

February 14, 2024

Dear Competitor

We are happy to announce the results of the Competition for Writers of Children's Books 2023 (English & Hindi). Heartiest Congratulations to all the Prizewinners! Enclosed please find the complete list of awardees. We sincerely apologize for the delay in announcing the results which happened on account of an extraordinary volume of entries received. We thank you all for your overwhelming response and for your wholehearted participation.

We do regret that a few prizes in certain categories could not be awarded and a lesser number than the allocated number of entries were shortlisted for a prize in some others. The reason for this was, either the content was not exhaustive / well assimilated or the requisite criteria had not been fulfilled. Since the maximum content was meant for children between 3-12 years, when children are developing an interest in reading per se, we feel we have a responsibility to make available to children content that not only matches their awareness but motivates them to seek answers. The selection of entries in category V (Stories with a Surprise Ending) and category VII (Healthy Habits) in both English & Hindi especially suffered on this account. Category IV (Short Stories) in Hindi also failed to impress owing to the lack of thoughtful processing and choice of material for age group intended.

In several categories, however, like category VIII (Read-Aloud Books /Picture Books), IX A and IX B (Social-Emotional Learning), in both English and Hindi, Additional Prizes have been awarded on Jury's recommendation. Manuscripts winning Additional Prizes were shortlisted based on novelty of theme, story line, picture value, or uniqueness of presentation.

In the Fiction category the response in English was better than in the previous years, hence both First and Second Prizes have been awarded.

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Hindi, sadly did not match up hence No First Prize was awarded in this category.

In Category VIII (Read Aloud Books / Picture Books) in both English and Hindi, two Second prizes were awarded instead of one.


Another thing we feel necessary to mention here is that, in spite of indicating clearly in the Competition Brochure under Rules (point no 8) that, “The Declaration form should carry the full name and address of the author and the Manuscript must not carry these details” many entries were sent with the details typed or handwritten on the manuscript! While we have considered these manuscripts after blocking out the names, henceforth it has been decided that such entries will be disqualified and not considered at all.

Objection also was raised by the Jury to the objectionable adult content sent in by some writers under the garb of reality fiction / realistic stories. We urge the Competitors to kindly bear in mind that while the content of CBT books has progressed from being conventional to contemporary, we are careful that our stories do not hurt the sensibilities of our readers or their parents.

We have digressed from the norm and shared with you our observations because we are confident our esteemed writers will take it in the right spirit.

Thank you once again for your response to the Competition. We do look forward to associating with you again.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Navin Menon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mrs. Navin Menon  
Editor Publications