

# About the Hong Kong Budding Poets (English) Award

## The Award

The Hong Kong Budding Poets (English) Award is a territory-wide competition open to local primary, secondary, international and ESF schools. It was organised by the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education and supported by the Gifted Education Section of the Education Bureau. Hang Seng Management College was commissioned to hold the competition, adjudication and related training workshops for the second year in a row. The competition aims to provide a platform for more able students of English to extend their imagination and passion for writing and engage them in further training in poetry writing. It also serves as a channel for teachers to recognise and identify students gifted in English learning.

## Workshops

To better equip participants with some key skills that would assist them in their writing, several workshops were hosted by the academic staff of Hang Seng Management College. Primary students could participate in Poetry Through Dramatic Performance, which aimed to enhance their ability to recognise the real-life stories that may be hidden within poems. Secondary students were offered Thinking Through Poetry, which focused on how the medium of poetry should address challenges in nature and technology.

## Adjudication

Entries were assessed on originality, use of language, artistic qualities, expression of the theme and construction. After 2 rounds of preliminary and final adjudication by frontline English language teachers, poets, writers and/or academics in the field of poetry and creative writing, at most 20 entries from the Primary, Secondary and Open Sections were recommended for awards.

## Award Ceremony

On 28 May 2018, a joint award ceremony and educational event were held to crown the winners and commemorate the work of all the finalists. The educational event comprised a specially designed poetry workshop hosted by guest lecturer, Dr Jason Polley of Hong Kong Baptist University. The award ceremony was attended by students, parents, representatives from the Education Bureau and the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education, as well as staff from Hang Seng Management College. The speeches in the previous section were taken from this event.

## A Note on the Themes

The themes for this year's competition were selected in order to allow the students as much freedom as possible while providing them with some inspiration at the outset of their poetry writing journey. The chosen themes were:

Roads and Journeys  
Me, the Earth, the Universe  
Human or Machine

These 3 themes fell under the overall title given to this anthology, "Of our Time". While some may tell stories of personal struggle and some may address major global issues, we hope you will agree that all of these poems represent snapshots of our time.