

Mo Siewcharran Prize 2023 Terms and Conditions

1. This competition is being organised by Hodder & Stoughton Limited, for Hachette Children's Group, of Carmelite House, 50 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0DZ ("**HCG**"). The following prizes will be awarded to the top two entries:
 - a. The winner of the first prize (the "**Winner**") will receive:
 - i. £2,500 prize money;
 - ii. a detailed letter from an HCG picture book editor (and, if artwork has also been submitted, a designer) giving feedback on their Proposal (as defined in Clause 6);
 - iii. introductory meetings with at least two different literary agents;
 - iv. an introductory session with the HCG rights team;
 - v. meetings with the HCG marketing and publicity teams; and
 - vi. a ticket to London Book Fair 2024.
 - b. The runner-up will receive:
 - i. £1,500 prize money;
 - ii. a detailed letter from an HCG picture book editor (and, if artwork has also been submitted, a designer) giving feedback on their Proposal; and
 - iii. a hamper of HCG books with a value of up to £200.
2. The Winner's Proposal will also be taken forward to an HCG acquisitions meeting and considered for full publication with a competitive advance against royalties. HCG does not guarantee that the Winner will be offered a publishing contract. HCG reserves the right to consider any of the other Longlisted Proposals (as defined in Clause 8) for publication, and each entrant of a Longlisted Proposal (including the Winner and runner up) agrees to enter into good faith discussions with HCG if their Proposal is considered for publication.
3. The prizes will be awarded to the entrants who submit the two best Proposals (as defined in Clause 6) for an original English-language commercial picture book text, judged against the Judging Criteria (as defined in Clause 4) from entrants who meet the Entry Criteria (as described in clause 5).
4. The entries will be judged on the basis of the following criteria (the "**Judging Criteria**"): we are looking for a piece of writing that (in HCG's opinion):
 - is a well-written work of fiction (in rhyme or prose) with a strong hook or theme;
 - introduces a memorable character or characters;
 - has a strong plot; and
 - sits firmly in the picture book genre for 3-5 year-olds.
5. In order to be eligible for the competition, entrants must meet the following criteria (the "**Entry Criteria**"). Entrants must be aged 18 or over, be from a Black, Asian, mixed heritage or minority ethnic background, and be resident in the United Kingdom. Entrants must not have an agent at the time of entering the competition and must be previously unpublished (that is, they must not have had any book previously published by a publisher or self-published in any format or be under a contract to have their work published). The competition is not open to employees of Hachette UK, United Agents or Round Table Books, their families, or to anyone professionally connected to the competition or to the judges either themselves or through their families.

6. Entrants to the competition must submit one complete picture book text (500-700 words) that fulfils the Judging Criteria (the “**Proposal**”). Writer-illustrators may also submit three pieces of four-colour artwork as part of their Proposal. Please note that writers submitting a text-only Proposal will not be at a disadvantage. The Proposal must be in English and must be in a legible font and font size.
7. Proposals must be submitted via the competition landing page using the Word template provided [here](#) or as a PDF. Entries may only be submitted between 12:01am BST on 8 February 2023 and 11.59pm BST on 8 May 2023. Any entries received outside these specified times and dates, and any entries that do not meet the requirements of these Terms and Conditions, will not be eligible for entry to the competition.
8. A longlist of up to ten Proposals (the “**Longlisted Proposals**”) will be chosen from entries received in accordance with these Terms and Conditions by members of the HCG picture book team and employees of other companies within the Hachette UK group who are members of Hachette UK’s THRIVE network. The Longlisted Proposals will be submitted to a panel of judges who will include literary agent Emily Talbot of United Agents, bestselling author Smriti Halls, bestselling illustrator Nila Aye, co-director of Round Table Books Meera Ghanshamdas, children’s book consultant Jake Hope plus HCG’s Emma Layfield, Picture Book Development Director, North, and one HCG editor or designer (together the “**Judges**”). The Judges will select a shortlist of up to six Proposals (the “**Shortlisted Proposals**”). The Winner and runner-up will then be selected by the Judges from the Shortlisted Proposals. The Judges’ decision is final.
9. The entrants of the Shortlisted Proposals will be invited to attend a one-hour online picture book workshop with an HCG picture book editor to take place no later than 31 December 2023. An HCG designer will also attend if artwork has been submitted by any of the entrants of the Shortlisted Proposals. The workshop is a reward for the entrants of the Shortlisted Proposals and is not part of the judging process to select the Winner and runner up.
10. By submitting their Proposal, each entrant undertakes and warrants that their Proposal consists of their own original work and will not infringe the intellectual property rights of anyone. If a third party’s material is used, such as lyrics of a song, the entrant will secure the necessary permission and will provide it to HCG on request. Each entrant further warrants that their Proposal will not contain any material which is defamatory, private or confidential or which is unlawful in any way. Any entry in breach of this clause will be disqualified from being considered for the competition at any stage.
11. The name of the Winner and the runner-up will be announced at a prize ceremony hosted by HCG at Carmelite House in London on 28 September 2023 (the “**Prize Ceremony**”). The entrants of all Longlisted Proposals will be invited to attend the Prize Ceremony. The names of the entrants of the Longlisted Proposals may also be published on The Future Bookshelf and HCG websites and in other media, including social media sites.
12. HCG will pay the cost of travel to the Prize Ceremony for each entrant of a Longlisted Proposal, up to a maximum of £100 (the “**Travel Contribution**”). The Travel Contribution will be paid within 30 days of receipt by HCG of: (i) proof of the cost of travel; and (ii) the details for payment.
13. Except for the Travel Contribution set out in Clause 12, no costs or expenses will be met by HCG in connection with the competition.

14. An entrant may only submit one entry. Further entries will be disqualified. Entries will not be accepted via agents, third parties or in bulk.
15. HCG is not responsible for contacting or responding to entrants who provide unclear or incomplete information or for entries that are lost, misdirected, delayed or destroyed.
16. HCG reserves the right to: (i) cancel the competition; (ii) alter the details of the prizes or judging panels; and/or (iii) alter any other details of the competition without notice but HCG will try to avoid creating any undue disappointment. No cash alternative or other alternatives to the prizes will be provided.
17. Any personal data submitted by entrants, including their names and email addresses (the **“Information”**), will be used by HCG (who is the Data Controller) for the purposes of this competition, including without limitation for the purpose of judging the entries and providing the prizes, in accordance with these Terms and Conditions and in accordance with HCG’s Privacy Notice which can be found [here](#). The Information will be deleted within six months of the announcement of the Winner and runner-up.
18. No purchase is necessary to enter the competition.
19. By entering the competition, each entrant agrees to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.
20. These Terms and Conditions and any disputes or claims (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of these Terms and Conditions shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of England, whose courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction.