, social media platforms are trying to be like WeChat, and China has become the world leader in making solar panels, planting new forests, and creating electric cars.

Will you be inspired to write about Chinese inventors of the past? Or would you prefer to speculate on what new inventions might appear today or in the near future? Let your imagination soar!

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 2023/24. 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

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

Friday Everyday

Judging 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, but you may also print and post the registration form to our office.

Registrations must be completed by 31st October 2023. 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 16th January 2024. For Cover Art we need the entries posted to our office by 15th January 2024 at the latest. On the submission form please state the name of your student in the format you would like to see on the certificate.

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	

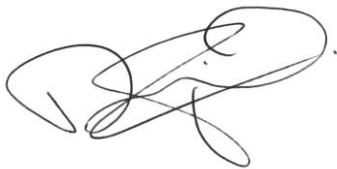
Schools	HKYWA Group	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Poetry	Cover Art
Different Learning Abilities	Group 6	No limit	No limit	No limit	N/A
Different Learning Abilities	Group 7	No limit	No limit	No limit	

The awards ceremony will be held in March 2024. 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 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 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
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Sponsors

