

## SINGAPORE LITERATURE PRIZE 2020 RULES & REGULATIONS

Established in 1992, the Singapore Literature Prize (SLP) is Singapore's top literary prize, with more than 80 past winners. The prize is a biennial competition open to Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents whose works of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction have been published in Singapore or abroad during a specified period of time. The work can be published in any of Singapore's four official languages — Chinese, English, Malay, or Tamil.

The award carries a top prize of S\$10,000 for the winner in each of the categories. In addition, the winners will be awarded with a specially commissioned plaque.

### 1. Category

(a) This award is open to any work of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction created by a Singapore citizen or permanent resident. The work must be published in a physical book format in Singapore or abroad between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2019.

(b) Works intended for children and teenagers should be submitted for the Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award, not SLP.

(c) The 12 categories are

- Creative nonfiction (Chinese, English, Malay, Tamil)
- Fiction (Chinese, English, Malay, Tamil)
- Poetry (Chinese, English, Malay, Tamil)

### 2. Subject and Theme

(a) Entries may be on any subject or theme.

(b) For the purpose of the award, we define creative nonfiction as writing that uses literary devices to create a narrative text about real events, people, or ideas. Examples in this genre include, but are not limited to, literary criticism, biographies, food writing, literary journalism, memoirs, personal essays and travel writing. This genre does not include cookbooks, self-help manuals, travel guides, or textbooks. The work

should be accessible to the general reading public and cannot be intended for a specialised or academic readership.

### **3. Language**

(a) Works submitted must be written in one of the four official languages: Chinese, English, Malay, or Tamil.

(b) For the purpose of this award, translations will be judged on the merit of the language they have been translated into, with no weight given to any accolades or criticism the work has received in its original language.

### **4. Eligibility**

(a) The competition is open to all Singapore citizens and permanent residents who are at least 18 years of age by 31 December 2018.

(b) Each entry must be an original work.

(c) The work must be published between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2019.

(d) Anthologies of short stories, poetry, or essays by multiple authors are ineligible for this award.

(e) Only published works will be accepted. To be eligible, works must be published in a physical book format and available for general commercial release. E-books and audio books will not be considered for the award at this point.

(f) Collections of short stories, poetry, or essays in newspapers, magazines, or online previously published are eligible, as long as the book is published within the stipulated time frame (see point 4c).

(g) Reprints, updated editions and reissues from previous years are not eligible.

(h) Past SLP-winning titles translated from one language to another official language are eligible to enter SLP 2020, provided they have been published within the stipulated time frame.

## 5. Number of Entries

- (a) An entrant may submit more than one work for the competition provided that the works are different and not variations of the same work.
- (b) A series of related works taken as one is not eligible.
- (c) The same work should not be submitted in more than one language in the same award period.
- (d) Works can be submitted either by the author, the translator or by the publisher.

## 6. Selection

- (a) There will be a panel of three judges for each category.
- (b) The decision of the judges is final and binding. No correspondence in relation to the judges' decision will be entertained.

## 7. Closing Date

- (a) The closing date for submissions to the competition is **31 January 2020, 5.00 pm.**
- (b) Late submissions will be disqualified.

## 8. Books Submitted

- (a) The organisers shall not be held responsible for any entries that have been lost or damaged in transit.
- (b) Books submitted for the SLP award will be retained by the Book Council and will not be returned.

## 9. The Award

(a) The Singapore Literature Prize carries an award of S\$10,000 for the top winner in each of the 12 categories. In addition, the winners shall be presented with specially commissioned trophies and certificates of achievement.

(b) The judges shall only award one award per category for the competition. If none of the works submitted merit the award, the judges shall not declare any winner.

(c) In the event that there is no top winner, the judges may give a Merit Prize of S\$5,000 or a Commendation Prize of S\$1,000 per category.

(d) Both the original author and translator must be Singapore citizens or permanent residents, and will share the prize equally if a translated work wins.

## 10. Shortlist

(a) The Organiser will announce a shortlist of the works considered for the Singapore Literature Prize by end July 2020.

## 11. Announcement of Winners

(a) The Prize will be awarded to all winners at an awards ceremony in early September 2020.

(b) Winners will NOT be notified before the awards ceremony. All shortlisted authors will be invited to attend. If shortlisted authors cannot attend for any reason, they should nominate a representative to attend on their behalf, and accept the award should their work wins.

(c) No correspondence regarding the winning entries will be entertained prior to the awards ceremony.

## 12. Responsibility

(a) Shortlisted and winning authors will be invited to conduct public talks, workshops, and/or writing mentorship programmes.

(b) Shortlisted and winning authors will be asked to speak to the media and attend media engagements, and support the Book Council in all SLP-related marketing and publicity.

### 13. Submission

(a) Each entry must include four (4) physical copies of the work. Hard copies of the books must reach the Singapore Book Council by the stipulated end date and time. Late submissions will not be accepted.

(b) **For online submissions**, applicants will receive a confirmation email upon submission of the online entry form. Please print out the confirmation email and include it with the four (4) hard copies of the book.

(c) **For offline submissions**, applicants will need to download the official entry form and submit the completed form together with a USB pen drive / flash drive containing soft copies of the following, in their respective preferred formats:

- Completed entry form (in PDF or DOC);
- A short biographical data of the author (in PDF or DOC; 100 words);
- A photograph of the author (in JPG; at least 300dpi at 1MB, and preferably features only the author on a white or neutral background with nothing in their hands);
- A copy of the book cover (in JPG or PDF; at least 300dpi at 1MB); and,
- A short description or blurb of the book (in PDF or DOC; 150 words).

(d) For **translated entries only**, the following should also be included aside from the aforementioned:

- A short biographical data of the translator (in PDF or DOC; 100 words);
- A photograph of the translator (in JPG; at least 300dpi at 1MB, and preferably features only the translator on a white or neutral background with nothing in their hands).

(e) Entries not accompanied by hard copy submissions of the book will be considered incomplete and disqualified from judging.

(f) All entries should be submitted through registered post or delivered by hand by **31 January 2020, 5.00 pm** to:

Singapore Book Council  
Goodman Arts Centre Blk E #03-32  
90 Goodman Road Singapore 439053  
ATTN: SLP 2020

For enquiries, please email [programmes@bookcouncil.sg](mailto:programmes@bookcouncil.sg).

#### 14. Important Dates

31 January 2020, 5pm	Submission period closes
End July 2020	Announcement of shortlisted works
Early September 2020	SLP 2020 Awards Ceremony