2027 The Kelpies Prize for Writing

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

   Your book should fit into one of the following categories:

   - a picture-book story for 3–6 year olds
   - an early-reader 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 cannot accept writing for young adult readers this year. If you write for young adults, could you adapt your work appropriately for the 11-13 year-old age group?

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

   Please describe the storyline of your book, so we can see how it will develop. You can write in any format, perhaps in paragraphs or bullet points, but it we expect it to be between 100 and 300 words.

3. **A short piece of writing** (1,000–3,000 words) for children that includes ONE of the following phrases at any point in the piece:

   - *Cats are famously curious.*
   - _____ *was completely unlike everyone's description.*
   - *I was sitting beside the loch when the strangest thing happened...*

   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 about what that involves, for example, promoting your book and working with young people.

FURTHER DETAILS

- Save your work either in MS Word (.docx) or as a PDF.
  - Please use at least a 12-point font, double line spacing, and include page numbers.
  - Please save all three pieces of work in one document.
  - Please name your file using the title of your main piece of writing (1).
  - Please **do not** include your name anywhere in your document.
- The word count for the main piece of writing is flexible; it will depend on the age range you are writing for.
- Picture books should be no more than 1,000 words; **text only, no pictures required**.
- Please divide picture book texts into 11–14 sections or 'double-page spreads'.
- Please write mostly in English. We can accept stories that include other languages or regional dialects, but the writing must be accessible to most children living in Scotland.
- 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 good places to do this kind of research.
- Work can be in any genre that is suitable for your chosen age group.
- Entrants **must not** use AI-powered software **to generate ideas, story plots, characters or any wording** for their entry. Read the 'AI and the Kelpies Prize for Writing' section of the Terms & Conditions document for more detail.

Click here to download the full Terms & Conditions

All entries must be sent to us using our online entry form.

Please email us if you have any questions about how to enter the prize or if you would like to request reasonable adjustments to make this process more accessible for you.

The deadline for entries is midnight, 7 March 2027.

The Kelpies Prize for Writing is administered by Floris Books