

Core Judges

Dania Shawwa Abuali

Dania Shawwa Abuali is an editor and publisher. For eight years, she ran Haven Books, an independent press in Hong Kong. Holding a master's in literature from Northwestern University, she worked at Rizzoli Publishing in New York. She was the managing editor of Imprint and president of the Women in Publishing Society.



Jennifer Chen

Jennifer Chen transitioned into the world of philanthropy after almost two decades in the finance industry. She is the Director of Philanthropic Engagement at Legacy Advisors, a thriving family office in Hong Kong, founded by James Chen. In 2016, she was appointed as Asia Lead of CLEARLY, a global campaign which aims to bring a clear vision to 2.5 billion people denied it as quickly as possible. She is also a senior advisor to a number of NGOs dedicated to impactful social change, Bring Me a Book Hong Kong; Social Impact Partners, and the OneSky Foundation.



Allen Cheng

Allen is a Chinese Children's Literature writer, the winner of the Youth Literary Awards for 5 years in a row, the tutor of the writer training workshop of Ming Pao and The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, the judge of several writing competition, the founder of the Little Great Writer writing class.



My Story Creation Competition 2024-25

Core Judges



Ritu Hemnani

Ritu Hemnani is an author, journalist, and educator passionate about promoting diversity through children's literature and articles for the South China Morning Post. Ritu's novel, *Lion of the Sky*, was published by HarperCollins in 2024, and her non-fiction picture book, *Their Story is Our Story*, will be published by Chronicle Books in 2026. Ritu shares the seeds of her writing journey in her 2019 TEDx Talk, *An Inheritance Worth Sharing*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-GelCkt-t4>. You can find Ritu on her website: www.rituhemnani.com.



Joanna Hotung

Joanna Hotung is an educator and entrepreneur who founded Kids' Gallery and Star English, children's creative learning centres. She is also Director of the Hotung Mills Education Foundation which supports children's learning outside formal academic education, including a focus on creative writing. She loves being a judge, speaker, and organiser of youth creative events.



Martha Keswick

Martha is a children's book author renowned for COPE Disaster Series. Ranging from Earthquakes to Volcanoes, COPE empowers children in disaster risk reduction and is disseminated worldwide.

With a deep interest in Chinese Culture, Martha also authored the popular bilingual Max and Mei series, the action packed Pangu comics and the factual Zhongguo Mingren series, for children learning Chinese as a foreign language.



Judging Committee

Sarah Brennan

Sarah Brennan was born in the beautiful Australian island state of Tasmania. She began writing poems and stories as a child. Coming to Hong Kong in 1998, she became increasingly keen to write about Chinese and Asian culture, regularly visiting schools and sharing her works with children. She is the much-loved Hong Kong author of the best-selling Chinese Calendar Tales, and many other children's books. Visit her blog to find out more.



Frances Chan

Frances is a creative powerhouse who has worked with Kids4Kids to witness the incredible stories that children can conjure up with their boundless imaginations. As if that weren't impressive enough, Ysabel also has a flair for the dramatic, frequently lending her talents to theatre productions behind the scenes and even dabbling in scriptwriting. Who knows what kind of masterpiece she'll come up with next? Perhaps you'll be the one to inspire her with your own unique story.



William Chan Yi Chi

William is an author and illustrator at 12 years old, studying at ESF Sha Tin College. He is a four-time contestant of the My Story Creation Competition, with all four stories making it into volumes of the Kids4Kids Treasury in numerous years. As a storyteller, he believes every child has a story to tell, and that this competition gives children the opportunity to express themselves through the magical craft of storytelling.



Judging Committee

Amelia Chen

Amelia Chen is a previous My Story Creation Competition winner. She graduated from Williams College in 2022, and is currently studying law at Columbia Law School.



Bailey Cherry

Bailey Cherry is a current student at UC Berkeley, pursuing a double degree in Business Administration. In 2019, at the age of 14, she founded ReBooked, a Hong Kong-based non-profit which has diverted over 200,000 children's books from landfills, selling over 50,000 and redistributing 60,000 to NGOs.

As a former winner of the My Story Creation Competition, a volunteer at Kids4Kids events, and President of Advocates Leadership Team, she is so excited to be back as a judge!



Regina Liao

Hi everyone, my name is Regina! I'm a high school student who is interested in humanities, arts design, as well as creating my own books and characters as well! I do many outside activities with underprivileged kids, and I'm so excited to be working with this K4K for this opportunity.



Melissa Jane Megan

HKUST Senior Lecturer Melissa Megan teaches English for Academic Purposes. She has over 25 years of experience teaching in Hong Kong, and she previously taught writing in Australia. She is a passionate reader and an active book club member.



Judging Committee

Anjali Mittal

Anjali Mittal originally from the UK now lives in Hong Kong and has published six children's adventure books that are available in English and Chinese. She presents and offers workshops across schools in different countries. Her stories are often found in the Hong Kong Writer's Circle Anthologies. Anjali is working on her first adult fiction and writing short stories.



Alice Mong

S. Alice Mong is President of Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK), an independent non-government organization established in 1990, dedicated to providing educational platforms that present balanced perspectives and promote critical understanding of topics that are relevant to Hong Kong, Asia and the region's role in the world.

She is a graduate of the Ohio State University and received her EMBA from Kellogg and HKUST.



Aiswarya Rambhatla

Aiswarya is currently a law student and has been a member of the Advocates Leadership Team from 2019-2021. Having helped organise Kids4Kids's Youth Forums and Buddy readings, she's highly passionate about helping youth get actively involved in their communities and currently leads a non-profit that aims to battle educational disparity in STEM fields.

