CYA Conference

Children's & Young Adult Writers and Illustrators

Guidelines ~ Hatchling Competition ~ 2017

General Information for all competition entries:

Dates

The 2017 competition dates are:
Opens: 09th January 2017
Closes: 30th April 2017 – Last email by 24H00 - (Standard time zone: UTC/GMT +10 hours.) No late entries will be accepted.
Short listed awards will be notified by 20th June 2017.
Winners will be announced at the CYA Conference held on 1st July 2017. Prizes will be mailed if winners are unable to attend the conference.

Eligibility

Hatchlings

- All writers/illustrators who are 8 – 18 years old (as at 30th April 2017) worldwide, who have not been published in book format within the CYA genres.
- All entries must have a parent or guardians electronic signature of permission on the entry form.
- Contest entry may not be contracted or published in any form when entered.

Aspiring

All writers/illustrators worldwide, who have not been published in book format within the CYA genres.
This contest is also open to current published writers/illustrator worldwide who are either:

- Published with one book in print within the CYA genres ONLY; OR
- Published in e-book format with one book within the CYA genres ONLY; OR
- Self-published with one book within the CYA genres ONLY.
- Published with books in print and e-book format in other genres.
- Contest entry may not be contracted or published in any form when entered.

Published (Opens 23rd January 2017)

This contest is open to current published writers/illustrators worldwide, who are either:

- Published with two books or more in print within the CYA genres ONLY; OR
- Published in e-book format with two book or more within the CYA genres ONLY; OR
- Self-published with two book or more within the CYA genres ONLY.
- Contest entry may not be contracted or published in any form when entered.

How to Submit entries

All entries are lodged electronically. Illustrations, graphic novels and illustrated picture book entries to use mail address below.

1 Make sure you have read the Category requirements (Aspiring, Hatchling or Published), Preparing Your Entry and Checklist sections before submitting your entry.
2 All entries electronically submitted. Includes payment via PayPal/credit card only. No cash or cheques.
3 Illustrations ONLY sent to: CYA Conference, P.O. Box 275, Bribie Island, Queensland, 4507, Australia.
4 All entries will be automatically acknowledged by email on receipt to the primary email address specified in the entry. Invoices are emailed out at the time of payment being completed.
5 Paper copies (illustrations only) must be received by 27th June 2017.

Feedback

Since 2007 everyone has received their score sheets back, to give some feedback and to help improve their entries for the next competition they choose to enter, or submissions to publishing houses.
These will be returned no earlier than 31st August. CYA will announce the date that the sheets are sent out via our newsletter and social media.

Category Consolidation

As has been done in previous years - If there are not enough entries into a single section, the section will be consolidated with another similar category in this competition.
This will be done at the organisers discretion.

Judging

Judges decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
If you shortlist, your entry goes in front of a professional editor.
ALL illustrations go in front of a professional editor.

Other important info

- Do not identify yourself on the contest entry.
- All results will be published on the CYA Conference web site.
- Each written entry must be original work, unpublished nor accepted elsewhere for publication or broadcast.
- Each illustration entry must be original work, but photocopied or computer printout only, unpublished nor accepted elsewhere for publication or exhibition.
- All writing entries will be destroyed after the competition, and the electronic files deleted.
- Illustrations will be displayed on the CYA web site and physical copies may be retained to display at future conferences.
- Illustrations **are not** returned.

Special Note from co-ordinators

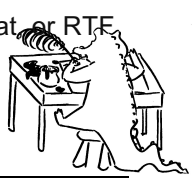
This competition is designed to help authors and illustrators get ready for the submission process to publishing companies. So send in your best effort, checked for spelling errors and edited. Make sure your entry follows the guide lines (just as a publishing house has guidelines), do everything in your power to make that entry arrive in a neat condition - appearances count!

Preparing Your Entry:

Entries not complying with formatting conditions may be eliminated and you will lose judging marks.

Writing

- All submissions are to be electronically submitted.
- Manuscript title, targeted publisher, finished manuscript word total (not extract submitted) and consecutive page numbers to appear in the header of every page of your entry. (**Visit FAQs on cyaconference.com for sample formatting documents**.)
- Text must be double spaced on A4 size page, 12 point Courier or Courier New font, or New Times Roman, left justification with an indent to indicate new paragraphs. Margins: 3.0 cm on the left, right, top and bottom of the page.
- **Picture Books ONLY**: Must be set out in a neat way, easily legible format. Illustration notes are accepted and don't form part of your word count, but must be clearly marked as such. Picture book texts are subjective with set outs, and often use set out as part of emphases etc., this is quite acceptable.
- Ensure when you lodge your electronic entry form that your text file is saved in: Microsoft word format, or RTF (rich text format) or PDF or JPG formats ONLY.



Graphic Novels, Illustrated Picture Books & Middle Grade Illustrated Novels

Please note: CYA REQUIRES the paper copy to display on the wall at CYA Conference on 1st July 2017. Only the electronic format is required for the competition date cut off.

- All submissions are to be electronically submitted.
- No original Illustrations to be sent in. Colour photocopies and computer prints allowed only. Every electronic copy needs a paper copy sent in as well, for display purposes.
- A3 page max size - A4 min size.
- Paper entries must not be folded. A3 size can be placed in a cylinder available from Australia Post.
- Mounting types are welcome to be put on your paper display entries as the electronic files are used for judging, and the paper copies for display.
- Max 3 pages (up to 500 words only) per entry of Graphic Novel & Illustrated picture books.
- **Middle Grade Illustrated Novels ONLY:** 3 illustrations of middle grade novel, with the words present on the pages. Words in English must be original and not previously published in any format, nor accepted elsewhere for publication or broadcast. (Complete story to accompany - not judged.) Set out as you would on a page (See Brian Falkner – Northwood or Michael Gerard Bauer & Joe Bauer's – Eric Vale, Epic Fail, or Jodi Picoult & Samantha Van Leer – Between The Lines, for examples of this category – it's varied and exciting.)
- **Published Illustrators ONLY:** DRAFT mock-up and two completed pictures from that same layout/mock-up. (No word limit as words will NOT BE JUDGED.)
- The full text on your story must be submitted to help the judges understand where the illustration fits into the story, but the TEXT FILE WILL NOT BE JUDGED, but is used in the judging process for the art work.
- Ensure when you lodge your electronic entry form that your files are attached.
- Text Files: either Microsoft word format, or RTF (rich text format) or PDF Illustrations: JPG format ONLY.

Note: (The bigger the graphics file the better – please don't skimp on resolution for smaller files as your work is judged in high resolution. However, the organiser does look at the paper copies sent for display to check if there are special items there (like flaps, metallic paints and glitters etc.) that have not been scanned. Also to see that the colours used on the scanning process are as sharp as the printouts. If the scan files are not good, the organiser will ask for better files to be sent. Limit of 10MB per file please and 20MB per group of files via the entry form. If you have a problem – please email us on info@cyaconference.com

Checklists and Formatting: Writing

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

If together your files are bigger than 10MB each or 20MG per group - please email direct to CYA Conference as the automated system doesn't like large files. (And it's better to email 3 files at 10MB than attempt to send 30MB at once.)

Writing
Checklist

- Entrant's name doesn't appear ANYWHERE on the entry **except** entry form.
- Target publisher, manuscript title, total manuscript length and sequential page numbers are in the header on all pages.
- Picture book entries: Title, total picture book length and sequential page numbers are in the header on all pages
- Novels only: Synopsis is 1 page max, and SINGLE SPACED.
- Entry does not exceed maximum word or page count.
- Electronic lodgement includes entry form, entry files and you have completed the PayPal transaction.
- Entry is saved in Microsoft Word, or RTF (rich text format) or PDF ONLY.

Formatting

- Page is A4 portrait orientation;
- Text is double-spaced;
- Text is indented to indicate paragraphs;
- Margins are set to 3.0cm all around;
- Text is 12 point: Courier or Courier New font, or Times New Roman.
- Electronic entry form has your files attached, saved in Microsoft Word or RTF (rich text format) or PDF ONLY.

Checklists and Formatting: Graphic Novels, Illustrated Picture Books & Middle Grade Illustrated Novels

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

If together your files are bigger than 10MB each or 20MG per group - please email direct to CYA Conference as the automated system doesn't like large files. (And it's better to email 3 files at 10MB than attempt to send 30MB at once.)

Checklist

- Entrant's name doesn't appear ANYWHERE on the entry **except** on the entry form.
- Electronic lodgement includes entry form, entry files and you have completed the PayPal transaction.
- Competition entry is attached to entry form saved as: Text: Microsoft Word or RTF (rich text format) or PDF.
- Illustrations: JPEG ONLY.
- Paper copy (art works only) has been sent to CYA Conference for display. (P.O. Box 275, Bribie Island, Qld, 4507.)

Formatting

- Page is A3 or smaller, but no smaller than A4.
- Electronic version is attached to the electronic entry form.
- Electronic entry form has your files attached in Microsoft Word or RTF (rich text format), or PDF or JPEG formats ONLY and of high resolution.

Hatchlings:

Prize for each section: $100.00 per category, (1st - $50, 2nd - $30, 3rd - $20) submission of short listed entries to at least one children's publisher.
All Hatchling entries have historically gone in front of a professional editor but this is not guaranteed.

ALL illustrations go in front of a professional editor.
IMPORTANT: There are no age barriers in this competition, and 8 year olds to 18 year olds are judged the same way. Publishing doesn't discriminate with age so CYA Conference elects to judge to this trend.

Publication: The winning entry and short-listed finalist will be considered by a publisher of children's books, with **no guarantee** of publication. Author/Illustrator retains copyright.

Entry Fee: $ 13.60 (includes GST)
PayPal/credit card only. No cash or cheques.

Categories:

1. **Picture Books** – Text only for *preschool* or *primary* aged children up to 500 words in English. Open theme.

2. **Chapter Book and Young adult novels** - Text only for older primary aged children/Young Adult. First 1000 words in English. Open theme.

3. **Graphic Novel and Illustrated Picture Book or Middle Grade Illustrated Novel** (words & illustrations): Fiction or non-fiction – any age group within CYA.

a) **Graphic Novel & Illustrated picture book**: 3 pages of graphic novel or 3 pages of illustrated picture book, with up to 500 words on submitted pages. Words in English (Complete story to accompany - not judged.) Open theme.

b) **Middle Grade Illustrated Novel:** 3 illustrations of middle grade novel, with the words present on the pages. Words in English. (Complete story to accompany - not judged.) Open theme.

Questions?
If you have any questions you can contact us on: info@cyaconference.com