



Singapore Book Council  
Powering Our Imagination

## Singapore Literature Prize 2026

### Frequently Asked Questions



#### **1. What is the Singapore Literature Prize?**

Established in 1992, the Singapore Literature Prize (SLP) is Singapore's top literary prize, with more than 170 past winners. The prize is a biennial competition open to Singapore citizens and permanent residents whose works of prose and poetry have been published in Singapore or abroad during a specified period of time.

The award carries a top prize of S\$5,000 for the winner in each of the categories. In addition, the winners will be given a specially commissioned trophy.

#### **2. What changes are there to SLP 2026?**

For the 2026 edition of the Singapore Literature Prize (SLP), several changes have been introduced:

- Increased Prize Money: The prize amount has been raised from \$3,000 to \$5,000.



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- Revised Categories: SLP 2026 will be awarded in a total of 8 categories: Prose and Poetry in the four languages of Chinese, English, Malay, and Tamil. Young Adult (YA) works are eligible for submission for SLP 2026.
- Translation and Comics/Graphic Novel. These two categories will not be included in SLP 2026 while we review the submission cycle for them. Creators and translators working in these forms are encouraged to look out for the next eligible cycle to submit their works.
- Application Fee: An SGD20 application fee has been introduced for submissions.

### **3. Who can submit entries?**

The competition is open to all Singapore citizens and permanent residents who are at least 18 years of age at the point of application.

### **4. What languages are eligible?**

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

### **5. What are the categories for SLP 2026?**

The eight (8) categories are

- Poetry (Chinese, English, Malay, Tamil)
- Prose (Chinese, English, Malay, Tamil)

### **6. How do I submit?**

All applications have to be **submitted online** via <https://www.bookcouncil.sg/awards/slp-2026>. Make sure you read the rules and regulations carefully to avoid your submission from being incomplete and disqualified. All entries **MUST** be accompanied by four (4) physical copies and one (1) digital copy of your book. A \$20 submission fee will be collected with the online submission form.



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### **7. When is the deadline?**

The deadline for submission is **15 May 2026 (Friday), 6.00pm (SGT)**. Each complete submission must be accompanied by four (4) physical copies of the book that have to be delivered to the SBC office by the deadline. Late or incomplete submissions will be disqualified. Please read our rules and regulations carefully.

### **8. What is the Prose category?**

The Prose category accepts submissions of works of fiction and creative nonfiction. Works of fiction refer to narrative prose, which includes short stories and novels. Creative nonfiction refers to 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, memoirs, personal essays and travel writing.

### **9. I have a book about travel/cooking/stories of triumph. Am I eligible to submit in the Prose category?**

For SLP 2026, the Prose category accepts both works of fiction and creative nonfiction. See Qn 8 for the definition of creative nonfiction. Cookbooks, self-help manuals, travel guides, academic studies, business books, commentaries or textbooks are not eligible. The work should be accessible to the general reading public and not intended for a specialised or academic readership.

### **10. I have a book of poetry/prose that my publisher sells under the Young Adult (YA) market. Can I submit?**

Young Adult (YA) works are eligible for submission.

### **11. I have a book of poetry/prose that my publisher sells under the children's market. Can I submit?**

Books intended for children are not eligible.



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### **12. Are chapbooks or other short-form publications eligible for submission?**

No, chapbooks, pamphlets, booklets, zines, and other short-form or non-standard publications are not eligible. All submissions should be full-length published works that meet the criteria for their respective categories.

### **13. A group of writers and I wrote this book together. Can we submit?**

Anthologies of works by more than two (2) authors are not eligible for this prize.

### **14. Which years of publications are eligible?**

The works must be published between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2025, in Singapore or abroad in a physical book format.

### **15. My book isn't out yet but the publisher is in the midst of printing. Can I submit a manuscript first and the book later?**

Only published works are eligible. To be eligible, works must be published in a physical book format and available for general commercial release within the stipulated time frame (see Q14).

### **16. My book is out on e-platforms/available only as an audiobook. Can I submit it?**

E-books and audiobooks (that are not published in physical formats) will not be considered for the prize at this point.

### **17. I've compiled my past works into a book that just came out. Can I submit it?**

Collections of short stories, poetry, essays previously published in newspapers, magazines, or online are eligible, as long as the book is published within the stipulated time frame (see Q14).

The "best of" collections or anthologies of works that have been previously published in book form are not eligible. However, if at least 80% of the works included in the current submission are published for the first time in book form, then the book is eligible for SLP 2026.



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**18. My book came out just a few years ago and I've updated a few chapters in its latest edition this year. Is the book eligible?**

Reprints, updated editions or reissues from previous years are not eligible.

**19. Can I submit more than one entry?**

Yes, an applicant may submit more than one work for the prize provided that the works are different and not variations of the same work.

**20. I have a few books that are stronger together as a series. Can I submit that?**

No, a series of related works taken as one work is not eligible.

**21. I'm self-published. Am I eligible?**

Yes, you are eligible to submit as long as you fulfil all the abovementioned criteria.

**22. Who decides who wins?**

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

**23. When will the shortlist be announced?**

The shortlisted titles for SLP 2026 will be announced by mid-October 2026. Only shortlisted writers will be notified.

**24. I've been shortlisted, but I don't want to attend the prize-giving ceremony and be disappointed that I didn't win. Can you just tell me the results beforehand?**

No, winners will NOT be notified before the prize-giving 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 win. The winners will only be announced at the prize-giving ceremony in early December 2026.



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**25. I've won SLP 2026. Now what?**

Both shortlisted and winning authors will be invited to conduct public talks, workshops, and/or mentorship programmes where applicable. You will also be asked to speak to the media and attend media engagements, and support the Singapore Book Council in all SLP-related marketing and publicity efforts where applicable.

**26. My question is not answered by any of your FAQs. Who do I reach out to?**

You can check out the SLP 2026 rules and regulations. For enquiries and other questions, please email [programmes@bookcouncil.sg](mailto:programmes@bookcouncil.sg).