

Campaign on “Promoting Positive Values and Attitudes through English Sayings of Wisdom” 2026/27 – Animal Photopoetry Creative Challenge 2026/27

Aims / Objectives

The “Animal Photopoetry Creative Challenge” (the Competition) is a cross-curricular activity that aims to:

- enhance students’ appreciation of and interest in English poetry;
- encourage students’ creative and artistic expression through photography and poetry writing;
- foster students’ proper values and attitudes;
- enrich students’ language learning experiences; and
- promote Language across the Curriculum.

The Competition is co-organised by the English Language Education Section and the Arts Education Section of the Curriculum Development Institute, the Education Bureau (EDB) in collaboration with Ocean Park Hong Kong (Ocean Park).

Content

Each secondary student is required to take an animal photograph and compose a poem at Ocean Park during the Competition, expressing the proper value(s) and attitude(s) – such as national identity and commitment – assigned for the Competition Day.

Rules and Regulations

- Each participant should submit only ONE entry (i.e. ONE photograph and ONE poem) for the Competition. Any entry submission that is incomplete or does not comply with the entry requirements, rules and regulations may be disqualified.
- Plagiarism is strictly prohibited.
- Each entry should be the original work of the participant, comprising a photograph taken and a poem written on the day of the Competition, and must not have been published or submitted to other competitions.
- Teachers and participants must ensure the responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI) throughout the creation process.
- Entries shall NOT include any information or content that is obscene, abusive, violent or defamatory, or violates the laws of the HKSAR.
- All submitted entries will NOT be returned.
- The EDB reserves the right to modify the rules and regulations of the Competition.

Entry Requirements

- Participants should be full-time students of secondary schools in Hong Kong.
- Students should enrol in the Competition through their school.
- Entries should be submitted on an individual basis.
- Each poem should have a title and be limited to a maximum of 150 words.
- Each photo should have a minimum resolution of 8 megapixels (8MP) and be submitted in JPG/JPEG/ PNG/HEIC format, with a file size between 1MB and 5MB.
- The entry should NOT contain any personally identifiable information or details of schools/teachers/students (e.g. school emblems, school uniforms, faces of teachers/students).
- Only minor modifications, such as photo cropping, red-eye removal and adjustments to brightness, contrast or colour saturation are allowed. Post-editing using computers or mobile phones and/or AI-assisted modifications, including but not limited to changes in colours and the addition of lines, watermarks or patterns, are not permitted. If the judging panel is of the view that the photo in an entry has been excessively processed, the participant will be disqualified and no objection shall be raised.
- Participants should retain the original digital file to prove that they are the original authors of their submissions. The EDB may require participants to provide the original file (containing EXIF data) and reserves the right to disqualify participants who fail to provide such proof.

Intellectual Property

- All participating students, their parents or guardians, and schools should note and agree with the following terms:
 - (a) All entries should be original and must not have been published previously.
 - (b) Participants need to ensure that the content of the entries does not infringe any copyright and publication rights. Please visit the following website for details related to intellectual property: <https://ipd.gov.hk/en/ip-overview>
- Any entry that infringes an intellectual property right will not be accepted.
- The EDB takes no liability whatsoever for such infringement.
- The EDB reserves the right to edit, modify, publish and use any entries in any forms for display and educational purposes, and its decision on such matters shall be final.

Application

- Each school should enrol 10 students for the Competition and assign up to two teachers-in-charge (one offering advice on English Language and the other on photography) to supervise the participating students and facilitate the submission of entries on the day of the Competition. All participating students and teachers-in-charge will be provided with admission tickets for entry to Ocean Park on the Competition Day.
- Schools should submit the application online through the Competition webpage (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/AnimalPhotopoetry>) **from 16 November 2026 (Monday) to 4 December 2026 (Friday)**.

30th Anniversary Thematic Division

- To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the Competition this year will feature a special *30th Anniversary Thematic Division*.
- Each school should nominate three entries for this division. The nominated entries should feature at least two animal species native to our country and/or Hong Kong¹. Outstanding entries will be selected for the *Bauhinia Award* and *Native Species Ambassador Award*.

Adjudication

- An adjudication panel comprising language and art professionals/practitioners and representatives from the EDB will select the award-winning entries.
- Entries will be assessed based on the following criteria:
 - (a) content and message of the poem and photograph (e.g. relevance to the theme, clarity of message);
 - (b) connection between the poem and the photo;
 - (c) creativity and originality;
 - (d) language use in the poem;
 - (e) artistic quality and photography skills; and
 - (f) [30th Anniversary Thematic Division only] relevance to the theme of the 30th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR (e.g. expression of national pride, affection for and a sense of belonging to our country and Hong Kong, as well as the close bond between Hong Kong and the Motherland).

¹ These animals include the following: [Mammals] Giant Panda, Red Panda, and Sichuan Golden Snub-nosed Monkey; [Amphibians] Chinese Giant Salamander, Hong Kong Newt, and Romer's Tree Frog; [Reptiles] Beale's-eyed Turtle, Big-headed Turtle, Chinese Alligator, Golden Coined Turtle, and Green Sea Turtle.

Awards and Prizes

Division	Award	Prizes
Main Division	Outstanding Award [About 15]	Each awardee will receive: • a certificate of recognition; • an experiential learning programme organised by Ocean Park; • the opportunity to have their entry published in a digital flipbook (Appendix 3b), and displayed on relevant webpage and exhibitions; and • [Outstanding Award and Bauhinia Award only] an Ocean Park Annual Pass.
	Commendable Award [About 20]	
	Grand Jury Photography Award [About 5]	
30 th Anniversary Thematic Division	Bauhinia Award [About 10]	
	Native Species Ambassador Award [About 20]	

Briefing Session and Professional Development Programme

In support of the Competition, the following two events will be organised. Teachers interested in joining these two events should apply through the Training Calendar System (<https://tcs.edb.gov.hk>).

	Competition Launch Briefing	Animal Photography and Photopoetry Writing Workshop (Refreshed)
Course ID	CDI020270553	CDI020270528
Date	13 November 2026 (Friday)	27 November 2026 (Friday)
Time	3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	2:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Mode/Venue	Online	Ocean Park Hong Kong
Objectives	To introduce the Competition and provide information on the entry requirements and arrangements	To develop teachers' knowledge and skills in animal photography and photopoetry writing
Target Participants	English Language, Literature in English and Visual Arts teachers in secondary schools	
Language Medium	English	

Important Dates

Date	Event
13 November 2026 (Friday)	Competition Launch Briefing (Online)
16 November 2026 (Monday) to 4 December 2026 (Friday)	Application (Online)
27 November 2026 (Friday)	Professional Development Programme for Teachers: Animal Photography and Photopoetry Writing Workshop (Refreshed)
25 January 2027 (Monday)	Pre-competition Briefing for Participating Teachers (Online)
2 February 2027 (Tuesday)	The Competition Day (9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)
April 2027	Announcement of results through the Competition webpage

Inclement Weather Arrangements

The Competition will be postponed if:

- Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 3 or above, or the Red or Black Rainstorm Warning Signal, is in force three hours before the activity is scheduled to begin; or
- the EDB has announced class suspension for secondary schools due to inclement weather.

Contact Persons

- Ms Ada LAM, English Language Education Section (cdoe2@edb.gov.hk / 2892 6572)
- Ms Jessie HO, Arts Education Section (cdoval@edb.gov.hk / 3698 3538)



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府
教育局
Education Bureau
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China



Animal *PHOTO Poetry!* Creative Challenge

動物攝影「詩」創意大挑戰



查詢 For enquiries:
2892 6572 / 3698 3538
網址 Website:
www.edb.gov.hk/AnimalPhotopoetry

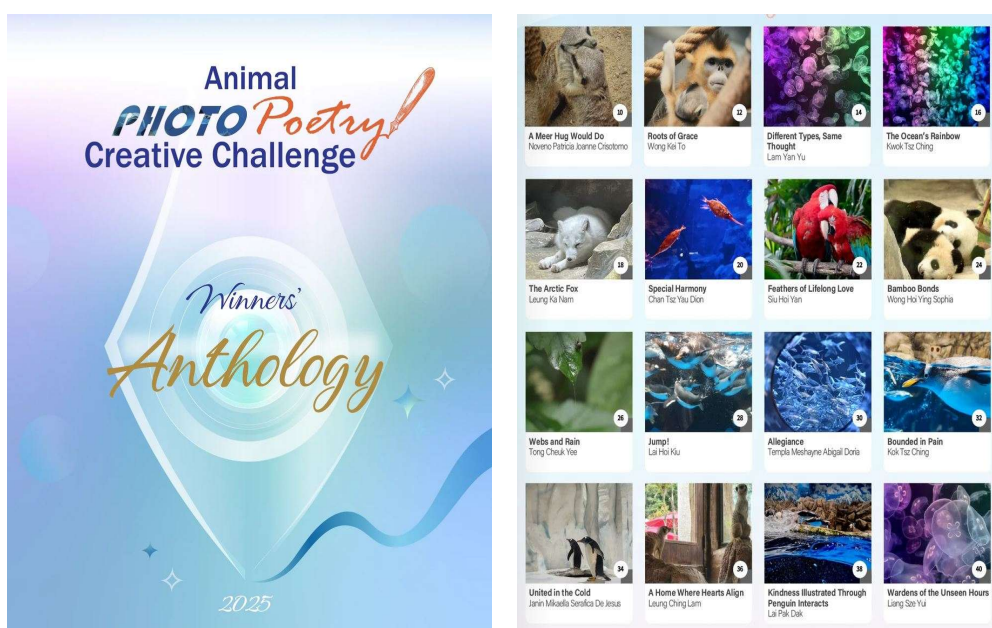
Winners' Anthology 2026



https://edb.gov.hk/AnimalPhotopoetry_2026



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