

3rd September 2025

The Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2026

Dear Principal/Teacher/Librarian,

Based in Hong Kong, we are now organising the seventeenth edition of **The Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2026 (HKYWA)**.

The Awards now boast the support of a non-profit organisation, (**YLF**). 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. 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. At HKYWA we know writing is not only fun, but an incredibly powerful tool that can help children develop critical thinking skills, creativity and enhance their imaginations, as well as improving their reading comprehension, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and communication skills. The awards encourage and recognise excellence in English writing and artwork among students, aged from 5–18, 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 1900+ innovative entries coming in from 400+ participating teachers across Hong Kong, Macau and China in 2025.

Creative Writing – English

For students who are creative but are not fluent with the technical side of the language, we also have a separate creativity section. We still expect entries to be in English and produced with care but for work entered under this heading, judges will make their decisions based more on the creative content, and less on the technical side of the writing process.

Chinese Poetry.

The submissions for this category will **NOT** be included in the 10 literary submissions; teachers can submit an additional 10 poems in traditional or simplified Chinese according to your school's language policy. If you are registering for the English section of HKYWA 2026, then you don't need to register again. The submission instructions remain the same.

Chinese Poetry – Calligraphy

This category is open to students from all schools. The criterion for submission is:

The submission has to be related to the main topic.

1. Schools already registered **do not** need to register again.
2. There should be a total of 4 lines in a poem. Each should have 5 words 五言絕句/ 五言絕詩

Example below

床前明月光，疑是地上霜。

舉頭望明月，低頭思故鄉。

3. Poems longer than the specified criteria will be disqualified.
4. Any of the 5 fonts will be acceptable 楷書、行書、草書、隸書、篆書
5. Submissions have to be written with a traditional Chinese calligraphy brush (Máobǐ) and ink and not modern calligraphy pens.
6. The size should not bigger than A3 portrait

All entries should be based on the theme for 2026, **New Tales of China's Silk Road**. One winner will be chosen in each of the groups, and one lucky student will be named **The Hong Kong Young Writer of 2026**.

New Tales of China's Silk Road

Twenty-two centuries ago, some intrepid Chinese people spent months trekking westwards to see if they could sell silk to new customers. The trip was a big success—and soon grew into a two-way trade route, joining Europe to China's Chang'an, which became the biggest city in the world.

The Silk Road became one of the most important journeys in history, with east and west exchanging wonderful foods, remarkable inventions, stunning art, and creative ideas. It remained popular for more than one and a half thousand years, finally disappearing in the mid-1400s, but it was revived in 2013, and quickly become the biggest international trade project in world history, with 150 countries becoming involved.

You could write about the first people to do the journey. Or the last!

Or about people from different countries learning about each other.

Or you could write about what the new Silk Road could achieve, as the world changes.

Use your imagination!

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 2025/26. Elements of the competition and contributions of each sponsor are outlined below:

Cyberport

Venue Sponsor

Bookazine

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 are attached to this email. We would prefer all registration to be done by e-mail – hkywa@ppp.com.hk.

Registrations must be completed by 31st October 2025. 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 2026. For Cover Art we need the entries posted to our office by 15th January 2026 at the latest. On the submission form, please check spellings carefully as, once registered, this cannot be amended for the certificates.

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 and over	Group 7

For literary submissions, each registered teacher can submit a total of 10 English (Fiction, Non-fiction and Poetry), 10 Chinese Poetry and 10 Chinese Calligraphy entries across the 7 groups.

The Cover Art category is open to Primary schools and students with Different Learning Abilities.

Each student can only submit either literary or cover art entries. Students cannot submit entries in both categories.

Students who have submitted in the English section can also submit in the Chinese section.

The award groups, categories and their corresponding word limits are as follows:

Schools	HKYWA Group	Groups, Categories and word limit					
		Fiction	Non-Fiction	Poetry	Chinese Poetry	Cover Art	Chinese Calligraphy
Primary	Group 1	Up to 500 words	Up to 500 words	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit
	Group 2	Up to 1000 words	Up to 1000 words	No limit	No limit		No limit
Secondary	Group 3	Up to 1500 words	Up to 1500 words	No limit	No limit	N/A	No limit
	Group 4	Up to 3000 words	Up to 3000 words	No limit	No limit		No limit
	Group 5	Up to 3000 words	Up to 3000 words	No limit	No limit		No limit

Schools	HKYWA Group	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Poetry	Chinese Poetry	Cover Art	Chinese Calligraphy
Different Learning Abilities	Group 6	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit
Different Learning Abilities	Group 7	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit

The awards ceremony will be held in March 2026. 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 in 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 award categories will receive trophies and prizes. From these winners the judges will choose the Hong Kong Young Writer for 2026.

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
PPP Company Limited

Sponsors



Organiser

