

CYA Conference

Children's, Young Adult & Adult Genre Writing 2023 Competition Guidelines



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CYA Conference

Children's, Young Adult & Adult Genre Writing
2023 Competition Guidelines

General Information for all competition entries



Dates

The 2023 competition dates are:

- Closes: **11th April 2023** – Last email by midnight AEST.
- Shortlisted awards will be notified by 20th June 2023.
- Winners of the Children's and YA categories will be announced at the conference on 8th July 2023.
- Winners of the Adult Genre Categories will be announced at the conference on 8th July 2023.
- The first prizes of an editor session will be done via video conferencing. Cash prizes will be made via bank transfer after the conference. (PayPal for internationals.)

Eligibility

Contest entry may not be contracted or published in any form when entered.

Hatchlings (Under 18s)

- All writers and illustrators who are 8 – 18 years old (as of 11th April 2023) worldwide, who have not been published in book format within the section's genres.
- All entries must have a parent or guardians' electronic signature of permission on the entry form.

Aspiring

All writers and illustrators worldwide,

- Who have not been published in book format within this section's genre.

OR

- You have less than two books published within this section's genre in any form, print to eBook. This includes trade, partner and self-publishing.

OR

- Published with more than two books in print and eBook format in other genre where the entrant is not sole creator or illustrator responsible for that section. This includes trade, partner and self-publishing.



Published

This contest is open to current published writers and illustrators worldwide,

- Who has more than two books published within this section's genres in any form, print to eBook. This includes trade, partner and self-publishing.
- You are considered a published illustrator if you have two or more books published in any form, from print to eBook where the entrant is the illustrator. This includes trade, partner and self-publishing.

Guidelines

All entries are lodged electronically.

Make sure you have read the Category requirements:

Writing for the Children's and YA market: [Aspiring](#), [Hatchling](#) or [Published](#).

Writing for the adult market: [Aspiring](#), [U18s](#) or [Published](#).

Illustrations: [Aspiring](#), [U18s](#) or [Published](#).

All sections: [Preparing Your Entry](#) and [Checklist](#) sections before submitting your entry.

- All entries electronically submitted. Includes payment via credit card/Eftpos only.
- All entries will be automatically acknowledged by email on receipt to the primary email address specified in the entry. Invoices are emailed out automatically on entry.
- Do not identify yourself on the contest entry.
- Each entry must be original work, unpublished nor accepted elsewhere for publication or broadcast.

Other Information

- All results will be published on the CYA Conference web site.
- All writing entries will be destroyed after the competition, and the electronic files deleted.

Publication

- The winning entries and shortlisted finalist will be judged by a publisher, with no guarantee of publication.
- The author retains copyright.
- All copyright on illustrations remains with the illustrator.
- Winning illustrations will be posted on Instagram, showcased on theillustrationstation.com and CYAconference.com and social media.



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 by 31st August. CYA will announce when 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 organiser's discretion.

Judging

Judges' decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Special Note from the 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 guidelines** (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 will be penalised.

- All submissions are to be electronically submitted.
- Target publisher, manuscript title, total manuscript length (not only extract) in the header, and sequential page numbers in the header or footer are on all pages.
- (Visit **FAQs** on cyaconference.com for sample formatting document.)
- 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: 2.5 cm on the left, right, top and bottom of the page.
- Ensure that your text file is saved in Microsoft Word format or Word compatible **ONLY** when you lodge your electronic entry form.
- **Picture Books ONLY:** Must be set out neatly, easily legible format. Illustration notes are accepted and don't form part of your word count but must be marked as such. (Don't use comments to indicate.) Picture book texts are subjective with set outs and often use set out as part of emphases etc., this is quite acceptable.
- **Illustrations** - Can be created in any medium and to any dimensions but must be able to be uploaded as a digital file between 200KB and 10MB in jpg. It must be an unpublished work, created in the last 12 months.



Checklists and Formatting

Writing

Checklist

- Entrant's name doesn't appear ANYWHERE on the entry except entry form.
- Target publisher, manuscript title, total manuscript length (not the extract) in the header, and sequential page numbers in the header or footer are on all pages.
- Pitch's are limited to 1 sentence. (These are not blurbs.)
- All synopses must be no longer than 600 words in length and SINGLE SPACED.
- Entry does not exceed maximum words.
- Electronic lodgement includes the entry form, entry files and you have completed the payment.
- Entry is saved in Microsoft Word format, or Word compatible ONLY.

Formatting

- Page is A4 portrait orientation;
- Text is double-spaced;
- Text is indented to indicate paragraphs;
- Margins are set to 2.5cm all around;
- Font size is 12 point: Courier or Courier New font, or Times New Roman.
- Electronic entry form has your files attached, saved in Microsoft Word format or Word compatible ONLY.

Illustrations

It can be created in any medium and to any dimensions but must be able to be uploaded as a digital file between 200KB and 10MB in jpg.

It must be an **unpublished** work, created in the last 12 months.

Please do not put any identifying marks on your illustration, such as signatures, as entrants' entries are blind judged.

Questions?

If you have any questions, you can contact us via info@cyaconference.com



Categories, Entry Fee and Prizes

Hatchling Writing Sections – U18's

Categories

H01	Picture Books – Text only for preschool or primary aged children up to 500 words and pitch. Open theme.
H02	<p>Chapter Book (Judged as one category, the classification is for judging purposes only)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Text only for younger primary aged children. First 1,000 words, pitch and a synopsis. Open theme. 2) Text only for older aged children (Middle Grade). First 1,000 words, pitch and a synopsis. Open theme. 3) Fiction writing for Young Adults. First 5,000 words, pitch and a synopsis. Open theme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-round judging: The first 1,000 words, pitch and the synopsis is read by the CYA judges. • Final judging: The final judge will read your pitch, synopsis and the full 5,000 words.
H10	<p>Writing Adult Genres. Open theme: First 5,000 words maximum, pitch and a synopsis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-round judging: The first 1,000 words, pitch and a synopsis is read by the CYA judges. • Final judging: The final judge will read your pitch, synopsis and the full 5,000 words.

Entry Fee

Free.

Prizes

First	\$100
Second	\$60
Third	\$40

All Hatchling entries have historically gone in front of a professional editor, but this is not guaranteed.

Important: There are no age barriers in this competition, and all entrants are judged equally.



Aspiring Writing Sections

Categories

A01	Picture Books – Preschool – Text only for preschool aged children up to 500 words, and a pitch. Open theme.
A02	Picture Books – primary aged children – Text only for primary aged children up to 500 words, and a pitch. Open theme.
A03	Picture Book - Non-Fiction - Text only for primary aged children up to 500 words, and a pitch. Open theme. You can include 500 words non-fiction notes if applicable.
A04	Chapter Books - Text only for younger primary aged children . First 1,000 words, pitch and a synopsis. Open theme.
A05	Chapter Books - Text only for older aged children (Middle Grade) . First 1,000 words, pitch and a synopsis. Open theme.
A06	Fiction writing for Young Adults . First 5,000 words, pitch and a synopsis. Open theme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-round judging: The first 1,000 words, pitch and the synopsis is read by the CYA judges. • Final judging: The final judge will read your pitch, synopsis and the full 5,000 words.
A10	Writing Adult Genres . First 5,000 words maximum, pitch and a synopsis. Open theme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-round judging: The first 1,000 words, pitch and the synopsis is read by the CYA judges. • Final judging: The final judge will read your pitch, synopsis and the full 5,000 words.

Entry Fee

\$25.00 (includes GST) eftpos/credit card only.

Prize for each section

First	A video consultation for 15 minutes with the competition final judge.
Second	\$60
Third	\$40



Published Writing Sections

Categories

Open theme

P01 & P02	Picture Books – Up to 3 picture book texts can be entered together as ONE entry. (No synopsis necessary for picture books, but separate pitch's for each story must be present.) OR YA/Middle grade - First 12,500 words, pitch and a synopsis. Open theme.
P10	Writing Adult Genres - First 12,500 words maximum, pitch and a synopsis. Open theme.

Entry Fee

\$45.00 (GST included) eftpos/credit card only.

Prize for each section

The winner of each section will have a video consultation for 15 minutes with the competition final judge.

Illustration Sections

Submit a colour illustration suitable for a book, based on the theme



- It can be created in any medium and to any dimensions but must be able to be uploaded as a digital file between 200KB and 10MB in jpg.
- It must be an unpublished work, created in the last 12 months.
- Please do not put any identifying marks on your illustration, such as signatures.

Additional Judging Information for Illustrations

Judging will be in three categories: Under 18s, Aspiring, and Published and will be judged/shortlisted on the following criteria:

- Strength of narrative
- Emotion/Characterisation
- Originality
- Technical skill
- Overall impact



Categories

Under 18s illustrators (i01)

Entry

Free

Prizes

First \$100

Second \$60

Third \$40

and all entries are seen by at least one publisher.

Aspiring illustrators (i02)

Entry Fee (including GST)

Unpublished Category - \$25.00

Prizes

First A video consultation for 15 minutes with the competition final judge

Second \$60

Third \$40

and all entries are seen by at least one publisher.

Published illustrators (i03)

Entry Fee (including GST)

Published Category \$25.00

Prizes

First - a video consultation for 15 minutes with the competition final judge

All entries are seen by at least one publisher.