

Organiser

HOTUNG MILLS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION
何東苗氏教育基金

Co-organiser


ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
Hong Kong

2024 Creative Writing Festival



Spark imagination through writing
For young writers aged 5 to 12 years

For children full of ideas who love to write, now's the chance to create their own stories and poems. They may even see their work published in a book!

- *Certificates and comments sheets for all participants*
- *Champion, First Runner-Up, and Second Runner-Up trophies for each event*
- *Participants who achieve Distinction and above will have their writing published in the Festival Anthology*

Important dates & fees

Writing submissions deadlines: 6 October 2024

Results and awards ceremony: 24 November 2024
HK\$450

Application fees: (inclusive of official participation certificate, comments sheet and results from adjudicator)

Awards ceremony fee (optional): HK\$80 In-person presentation and photo opportunity

Enrol online
www.hotungmills.org



Scan to enrol

The Hotung Mills Education Foundation upholds the holistic development of young people to create well-rounded, caring, and active citizens of the world, ready to face the challenges of the 21st century.

The English-Speaking Union, headquartered in London and New York, is an international organisation whose mission is to promote local and international friendship and cooperation by encouraging the wider use of the English language.

A World of Imagination

Choose from story writing or poetry writing (or both) following the theme *A World of Imagination*.

Story writing

Age	Choose the title and story starter for your age group	No. of words
5	The Magic Garden <ul style="list-style-type: none">Once upon a time, in a faraway land, a garden sparkled with magic...	Min. 100 - max. 150
6	The Secret Door <ul style="list-style-type: none">Behind the beautiful door lay a world of fabulous secrets ...	Min. 150 - max. 200
7	My Invisible Friend <ul style="list-style-type: none">"We're such good friends. If only I could see you!" said Jamie to the space beside him ...	Min. 200 - max. 250
8	The Lost Island <ul style="list-style-type: none">While sailing with her family, Emma spotted an island that wasn't on the map. "Let's explore!" she squealed with excitement ...	Min. 250 - max. 300
9	The Enchanted Book <ul style="list-style-type: none">There was a book in the library that hadn't been touched for years. Its cover was worn, but it had beautiful gold letters that sparkled in the light ...	Min. 300 - max. 350
10	The Robot School <ul style="list-style-type: none">"Why are all the teachers acting so strangely?" "Welcome to Robot School!" said the voice over the intercom ...	Min. 350 - max. 400
11	The Time Travelling Backpack <ul style="list-style-type: none">At the bottom of a pile at the charity sale, there was an extraordinary rucksack. "I think it's glowing," whispered Sam in awe ...	Min. 400 - max. 450
12	The Whispering Paintings <ul style="list-style-type: none">"Paintings are boring!" protested Alex. "Not these," replied Ling with a grin. "Honestly, just give me five minutes. You'll see ..."	Min. 450 - max. 500

Poetry Writing

Poetry is a form of creative expression. Use your imagination and let your creativity run wild. Use your inspiration to create your own unique and engaging poem.

Age	Choose the title for your age group	No. of words
5	The Magic Garden	Min. 30 - max. 50
6	The Secret Door	Min. 40 - max. 60
7	My Invisible Friend	Min. 50 - max. 70
8	The Lost Island	Min. 60 - max. 80
9	The Enchanted Book	Min. 70 - max. 90
10	The Robot School	Min. 80 - max. 100
11	The Time Travelling Rucksack	Min. 90 - max. 110
12	The Whispering Paintings	Min. 100 - max. 120

Rules and Instructions

Please note the important information below.

Enrolments

1. Participants may enter through their school, learning centre, or as an individual. One application is required per participant/writing submission. Application should be made through the relevant school, or learning centre, or online at www.hotungmills.org.
2. Participants may enter more than one event in the correct age group. Each participant may only enter the same event once.
3. The events are only open to the ages specified. **The age is determined as at 7 October 2024.** Participants may be required to confirm their age through presentation of ID card, birth certificate, or other document upon request. Should the stated age be incorrect, the participant will be disqualified.
4. Deadline for writing submissions is **6 October 2024, 11.59pm**. Late applications may be rejected, and if accepted, be subject to a surcharge of 50% in addition to the event fee.
5. Changes may not be made to scheduled dates, times, names and information about participants, unless under exceptional circumstances. Please apply by email to info@hotungmills.org if a change is requested. Note that a HK\$200 administration fee will be levied for successful changes.
6. All participants must provide a valid email address as communication will be via email. Writing submission confirmation will be sent via email to each participant. The organisers will not be responsible for non-receipt of emails.
7. All event fees, administration fees, and any other expenses incurred by participants are non-refundable under any circumstances.
8. Substitution of participants/writing submissions is not permitted after the submission of applications.
9. Participants who enrol but do not submit any writing for any reason will be disqualified.
10. Should the event be affected by external Force Majeure, including but not limited to civil unrest, pandemic, extreme weather, or government announcements, the organisers reserve the right to cancel the event in part or whole without refund to participants, or change the event to another format with prior notice to participants.

Writing submissions

1. Participants must complete their writing submission in English only as specified for each event, and may be disqualified if they do not follow the requirements. All information regarding writing themes and required word counts are available on www.hotungmills.org.
2. All writing must be the original work of the participant and not have been previously published or submitted to other competitions. The parent (or other responsible supervisor, eg guardian, teacher) of each participant is required to certify this when submitting the writing. The organisers reserve the right to use plagiarism software and other devices as necessary to verify originality. Any work found to be plagiarised in whole or in part will be disqualified.
3. Each writing submission must be **handwritten in the participant's own handwriting** which should be legible. No typed submissions will be allowed.
4. The writing may be on any kind of paper, subject to remaining clear and legible.
5. Writing must be submitted in .jpg or .pdf format via the official event portal. File images must be clear and in focus. No other writing submissions will be accepted, including in hard copy and/or by mail or any other format.
6. Word count must comply with the minimum and maximum words given and be declared by the participant during submission. Writing which does not comply with the relevant word count will be disqualified.
7. Participants may include illustrations and/or decorations with their writing but these will not be taken into consideration by the adjudicators when awarding marks.

Results and awards ceremony

1. All participants who comply with event rules will receive a certificate of participation endorsed by Hotung Mills Education Foundation and English-Speaking Union (Hong Kong) as well as an official comments sheet showing remarks and a final result from an accredited adjudicator.
2. Certificates of participation and comments sheets will be available once results are announced. Participants may choose to receive their certificates of participation and comments sheets by picking up at a designated location or by regular mail through Hong Kong Post (to a Hong Kong address only) at no additional cost. If courier mail is preferred, charges will be the responsibility of the receiver. Delivery to overseas addresses will be by courier only at the expense of the recipient.
3. The awards ceremony is optional and attendees are required to pay an additional fee to attend. They will receive their certificates of participation and comments sheets in person and participate in a photo opportunity to signify their achievement. Participants who have achieved Distinction level may be invited to read their writing aloud. Each participant may bring two accompanying people to the ceremony.
4. Participants who achieve a result of Distinction and above, as determined by the adjudicators, may have the opportunity to see their writing in print as part of the Festival Anthology. There is no further fee for writing inclusion. Copies of the published Anthology may be purchased from www.hotungmills.org.

Rules and Regulations

Judging criteria

1. Judging criteria will be based on the overall writing submission with weighting given as follows:

		Weighting
Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Originality of story idea• Use of imagination and creativity in developing a well-constructed plot• Unique writing style and voice• Creative choice of vocabulary	40%
Writing Mechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proper use of spelling, punctuation and grammar• Clarity of the story structure• Correct use of paragraphs• Good use of descriptive language and sensory details• Story within word limit	30%
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to maintain the reader's interest• Effective use of dialogue• Well-developed characters and setting• Overall impact on the reader	20%
Adhere to the Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevance to the given theme• Creative interpretation of the theme	10%
		Total 100%

2. **Story Writing:** The story must begin with the starting phrase given. It should be fictional and may be of any genre, set in any time period and location, and involve any characters devised by the writer.

3. **Poetry Writing:** The poem must be relevant to the title. It may or may not rhyme. If rhyming, it may follow any rhyming pattern. The poem should scan to demonstrate meter and have a sense of rhythm.

Participants with specific needs

1. We are committed to creating inclusion in our events, and we welcome writing submissions from participants of all abilities who meet the participant criteria of age and writing by hand in English. Participants with specific needs or extenuating personal circumstances may be entitled to reasonable adjustment without compromising the integrity of the event requirements or content. Please email info@hotungmills.org for further information.

2. Where specific needs are raised, a supporting document will be required from an appropriate doctor or other qualified professional as part of the submission process.

Waivers

1. The organisers reserve the right to vary the dates, physical or digital platform, and/or procedures as well as reschedule, modify, and/or cancel any of the events, dates, times, and/or venues with no compensation payable to participants, and reserve the absolute right of final decision on all matters related to the Creative Writing Festival.

2. All participants agree that they grant to the organisers the use of their personal data, including their name, image, photographs, video and audio recording, and submitted writing in any original or edited form to be used according to the direction of the organisers, and waive any and all claims, including but not limited to remuneration, that they may have against the organisers, and give the organisers unrestricted right and permission to use, produce, reproduce, publish, adapt, and modify the data and writing submissions.

3. All participants agree to waive any and all claims that they may have against the organisers and their directors, officers, employees, consultants, agents, and representatives, and release them from any and all liability for any loss, damage, expense or injury including fatality that they may suffer by participating in the Creative Writing Festival.