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COMMONWORD CHILDREN'S DIVERSITY WRITING PRIZE 2012 – CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Commonword Children's Diversity Writing Prize welcomes submissions from unpublished children's authors whose writing embraces ethnic diversity either through their own ethnicity and culture and/or in their writing. The winner of the prize will receive a £500 cash prize, professional mentoring and £100 worth of Puffin books of the winner's choice.

The closing date for entries is: 29 February 2012. To enter, please read the terms and conditions below.

Terms and Conditions:

The submission of any entry will be deemed to imply the acceptance of these conditions of entry.

ELIGIBILITY

1. All entries must be submitted in the English language.
2. All entries must be original and the author's own unaided work.
3. Only one submission per entrant – please see the Submission Process below for detailed guidelines.
4. Submissions must not infringe any copyright or contain defamatory or otherwise unlawful matter.
5. All entrants must be over the age of 16 and a permanent resident in the United Kingdom.
6. Only debut children's fiction writers may submit work for consideration. A debut children's fiction writer is defined as a writer who has not had a children's novel or collection of short stories accepted for publication or published before the closing date above.
 - Authors with only picture books published are eligible**.
 - Authors who have only published non-fiction books or who have only been published in newspapers, magazines, anthologies or non-print medium (i.e. radio, web, etc.) are eligible**.
 - Authors who have self-published are eligible**.
 - Authors with adult fiction published are eligible**.
 - Authors who have been commissioned to write children's fiction which was not their own idea, under a pseudonym, are also eligible**.

** Full details of any previously published work must be included with the author biography, in order to confirm eligibility.
7. It is a condition of entry that any entrant whose submission is accepted for publication by any publisher anywhere in the world between the closing date for entries and the date of the award ceremony will immediately withdraw their entry by notifying the organizers via admin@cultureword.org.uk.

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8. The closing time and date for the competition is 23:59.59 on 29 February 2012 and submissions will not be accepted after this date.

SUBMISSIONS PROCESS

1. All submissions to be submitted electronically to admin@cultureword.org.uk with the subject heading: 'Commonword Children's Diversity Writing Prize entry'.
2. Only one submission per entrant.
3. Once received, entries cannot be amended.
4. Entries must be a maximum word count of 4,000 words and must be the first 4,000 words of an already finished novel.
5. Submissions should be typed in font Times New Roman, font size 11, in a Microsoft Word document format with numbered pages.
6. Submissions must bear the title of the entry in the "Header" of each page.
7. Entries must include a synopsis of the work (up to 500 words), which includes age guidance for the novel of either 7–9 years, 9–11 years or young adult.
8. Entries must include a short biography of the author (up to 200 words). In addition to this word count, full details of all previously published work must be included with the author biography, as in point 6 of Eligibility criteria above.
9. Entries must include the total word count of the novel.
10. Any submissions that do not comply with the terms and conditions as here detailed or include the appropriate information will be disqualified.
11. The closing time and date for the competition is 23:59.59 on 29 February 2012.

SELECTION PROCESS

Judging for the prize will be as follows:

1. Stage 1 – a team of readers will read all submissions and select the shortlist, which will comprise a maximum of 5 titles.
2. Stage 2 – the authors of the shortlisted titles will be contacted on or before 1 May 2012, and will be required to submit the full manuscript. Failure to provide a full manuscript in the time requested will result in the shortlisted title being withdrawn from the selection process.
3. Stage 3 – the full manuscripts for the shortlist will be put to the judging panel, which will assess the entries. The judging panel is: children's author Catherine Johnson, Shannon Park (Editorial Director, Puffin Books) and children's literary agent Catherine Pellegrino.
4. Stage 4 – the panel of judges will convene to discuss the winner of the prize.
5. The decisions of the judging panel are final and binding, and Commonword Children's Diversity Writing Prize or its partners will not enter into correspondence or negotiations regarding the results.
6. Due to the high volume of submissions, the organisers are unable to contact all entrants to inform them of their progress. Only shortlisted entrants will be contacted on or before 1 May. Any entrant not contacted by that date should assume they have been unsuccessful.

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7. The Commonword Children's Diversity Writing Prize winner will be announced at an award ceremony in June 2012 in Manchester. More details will be available when the shortlist is announced.
8. Details of the winner will be made available on the Commonword, Puffin, and Rogers, Coleridge & White Ltd websites after the award ceremony.

PRIZE

The winner's prize will be as follows:

1. £500 cash, to be paid by cheque.
2. Professional mentoring will be from Rogers, Coleridge and White literary agency – this will consist of a full manuscript assessment and an initial meeting to discuss representation potential. There is no obligation for Rogers, Coleridge & White to agree to professionally represent the winner.
3. Puffin books of the winner's choice to the value of £100 (based on RRP). To be chosen from titles available on the www.puffin.co.uk website.
4. Prizes are non-transferable.

GENERAL

1. The Promoters will use any data submitted by entrants only for the purposes of running the competition, unless otherwise stated in the entry details. By entering this competition, all entrants consent to the use of their personal data by the Promoters for the purposes of the administration of this competition and any other purposes to which the entrant has consented.
2. By submitting an entry, each entrant agrees to be bound by these terms and conditions.
3. Photos of the winner and shortlisted authors from the award ceremony may be used by the Promoters for promotional purposes.
4. The Promoters are Commonword of 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS; Puffin Books of 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL; and Rogers, Coleridge & White of 20 Powis Mews, London W11 1JN.

For further information please contact:

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