2027 The Kelpies Prize for Writing

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The Kelpies Prize for Writing is open to anyone living in Scotland, except employees of Floris Books and their close relatives, previous winners of the Kelpies Prize for Writing, and authors whose work has already been published in the Kelpies imprint.
2. Entrants must be over 18 years old.
3. Entries must follow the competition Guidelines (published separately and available on our website).
4. Entries must be your own work, must not have been published before, and must not infringe any existing copyright.
5. Entrants **must not** use AI-powered software to generate ideas, story plots, characters or any wording for their entry. See **AI and the Kelpies Prize for Writing** (overleaf) for more detail.
6. No writer may submit more than one entry per year.
7. The same work cannot be entered to the Kelpies Prize for Writing more than once, and you may not enter work on which you have already received feedback from an employee of Floris Books.
8. One winner will be awarded a prize that will support their development as a children's author. The prize consists of:
   a. **£500 cash:** to be awarded when the winner is announced.
   b. **Nine months of mentoring by an experienced editorial team:** The winner should be available for a series of mentoring sessions (minimum three) over the course of nine months, either in person or via video call, at times to be mutually agreed. Editorial feedback will also be given by email.
   c. **Consideration for a publishing contract with Floris Books:** The publication of a piece of work by the winner will be considered after the mentoring process is complete. This work may be a piece that was submitted for the prize or an entirely new work developed during the mentoring process. If the winner is offered a publishing contract, they will sign a full contract (see clause 9).
9. If a publishing contract is offered, it will grant Floris Books the right to publish printed books and ebooks all around the world. It will include translation, audio, film, TV and merchandising rights. Royalties will be based on Floris Books' standard terms.
10. Entries must be submitted using our online entry form. Entries sent by email will not be accepted.
11. The closing date for entries is 7 March 2027 at midnight. Late entries will not be accepted.
12. Floris Books will not be responsible for entries that do not reach us, e.g. because of a technical failure.
13. A shortlist will be announced in June 2027. Shortlisted entrants must be free to take part in online promotion (e.g. social media posting, video interviews) between June and September 2027. Reasonable adjustments for disability can be requested.
14. The winner will be announced at an award ceremony in late August - early September 2027 (exact date and location TBC). We ask that all shortlisted entrants attend the ceremony, either virtually or in person. Reasonable adjustments for disability can be requested.
15. The decision of the judging panel will be final.
16. Floris Books will not enter into any disputes in relation to the competition and reserves the right to disqualify any entrant.
17. During the judging process, you must not offer any of the pieces of writing included in your entry to other publishers, literary agents or writing prizes. Once the shortlist has been announced, non-shortlisted entries are free to be submitted elsewhere. Once the winner is announced, shortlisted entries are free to be submitted elsewhere.
18. If, after the nine-month mentoring period, Floris Books does not offer the winner a publishing contract, they will be free to offer the work developed during that time elsewhere.
19. Agreements entered into between Floris Books and the winner or shortlisters will be in accordance with the law of Scotland.
20. Floris Books cannot enter into any correspondence about non-shortlisted entries.
21. Floris Books reserves the right to change the terms and conditions from time to time.
22. By sending their entry, entrants agree to the terms and conditions stated above.

AI AND THE KELPIES PRIZE FOR WRITING

The Kelpies Prize for Writing recognises and celebrates the unique value of human-created work. Entries to the Kelpies Prize must be the original work of the author. Writing generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools is neither original nor your own work and cannot be entered.

A central goal of the Kelpies Prize for Writing is to discover and develop publishable writing for children. You cannot sign a publishing contract for work generated by AI, as it is therefore not your own.

All entries to the prize will be read and assessed by experienced professional editors and judges without the use of AI.

Types of AI

When hearing the terms 'Artificial Intelligence' or 'AI', most people think of generative AI-powered assistants such as ChatGPT, Claude, Google Gemini and Microsoft CoPilot that can produce text, videos, images and audio. The term 'Artificial Intelligence' or 'AI' can also apply to many machine-assisted tools that are embedded in software, including internet search engines, word-processing programs and online maps.

Using any form of AI to generate text, to suggest story ideas or characters, or to plan stories is not permitted for entries to the Kelpies Prize.

AI Terms and Conditions

1. Entrants to the Kelpies Prize **must not** use any AI-powered software to **generate ideas, story plots, characters** or **any wording for their entry**.
2. Entrants **may** use AI tools to assist with background research, such as researching a setting or era. But it is the entrant's responsibility to confirm any facts using reputable non-AI sources.
3. Entrants **may** use AI embedded in software to check spelling, punctuation and grammar, but please be aware that unthinkingly following these 'corrections' may flatten your unique authorial voice, and create mistakes and inconsistencies.
4. Disabled and neurodivergent entrants **may** use AI as a reasonable adjustment for overcoming their individual barriers to entry (for example, using AI to convert voice recordings to text), while fully respecting the terms in point 1 of these AI Terms and Conditions.
5. All entrants to the Kelpies Prize are required to declare on their entry form that they have not used AI-powered tools to generate story ideas, plots, characters or wording.
6. Use of AI to generate story ideas, plots, characters or wording contravenes the terms and conditions of the prize and will lead to disqualification.

Advice for Writers in the Era of AI

- We strongly advise that writers keep a record of their own dated planning documents and drafts, so they could show their process if the originality of their work were ever questioned.
- We advise writers to document and date their own research sources (eg historical research, setting research), including every AI search.