



CYA Conference Children's, Young Adult & Adult Genre Writing 2021 Competition Guidelines

General Information for all competition entries

General Information for all competition entries.....	1
Dates.....	2
Eligibility	2
Guidelines	2
Preparing Your Entry.....	3
Other Information	3
Special Note from co-ordinators.....	3
Checklists and Formatting	4
Writing	4
Questions?	4
Categories, Entry Fee and Prizes	5
Hatchling sections	5
Aspiring sections	6
Published sections	7

CYA Conference Children's, Young Adult & Adult Genre Writing 2021 Competition Guidelines

Dates

The 2021 competition dates are

Opens: 4th January 2021

Closes: **4th April 2021** – Last email by midnight AEST.

Shortlisted awards will be notified by 20th June 2021.

Winners of the Children's and YA categories will be announced at the conference on 10th July 2021.

Winners of the Adult Genre Categories will be announced at the conference on 11th July 2021.

The first prizes of an editor session will be done via video conferencing. Cash prizes will be made via bank transfer the week after the conference.

Eligibility

Hatchlings (Under 18s)

- All writers who are 8 – 18 years old (as at 4th April 2021) worldwide, and 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.
- Contest entry may not be contracted or published in any form when entered.

Aspiring

All writers worldwide, who have not been published in book format within the CYA genres.

This contest is also open to current published writers worldwide who are either:

- Published with one book in print within the section's genres ONLY; OR
- Published in e-book format with one book within the section's genres ONLY; OR
- Self-published with one book within the section's 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

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

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

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 industry: [Adult Genre](#), [Preparing Your Entry](#) and [Checklist](#) sections before submitting your entry.

- 1) All entries electronically submitted. Includes payment via credit card/Eftpos only.
- 2) 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.

CYA Conference Children's, Young Adult & Adult Genre Writing 2021 Competition Guidelines

Preparing Your Entry

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

- 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 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: 2.5 cm on the left, right, top and bottom of the page.
- **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. Picture book texts are subjective with set outs and often use set out as part of emphases etc., this is quite acceptable.
- Ensure that your text file is saved in Microsoft Word format or Word compatible ONLY when you lodge your electronic entry form.

Other Information

Shortlists

Shortlists are announced on 20th June.

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.

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.

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.
- All writing entries will be destroyed after the competition, and the electronic files deleted.

Special Note from co-ordinators

This competition is designed to help authors 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!

CYA Conference Children's, Young Adult & Adult Genre Writing 2021 Competition Guidelines

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.
- All synopses must be 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.

Questions?

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

CYA Conference Children's, Young Adult & Adult Genre Writing 2021 Competition Guidelines

Categories, Entry Fee and Prizes

Hatchling sections

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.

Publication

The winning entry and shortlisted finalist will be judged by a publisher with no guarantee of publication. Author retains copyright.

Entry Fee

Free.

Categories

- 1) **Picture Books** – Text only for preschool or primary aged children up to 500 words. Open theme.
- 2) **Chapter Book** (Judged as one category, the classification is for judging purposes only)
 - a) **Text only for younger primary aged children.** First 1,000 words and a 600 word single-spaced synopsis. Open theme.
 - b) **Text only for older aged children (Middle Grade).** First 1,000 words and a 600 word single-spaced synopsis. Open theme.
 - c) **Fiction writing for Young Adults.** First 2,000 words max and a 600 word single-spaced synopsis. Only the first 1,000 words will be judged. Open theme. Rest: UNJUDGED by CYA. The Final judge will read the synopsis and all words of shortlisted entries.
- 3) **Writing Adult Genres.** Open themed: First 5,000 words maximum and a 600 word, single-spaced synopsis.

First-round judging: The first 1,000 words and the synopsis is read by the judges.
Final judging: The final judge will read your synopsis and the full 5,000 words.

CYA Conference Children's, Young Adult & Adult Genre Writing 2021 Competition Guidelines

Aspiring sections

Prize for each section

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

All shortlisted entries will be read by at least one publisher of the sections books, with no guarantee of publication. Author retains copyright.

Publication

The winning entry and shortlisted finalist will be judged by a publisher of children's books, with no guarantee of publication. Author retains copyright.

Entry Fee

\$22.00 (includes GST) eftpos/credit card only. No cash or cheques.

Categories

- 1) **Picture Book** - Text only for preschool aged children up to 500 words. Open theme.
- 2) **Picture Book** - Text only for primary aged children up to 500 words. Open theme.
- 3) **Picture Book - Non-Fiction** - Text only for primary aged children up to 500 words. Open theme. You can include 500 words non-fiction notes if applicable.
- 4) Chapter Book - A:
- 5) Text only for younger primary aged children and 600 word, single-spaced synopsis. First 1,000 words. Open theme.
- 6) Chapter Book - B:
- 7) Text only for older aged children (Middle Grade) and 600 word, single-spaced synopsis. First 1,000 words. Open theme.
- 8) **Fiction writing for Young Adults.**
Open themed: First 5,000 words maximum and 600 word, single-spaced synopsis.
First-round judging: The CYA judges read the first 1,000 words and the synopsis.
Final judging: The final judge will read your synopsis and the full 5,000 words.
- 9) **Writing Adult Genres.**
Open themed: First 5,000 words maximum and 600 word, single-spaced synopsis.
First-round judging: The first 1,000 words and the synopsis is read by the judges.
Final judging: The final judge will read your synopsis and the full 5,000 words.

CYA Conference Children's, Young Adult & Adult Genre Writing 2021 Competition Guidelines

Published sections

Prize for each section

The winner of each section will have a video consultation for 15 minutes with the competition final judge. All shortlisted entries will be read by at least one publisher of the sections books, with no guarantee of publication. Author retains copyright.

Publication

The winning entry and shortlisted finalist will be judged by a publisher with no guarantee of publication. Author retains copyright.

Entry Fee

\$41.00 (GST included) eftpos/credit card only. No cash or cheques.

Categories

Open theme

Writing:

- 1) **YA/Middle grade:** First 12,500 words (judged) and 600 word synopsis, (judged). OR
Picture Book Texts: Up to 3 picture book texts can be entered together as ONE entry. (No synopsis necessary for picture books.
- 2) **Writing Adult Genres.** Open themed: First 12,500 words maximum and 600 word, single-spaced synopsis.
First-round judging: The first 12,500 words and the synopsis is read by the judges.
Final judging: The final judge will read your synopsis and the full 12,500 words.