

YWA 2023 WINNER INTERVIEW



Student: Kai–Ying Ng

School: Shanghai Community International School

Winner: Creative Writing Fiction: Group 4

Q1. Please share with us how you benefited from entering a writing competition.

A1. Writing is about refining your literacy skills, explore diverse forms of writing and enriching your experiences of handling the quill. A benefit I find entering HKYWA is that HKYWA choose very specific topics that makes you dive deep into looking at the roots of the subject matter and it's a fantastic way of combining what you've learn with creativity. Through HKYWA, I take both my research and writing skills to the extreme and discover more ways I can strive and evolve with it.

Q2. Describe how you felt when it was announced that you were the winner?

A2. I felt pretty flabbergasted the moment I learnt that I was a winner. The news was so unexpected yet so exciting that it took a few seconds to minutes for it to sink in me. After that, I had the skeptical 'OMG' face for the rest of my day. Yup, I was flabbergasted.

Q3. How did you prepare for HKYWA 2023?

A3. A thing I did for preparing was that I read a whole ton of books or watch movies related to the topic to give ideas of what am I looking for when I am writing my essay. Books such as Jackaby, movies like Enola Homes, they were idea generators that sprouted thoughts in my brain. After three weeks of exploration, I knew that I was ready to write.

Q4. Do you have any writing tips for students looking to enter this year's competition?

(1 about research, 1 about writing skills)

A3. For research, you will want to understand the topic. Typing key words would be a great start and then look at 5–10 resources. Pick out ideas and facts that were constantly repeated in those articles and note down ideas that don't appear as often. Then do some for deeper digging in those. You should be able to get a web of information that are linked to each other and decide what to write according to the information you mined up. For writing, it is all about practice and experience. Reading and exploring good writing can help you see what are forms of good writing and using what you have explored in your writing and adapt it can lead you to a door of possibilities.

