

COMPETITION FOR WRITERS OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2023

In English



Children's Book Trust, New Delhi

Children's Book Trust (CBT) invites manuscripts for the XXI Competition for Writers of Children's Books 2023

Category I Realistic Fiction (above 12 years): Comprises full-length girl/boy centred stories on real themes woven around Indian cultural ethos. Could be contemporary fiction pertaining to present-day life and scenario or a portrayal of events that happened long ago. The plot must be bold and frank, complete with a strong story line and characters that are smart, brave or strong. **(25-30,000 words)**

Category II Kid-Friendly Non-fiction (A: 7-10 years / B: 11-13 years): Informational text, could focus on varied subjects ranging from world history to local cultures, foods, flora and fauna, to climate change. Text must have scope to create age-appropriate visually-interesting books; subjects that help educate and engage children. The content must be such that it provides child readers new perspectives; allows them to expand their horizons beyond the familiar; **(A: 5,000 words / B: 10,000 words)**

Category III Gutsy Girls and Plucky Boys (above 12 years): Inspiring stories of notable boys and girls who made history and continue to advance social progress; men and women who have been great thinkers, artists, scientists, and leaders. Our idea is, learning about such role models and connecting with their experiences will inspire young readers to break down barriers and face life's challenges with courage and grit. **(3000 words)**

Category IV Short Stories (9-12 years): Real life experiences; stories of kings, queens, princes, princesses; turning points in history; spirited tales of people coping with disability, disease, pain or loss; the pleasure and pain of growing up; sibling rivalries and buddy fun; sporty anecdotes that inspire confidence; light-hearted accounts of school life; strange happenings and occurrences; hill escapades or tales of abandoned forests and lonely terrains; value-based stories that reflect Indian way of life and thinking. **(2,000 words)**

Category V Stories with a Surprise Ending (9-12 years): Is there anything better than a twist at the end? We all have had that moment when the last few pages of a book or the last few scenes of a gripping movie took us completely by surprise. Why leave children out of this fun! **(2000 words)**

Category VI Get Ready for a Magical Time (9-12 years): Exploring places and worlds one has never been to; stories of fairies, apsaras, mysterious mountains and enchanting forests; tales of magical spells and real-time magicians infused possibly with a healthy dose of humour. Indulge in fantasy and allow the unthinkable to happen! **(5,000 words)**

Category VII Healthy Habits (9-12 years): Good nutrition and physical fitness is as important as good emotional health and proper rest. Yet most kids today refuse to eat healthy or indulge in sports activities, instead spending hours in front of the screen. Engaging stories supporting a sound wellness routine with focus on eating right, playing right, being mindful of feelings and dealing with stress, is what we desire in this category. **(1000 words)**

Category VIII Read-aloud Books/Picture Books (5-8 years): Simple ideas, real time or imaginary situations; fun books with interesting themes and characters. The content should readily lend itself to a number of self-explanatory illustrations. Authors are not expected to submit illustrations / drawings along with the manuscripts. **(500-600 words)**

Category IX Empathy, Compassion, Kindness and Inclusion (Social-Emotional Learning—A:3-5 years / B:5-8 years): Stories that inspire all this and more and touch upon times when children felt isolated; how they felt when others made fun of them or their family; stories that help children understand emotions, in themselves and in others, and promote socio-emotional skills such as friendship, problem solving, dealing with grief and anger, overcoming fears and challenges, risk-taking, kindness, exercising self-control, and so on. **(A: 200-300 words / B: 500-600 words)**

Category X Concept Books (3-5 years): Typically the first informational books a child will read, the approach to this category must be conceptual rather than factual and presented in a clever, creative way. The content must be useful to introduce basic ideas, patterns, and help little children learn age-appropriate concepts like colours, shapes, time, life-cycles, words and their relationship to situations/things. The idea is not to publish conventional material like rhymes, alphabets, numbers, or word books, but to develop creative literature using these elements which will make the little ones aware of their surroundings and aid their learning in a fun way. **(250 words max.)**

Category XI Pet Tales (5-8 years): Big or small, cats or dogs, pets have a way to wiggle into your heart and become part of the family. Just as dogs can be great companions and also mischievous brats, cats can be loyal companions and adorable imps. We look forward to some great picture stories that celebrate and narrate anecdotes about some of these little dears. **(500 words)**

Category XII Tell the Truth (4-7 years): From a very young age children develop the ability to weave stories that fit their wants and needs—to cover up a mistake, avoid punishment, or attract attention. Purpose is to help children learn to value honesty, even if it is a more challenging choice. **(350 words)**

P R I Z E S

Category I: Realistic Fiction

Above 12 years 25-30,000 words

First Prize	₹25,000
Second Prize	₹20,000

Category II (A): Kid-Friendly Non-Fiction

7-10 years 5,000 words

First Prize	₹9,000
Second Prize	₹8,000

Category II (B): Kid-Friendly Non Fiction

11-13 years 10,000 words

First Prize	₹10,000
Second Prize	₹9,000

Category III: Gutsy Girls and Plucky Boys

Above 12 years 3,000 words

6 Prizes	₹5,500 each
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Category IV: Short Stories

9-12 years 2,000 words

20 Prizes	₹5,000 each
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Category V: Stories with a Surprise Ending

9-12 years 2,000 words

15 Prizes	₹5,000 each
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Category VI: Get Ready for a Magical Time

9-12 years 5,000 words

First Prize	₹9,000
Second Prize	₹6,500

Category VII: Healthy Habits

9-12 years 1,000 words

15 Prizes	₹3,000 each
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Category VIII: Read-Aloud Books/ Picture Books

5-8 years 500-600 words

First Prize	₹9,000
Second Prize	₹7,500

Category IX (A): Empathy, Compassion, Kindness and Inclusion (Social-Emotional Learning)

3-5 years 200-300 words

First Prize	₹7,000
Second Prize	₹5,500

**Category IX (B): Empathy, Compassion, Kindness and Inclusion
(Social-Emotional Learning)**

5-8 years 500-600 words

First Prize	₹9,000
Second Prize	₹7,500

Category X: Concept Books

3-5 years 250 words max.

First Prize	₹7,000
Second Prize	₹5,500

Category XI: Pet Tales

5-8 years 500-600 words

First Prize	₹9,000
Second Prize	₹7,500

Category XII: Tell The Truth

4-7 years 350 words

First Prize	₹7,000
Second Prize	₹5,500

Rules

1. This competition is open to persons above 18 years.
2. The Trust is looking for manuscripts for books of interest to children as general readers and **not textbooks**.
3. **Each manuscript should indicate the number of words it carries.** A departure from the given length, beyond a marginal limit, would disqualify the manuscript.
4. **Facts, wherever mentioned, (especially in Category II A & B) must be accompanied by a list of references.**
5. The manuscripts submitted should be in English, typed in minimum double spacing on one side of the paper with not less than one inch margin on the left. A computer printout or a Photostat copy of the manuscript should be legible and readable. Two copies of each entry must be submitted. **Entries submitted via Internet shall not be considered.**
6. There is no entry fee. **A participant may submit no more than three entries under a category except in Category IV (Short Stories) where up to five entries can be sent, each manuscript being treated as separate.**

7. The category should be clearly indicated on the manuscript. Each entry should be an original, unpublished work and must carry the Declaration that the author agrees to abide by the rules of the competition. In case of multiple entries a Photostat of the Declaration could be used.
8. The Declaration should carry the full name and address of the author in BLOCK LETTERS in English. The manuscript must not carry these details.
9. Entries submitted for any earlier competition held by CBT will not be considered.
10. All rights as prescribed under Section 14 of the Indian Copyright Act 1957 shall vest with the Trust on the author's signing the Memorandum of Agreement. Objection to/disagreement with any of its provisions by the author shall cause the award to be withdrawn and the manuscript returned to the author.
11. The prizewinning manuscript will, in the normal course, be published by CBT. The Trust's decision in this regard shall be final. The author would have to provide a copy of the prizewinning manuscript on a CD when asked for.
12. The prize money will be paid in Indian currency.
13. In the case of manuscripts written by more than one person, the prize money will be equally divided among the co-authors.
14. A manuscript that has won a prize and has received the payment will not be entitled to further payment under any head, on its publication.
15. CBT reserves to itself the right not to declare a particular prize if no entry is found suitable.
16. Manuscripts that do not win a prize may be considered for possible publication with the concurrence of the author(s), and at the sole discretion of CBT.
17. Entries should be addressed to:
Competition for Writers of Children's Books
Children's Book Trust
Nehru House
4, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002
18. The last date for receipt of entries is **June 30, 2023**.
19. Entries will be judged by a Jury appointed by CBT. The Jury's verdict shall be final. There will be no further correspondence in this regard.
20. The results are expected to be announced by **October 31, 2023**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

21. CBT shall not be responsible for any loss of or damage to the manuscripts in transit or otherwise.
22. CBT will not return the non-prizewinning manuscripts or retain these beyond three months of the announcement of the results.
23. Any legal dispute that may arise shall be settled under the jurisdiction of Delhi courts.



D E C L A R A T I O N

Vide Rule 7

(Please fill in BLOCK LETTERS)

I.....certify that my
manuscript entitled.....

.....
in the category.....

is an original writing and an unpublished work. It has not been submitted
elsewhere for publishing. I agree to abide by the rules and conditions of the
competition.

Date: _____ (Signature)

Address.....

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State.....Pin.....

Telephone (Res.)..... Mobile.....

e-mail.....

This Declaration duly signed is to be attached to the manuscript.

Born of Shankar's genius and vision, Children's Book Trust blazed a trail in publishing books for children. In its over six decades of publishing, CBT has brought to children a varied fare of picture books, mysteries, adventures, tales from old lore and history, cultural values, science and information. Healthy, rich in content, live in line and colour, and brought out with excellence, these books have become valued possessions of millions of children in all age groups. Quite a few of the titles have been entries in the Competitions held by CBT. They have, over the years, opened up new vistas and finer perceptions in the arena of children's books.



CHILDREN'S BOOK TRUST

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