

Once Upon A Book Storytelling Competition 2025/26

Conditions and Regulations

1. The Organiser

The Once Upon A Book Storytelling Competition 2025/26 is organised by the Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) Section, Curriculum Development Institute (CDI), Education Bureau.

2. Aim and Objectives

The aim of the competition is to promote reading, as reading extensively provides students with powerful learning opportunities and contributes to whole-person development.

The objectives of the competition are to provide students with the opportunities to:

- **explore** diverse narratives, characters, ideas, and emotions through reading;
- **express** themselves freely, confidently, and creatively in English by sharing their passion for reading a book of their choice using a range of storytelling techniques;
- **develop** their communication skills and creativity through a thoughtful video presentation of a book;
- **cultivate** values and attitudes through their engagement with books and storytelling.

3. Description of the Competition

The competition encourages a community-wide engagement with reading and storytelling. It is open to primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong in the public sector, including schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS schools). The competition encourages and rewards both whole school participation and individual submissions. can work individually or in pairs to create and present a storytelling video based on a chosen book. Entries can feature either fiction or non-fiction books.

There are two categories in the competition, the Super Readers category and the Live Unplugged category. Schools can enter one category or both. (See tables below for details.)

Super Readers Category

Divisions	Length of videos	Details	Prizes (updated)
Primary schools	1-3 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Unlimited number of video entries per school● Only one video entry per individual / pair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Four Super Readers Awards will be awarded, one in each region (Hong Kong, Kowloon, New Territories East & New Territories West).● Winning schools will receive:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ a trophy○ a certificate○ a list of books recommended by the NET Section● All participants will receive an e-certificate.● Winning schools will be invited to receive their awards at the OUB Storytelling Competition: Live Unplugged 2026.
Secondary schools	2-4 mins		

Schools may locate their region by visiting the [School Lists by District](#).

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Live Unplugged Category

Divisions	Length of video	Details	Prizes
KS1 (P1-P3)	1-3 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum number of two video entries per school, e.g. two videos in KS1, OR one video in KS1 and one video in KS2 Only one video entry per individual / pair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prizes will be awarded in each division. The prizes in each division are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Prize Second Prize Third Prize Merits (x2) Refer to Section 10 for more details about the OUB Live Unplugged prizes.
KS2 (P4-P6)			
KS3 (S1-S3)	2-4 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In each division, 10-12 video entries will be shortlisted. Shortlisted students will be invited to the Once Upon A Book (OUB) Live Unplugged event. 	
KS4 (S4-S6)			

4. Schedule of Events and Submission Deadlines

Event	Date or Deadline	Remarks
NET Section Competitions Briefing Session: Once Upon A Book Storytelling Competition	25 September 2025 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	EDB Training Calendar System online application Course ID: CDI020260203
Deadline for collection of online video submission forms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Super Readers Submission Form Live Unplugged Submission Form Late submissions will not be accepted.	27 February 2026 5:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Images Parent Permission Form Super Readers Checklist for Video Submission Super Readers Video Entries spreadsheet template Super Readers Video Entries demonstration video Please see Downloadable Documents here .
Announcement of Super Readers Awards and shortlisted entries for the Live Unplugged events	15 April 2026	Email from the NET Section
Once Upon A Book Live Unplugged Competition and Prize Presentation (KS1 & KS3)	29 April 2026 KS1 a.m. KS3 p.m.	WP01B, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre
Once Upon A Book Live Unplugged Competition and Prize Presentation (KS2 & KS4)	30 April 2026 KS2 a.m. KS4 p.m.	WP01B, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre
Issue of certificates of awards and e-certificates of participation	July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificates of awards to be picked up at the NET Section office in Tsuen Wan e-Certificates to be emailed to the contact teacher

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5. Conditions for Entry

5.1. **Teacher Briefing Session:** Schools interested in participating in the competition are strongly encouraged to send a teacher to the briefing session for the Once Upon A Book Storytelling Competition.

5.2. **Super Readers Video entries:**

- There is no limit to the number of video entries submitted by each school.
- Only one video entry per individual / pair is permitted.
- Entries can feature either fiction or non-fiction books.
- Entries can be based on the same or different books.
- Entries can be presented individually or in pairs.

5.3. **Live Unplugged Video Entries:**

- The maximum number of video entries per school is two, e.g. two videos in KS1, OR one video in KS1 and one video in KS2.
- Only one video entry per individual / pair is permitted.
- Entries can feature either fiction or non-fiction books.
- Entries can be presented individually or in pairs.

6. Once Upon A Book Competition Regulations (for all video submissions)

6.1. The video entries must be in MP4 or AVI format and saved in an online shared drive, e.g. Google Drive, OneDrive, Dropbox. Ensure that the access rights are set to “anyone with the link” and that the links are accessible until 28 August 2026 (Friday).

6.2. For the Live Unplugged Category, the title of each video file must contain the school name followed by the title of the book, e.g. ABC School_*Little Red Riding Hood*.

6.3. For the Super Readers Category, the links to each video file will be collected in the Super Readers spreadsheet, which will then be uploaded to the Super Readers video submission form. Refer to the Super Readers Checklist for Video Submission in Downloadable Documents on the NET Scheme e-Platform for more details.

6.4. The NET Section reserves the right to disqualify a video entry without prior notification to schools should the entry be inaccessible via the provided link.

6.5. Permission from parents/guardians for the use of images must be obtained by schools. The soft copy of the Use of Images Permission form template is available in Downloadable Documents on the NET Scheme e-Platform. Schools can use the template as is or copy the clause from the template to an e-Class parents’ letter template to facilitate collection.

6.6. Students must begin their performance by introducing themselves and stating the title and author of the book that they are sharing.

6.7. Students must retell the story or a part of the story using a range of storytelling techniques. Refer to the Once Upon A Book Storytelling Showcase videos (See Point 8 below for more details).

6.8. The time allowed for performances will vary according to the division. Please refer to the tables in Point 3 (Description of the Competition).

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- 6.9. Students may choose to wear their school uniform, comfortable clothing, or costumes in the video.
- 6.10. The use of props is permitted.
- 6.11. In the Live Unplugged event, the following items will be provided: two whiteboards with markers and magnets, an easel, two long tables and two chairs.
- 6.12. Students are encouraged to memorise their lines, but they may use note cards while presenting.
- 6.13. Filming in front of a plain, solid surface is recommended. If filming is done in front of the blackboard, make sure the board is clean. Students may write the book title, create a simple drawing, or hang a hand-drawn poster behind them.
- 6.14. When filming the video, the camera should be in a fixed position for the duration of the video-recording.
 - Zooming and panning are not permitted.
 - The student(s) should be visible from the waist up (i.e. a medium shot).
 - The room should be well lit.
 - The sound must be audible.
 - Students may use sound effects during the performance. Sound effects may be produced by sound Foley (using the voice, body or various objects) or digitally pre-recorded.
- 6.15. To avoid using copyright-protected images, the covers of published books must not be shown in the video. If students would like to show the book cover, they are encouraged to create the cover by hand. Alternatively, they may use an AI-generated image or a copyright-friendly image available through the Creative Commons (See: <https://creativecommons.org/>) as long as they abide by the licensing agreements.
- 6.16. To avoid using copyright-protected music or sound effects, students are encouraged to create original music/sound effects. Alternatively, they may use AI-generated music/sound effects or copyright-friendly music/sound effects available through the Creative Commons (See: <https://creativecommons.org/>) as long as they abide by the licensing agreements.
- 6.17. Video editing should be minimal. The addition of special effects (e.g. green screen backgrounds, animations, transitions) or sound effects is not permitted in post-production editing.

7. Regulations for the Once Upon A Book Live Unplugged Event

- 7.1. In each division of the competition (KS1-KS4), 10-12 entries will be selected and invited to the OUB Live Unplugged event.
- 7.2. The Live Unplugged performance must be based on the video entry submitted.
- 7.3. Students are encouraged to memorise their lines, but they may use note cards while presenting.
- 7.4. Students may wear their school uniform or comfortable clothing. Time will be allocated for a change into costumes if needed.
- 7.5. Students may use props during their performance. However, multimedia resources (e.g. projection of presentation slides) will not be permitted.

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- 7.6. The following items will be provided: two whiteboards with markers and magnets, an easel, two long tables and two chairs.
- 7.7. The time allowed for performances will vary according to the division. Please refer to the tables in Point 3 (Description of the Competition).
- 7.8. Performers will have one minute for set up and one minute for breakdown before and after their performance.
- 7.9. Students and teachers are expected to show respect during the performances. Mobile phones must be set on silent mode before the start of the event.
- 7.10. Taking photos or videos is permitted but teachers may only take photos or videos of their own students.
- 7.11. The decision of the judging panel will be considered final, and no correspondence will be entered into regarding adjudication.

8. Once Upon A Book Storytelling Showcase (videos)

The OUB Storytelling Showcase Video Series focuses on different storybooks and features a range of storytelling techniques. The collection of videos is designed to help students develop their storytelling skills and create engaging video presentations to share their reading experiences. Teachers and students preparing entries for the competition are encouraged to make effective use of the video resources for storytelling ideas and the promotion of reading. The videos are available [here](#).

9. Adjudication

The judging panels will include representatives from the EDB, English teachers, and other professionals in the community with experience in storytelling or public speaking.

Student performances will be assessed on the criteria below:

A.	Content	<i>Narrative flow: Logical and coherent story structure Detail relevance: Inclusion of pertinent details Values: Promotes positive values</i>
B.	Use of English	<i>Intelligibility (pronunciation) Fluency (stress and intonation) Range of language use</i>
C.	Vocal Expression	<i>Volume: Appropriate loudness Pitch: Varied and dynamic Pace: Controlled speed of speech Articulation: Clear pronunciation</i>
D.	Physical Expression	<i>Gestures: Purposeful and natural Facial expressions: Reflective of emotions and messages Eye contact: Engages the audience Posture: Confident and open Movement: Complementary to spoken content</i>
E.	Presentation and Engagement	<i>Visual aids: Clear and effective Organisation: Well-structured presentation Time management: Adherence to allotted time Audience interaction: Encourages engagement and participation</i>

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10. Once Upon A Book Live Unplugged Prizes

	Name of the awards	Prizes for each award
Individual/Pair Awards at the OUB Live Unplugged events (to be awarded in each division)	First Prize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trophy and Certificate(s) of Award ● \$800 in book coupons
	Second Prize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trophy and Certificate(s) of Award ● \$600 in book coupons
	Third Prize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trophy and Certificate(s) of Award ● \$400 in book coupons
	Merits (x2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Certificate(s) of Merit ● \$200 in book coupons
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tickets to Ocean Park will be given to all students that are shortlisted to compete in the OUB Live Unplugged event. ● Students may be invited to perform in the OUB Storytelling Outreach event in May or June 2026.

11. Submission Deadline

The deadline for submission of entries is **Friday, 27 February 2026 (5:00 p.m.)**.

12. Enquiries

For enquiries about the competition, please contact:

- Ada LI (Primary Schools) at 3549 8334 or adapyli@edb.gov.hk OR
- Alice LEUNG (Secondary Schools) at 3549 8315 or aliceosleung@edb.gov.hk