



## GUIDELINES

To enter the Kelpies Prize for Writing, you must submit the following using our [online entry form](#):

1. **The first five chapters of a book for children**, either fiction or non-fiction, **OR a whole picture book story**

You must specify whether the book is:

- a picture-book story for 3–6 year olds (no more than 1,000 words; text only, no pictures required)
- a chapter book for 6–8 year olds
- a novel for 8–11 year olds
- a novel with storylines and themes more suitable for 11–13 year olds
- a work of non-fiction for any of the age groups listed above

NOTE: We are not accepting entries aimed at young adult readers this year. We encourage writers for young adults to consider whether their work might be adapted appropriately for the 11–13 age group.

2. **A synopsis or summary of the book**

This should consist of 2–3 paragraphs outlining the plot so we can see how the story will develop.

3. **A short piece of writing** (1,000–3,000 words) for children that begins with:

*The clock chimed midnight, and [character name] woke...*

This can be a short story, poetry or a picture-book text; it can be comic, dramatic, moving, largely dialogue or whatever you like. It can be very different from your writing style in (1): show us your range!

4. **Some information about you**

We are looking for writers who want to become children's authors. The [entry form](#) includes questions relating to the wider aspects of being a children's author, such as promotion and working with young people.

## FURTHER DETAILS

- Submitted work should be saved either in MS Word or as a PDF.
  - Work should be typed in a 12-point font and double-spaced, with page numbers included on every page.
  - Please save all writing samples in one document.
  - Please include your name on the document.
  - Please name your file using SurnameFirstname.docx or SurnameFirstname.pdf (eg. BloggsJo.docx).
- Picture-book texts should be divided into 11–14 sections or 'double-page spreads'.
- All entries must be primarily in English. Vernaculars are accepted, but authors should bear in mind the language abilities of the children for whom the book is written.
- We strongly advise that you research the types of books currently available for each age group to ensure that you submit your work in the most appropriate category. Bookshops and libraries are a good place to do this kind of research.
- Work can be in any genre that is suitable for your chosen age group.

[Click here to download the full Terms & Conditions](#)

**All entries must be submitted using our [online application form](#).**

Please [email us](#) if you have any questions or accessibility issues which might make the submission process problematic.

**The deadline for entries is 5pm, 28 February 2022.**