



3rd September 2026

The Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2027

Dear Principal/Teacher/Librarian,

Based in Hong Kong, we are now preparing for the eighteenth edition of **The Hong Kong Young Writers Awards 2027 (HKYWA)**.

The Awards now boast the support of The Youth Literature Foundation, a registered charity (Section 88) with the HKSAR IRD. For more information on the foundation please visit <https://youthlf.org/>

The HKYWA is an annual competition that invites aspiring writers and artists to showcase their creativity across fiction, non-fiction, poetry, Chinese calligraphy, and cover art. Our primary aim is to foster creative excellence by offering students a platform to develop their expressiveness and broaden their horizons.

At HKYWA, we believe writing is not only enjoyable, but a powerful tool that builds critical thinking skills, sparks imagination, and strengthens reading comprehension, literacy, and communication. We celebrate excellence in English writing and artwork among students aged 5 to 18, welcoming diverse backgrounds and varied learning abilities.

Since launching in 2010, the competition has grown remarkably – receiving over 1,900 innovative entries supported by more than 400 teachers across Hong Kong, Macau, and Mainland China in 2026.

Unlocking Exciting Opportunities for Your Students

This document provides an overview of the prizes, recognition, and learning opportunities available to your students during the 2026/27 academic year with the HKYWA. **Key highlights** of the competition and the contributions of each sponsor are outlined below:

In order for your students to participate, please ensure your school completes the registration process. Instructions are attached to this email. We kindly request that all registrations be submitted by email to hkywa@ppp.com.hk.

REGISTRATION must be completed by **30th October 2026**. Please note that primary and secondary branches of a school should be registered separately. Schools may also submit multiple registrations through individual teachers. Each teacher requires only one registration to cover all categories.

Upon registering, you will receive a confirmation email detailing the submission process. If you do not receive a confirmation within one week, please contact anise@ppp.com.hk.

SUBMISSIONS close on **15th January 2027**. Please note that physical Cover Art entries must be posted to our office by 14th January 2027 at the latest. When filling out the submission form, please check all spelling carefully, as student names and details cannot be amended on the certificates once registered.

All entries must be inspired by the 2027 theme, **"New Tales of the South China Sea."** A winner will be selected for each group, and one exceptional student will be named **The Hong Kong Young Writer of 2027**.

New Tales of the South China Sea

The South China Seas tend to be mentioned in the news media today only in connection with politicized boundary disputes. That's a shame, because those waters have long had an incredible history, and were home to some remarkable characters – events and individuals who should not be forgotten.

- Pirate Queen Ching Shi had a fleet of 1,800 ships with more than 40,000 pirates – bigger than some national navies.
- Then there was “reverse pirate” Zheng He, a Chinese Muslim who sailed to other lands to give away gifts – and brought back a giraffe on one of his journeys.
- The South China Seas were the start and end point of the “floating” Silk Road during ancient times, with Arabian, Chinese and Persian sailors buying and selling goods.
- A brilliant Italian, Matteo Ricci, came via that sea to land in Macao in 1582. He adopted Chinese clothing, learned the language, and became a one–man East–West bridge.
- Ming Dynasty shipwrecks were found in 2022 – one taking Chinese manufactured goods to the world, and the other bringing a cargo of ebony wood to China.
- In recent centuries, Europeans colonized the coast of south China settled in Macao and then Hong Kong – sometimes at gunpoint.

So, as you can see, there are lots of ideas there to spark your imagination.

Can you imagine yourself as a spice trader, from China or Arabia or Persia, dealing with pirates and trying to avoid being shipwrecked?

Start with daydreaming about this topic. Then choose a fun idea, do some research, and write a wonderful story, or essay, or poem, or create an artwork.

Remember, we are interested in your mind, your thinking processes, and your research abilities, so please do not use AI to help you write or draw. And any AI research should be double-checked with trustworthy human sources. Your natural creativity is better than that of any machine.

Get dreaming!

Groups and Categories

Entrants will be divided into groups based on the following:

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 seven HKYWA groups.

The Cover Art category is open only to primary schools and students with different learning abilities.

Each student can only submit either a literary or a cover art entry, students cannot submit entries in both categories. However, students who have submitted in the English section may also submit in the Chinese section.

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

	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

	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
	Group 7	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit

Creative Writing – English

For students who are imaginative but still developing their technical language skills, we offer a dedicated **Creativity** category. While entries must still be written in English and prepared with care, judges will evaluate work in this section based primarily on creative content and storytelling rather than technical perfection.

Chinese Poetry

Submissions in this category will **not** count toward your 10 literary submissions. Teachers may submit an additional **10 poems** in either Traditional or Simplified Chinese, in accordance with your school's language policy.

If you have already registered for the English section of HKYWA 2026, you do **not** need to register again. The submission instructions remain the same.

Chinese Poetry – Calligraphy

This category is open to students from all schools. Submissions must be related to the main topic, and must also meet the following requirements:

- **Format & Length:** Poems must strictly follow the classical five-character quatrain format (五言絕句 / 五言絕句), exactly 4 lines with 5 characters per line.

Example:

床前明月光，疑是地上霜。

舉頭望明月，低頭思故鄉。

- **Disqualification Rule:** Entries that exceed or do not meet these structural requirements will be disqualified.
- **Accepted Calligraphy Styles:** Submissions may be written in any of the five major styles: 楷書 (Regular script), 行書 (Semi-cursive script), 草書 (Cursive script), 隸書 (Clerical script), or 篆書 (Seal script).
- **Tools & Materials:** Entries must be written using a traditional Chinese calligraphy brush and ink. Modern calligraphy pens or markers are not permitted.
- **Paper Size:** Submissions must not exceed A3 size (portrait orientation).

POLICY ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & ORIGINALITY

The Hong Kong Young Writers Awards is a celebration of authentic student creativity. The use of generative AI tools to draft, brainstorm, or generate content is strictly prohibited. While standard spell-checkers may be used for basic proofreading, all ideas, phrasing, and writing must be the student's own original work. Any submission found to contain AI-generated content will be disqualified.

By submitting your students' work, you confirm that all entries are entirely their own original creation and have been produced without the use of generative artificial intelligence tools.

Awards & Publication

The Awards Ceremony will be held in **March 2027**, where all shortlisted writers will be invited to receive their certificates, and group winners will be announced. Category winners will receive trophies and prizes, and from these, the judges will select the **Hong Kong Young Writer of the Year 2027**.

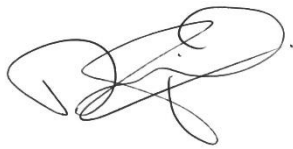
- **All Entries:** Published in an e-book on the www.hkywa.com website.
- **Shortlisted Entries:** Published in an anthology available on Amazon (Kindle and print-on-demand).

The awards ceremony will be held in March 2027. 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 2027.

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

Founder and CEO

PPP Company Limited



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Organiser

