ACCADEMIA TIBERINA

LA BUSSOLA DELLE PAROLE
PREMIO INTERNAZIONALE DI LETTERATURA PER RAGAZZI

THE COMPASS OF WORDS

International Children's Literature Award, created by Antonietta Micali within the Department of Literature. Honorary President: Dr. Franco Antonio Pinardi; President: Dr. Marica Pinardi; Vice-President: Prof. Antonietta Micali.

Young authors aged 7 to 14

1st EDITION – 2026/2027

Every story is a path.
Every child can point the way.

ART . 1 – PURPOSE

Born **The Compass of Stories –** ***International Children's Literature Award,*** *a competition dedicated to young authors aged 7 to 14, without distinction of nationality, language, culture or origin.*

The Award was created with the aimof promoting reading, creative writing and artistic expression, valorizing the fantasy, imagination, sensitivity and ability of children and young people to tell their own world.

Through writing and creativity , the Prize aims to foster dialogue between different cultures, generations and countries, recognizing literature as a tool for knowledge, encounter, growth and sharing .

The Compass of Stories *Above all, it aims to be a place where every young author can feel listened to, valued, and free to express their voice.*

The Award was born from the belief that **Giving dreams to children means teaching them to believe in themselves** , offering them a space in which **to** *imagine, create and give shape to their emotions and thoughts.*

ART. 2 – RECIPIENTS

The Award is open to all children and young people aged between 7 ***and 14,*** *of any nationality, language, culture or origin.*

Participation is individual.

You can also participate through schools, libraries, cultural associations, educational centers, and other organizations that work with children and young people.

The works required for the competition can be created at school, during teaching activities, either individually or in groups, or individually at home.

ART. 3 – SECTIONS

The Award is divided into the following sections :

SECTION A – STORY AND FAIRY TALE

Short stories, fairy tales, fables, fantasy stories, adventures, and narratives of all kinds are welcome, and originality is preferred.

The works may be set in the real world or in imaginary universes and must freely interpret the theme of the 1st Edition.

SECTION B – POETRY

Original poems are accepted, in free verse or in traditional metrical forms.

Poetic sensitivity , the strength of the images and originalitywill be valued . of language and the young author 's ability to express emotions, thoughts, and personal points of view. The Jury will take into account the linguistic creativity , originality and the ability to construct images, characters and situations through poetic language.

SECTION C – NURSERY RHYME

Nursery rhymes characterized by rhythm, musicality , rhymes, assonances, wordplay and imagination are permitted .

SECTION D – CAVIARDAGE

*The section is dedicated to **Caviardage** , understood as a form of creative and poetic expression created starting from a pre-existing text.*

The young author will be able to identify, select and connect words, phrases or fragments of the source text to create a new poetic and visual composition.

The workmay be enriched with drawings, colors, signs, shapes and other artistic interventions, as long as the final result represents a personaland original elaboration of the participant.

In particular, expressive ability and originality will be evaluated. of composition, the relationship between word and image, poetic sensitivity and the ability to attribute a new meaning to the original text.

Some pointers:

- *It is possible to participate with a Caviardage*
- *Caviardage must to be performed on a waste page*
- *It must be Caviardage sent in PDF original, not poetry emerged and transcribed.*

ART. 4 – ART AND DESIGN

The section is dedicated to the works graphics and artistic made come on young participants , inspired freely to the theme " A voyage that never ends ". They are allowed drawings made with any technique and material, between which , by title example : pencil , pencils colored pencils , pastels , markers , watercolors , tempera , acrylic , collage and mixed techniques . The drawing will be able to represent a real or imaginary journey , a place , an adventure , a dream , a I remember , a character , a world Fantastic or a path of transformation and discovery .

In particular , the following will be highlighted :

*** originality and imagination ;**

*** the ability to interpret the theme ;**

*** creativity in the composition ;**

*** the personal use of colors , shapes and techniques ;**

*** the ability to communicate emotions , ideas or a history through the image ;**

*** care and personality of the paper , taking into account the age of the participant .**

The work will have to be original, unpublished and made from the participant

It is allowed the use of tools digital for the realization of the work , provided that the conception and development artistic are attributable to the young man author . I am not admitted works entirely generate by means intelligence tools artificial .

For the youngest participants it is allowed the help of a adult exclusively for any activity techniques , such as scanning , photography , digitization or sending of the work , without modifying or intervening on the content creative design .

The works will be judged within two agegroups :

- **7–10 YEARS**
- **11–14 YEARS**

The Jury may award additional prizes and special mentions regardless of the category to which they belong.

ART. 5 – THEME

For the 1st Edition the theme is :

A JOURNEY THAT NEVER ENDS

The journey can be real or imaginary , near or far, in the past or in the future.

It can be a journey through a place, an encounter, a dream, a memory, an adventure, a personal transformation, or a completely invented world.

It could be the journey of a child, a fantastic character, an animal, an object or even a thought .

The theme is deliberately open : **the young author's imagination must have no limits.**

ART. 6 – LANGUAGES

The Award has an international character.

The works can be submitted in **Italian, English, French, Spanish, German** or another language.

For works written in a language other than Italian, an Italian translation must be attached.

The translation will be used exclusively to allow the Jury to evaluate the work and does not replace the original text.

The organization may avail itself of the collaboration of translators and language consultants.

ART. 7 – CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORKS

The works must be:

- originals ;
- unpublished ;
- made by the participant;
- not previously awarded in other competitions.

Operations generated using artificial intelligence tools are not permitted .

The use of digital tools as technical support is permitted , provided that the idea, creativity and content of the work are attributable to the young author.

For younger participants, the help of an adult in typing, transcribing or laying out the text is permitted ,without modifying the creative content .

For the section **Caviardage** *, the starting text may be a pre-existing text; however , the composition created by the participant must be the result of his or her own creative choice.*

ART. 8 – LENGTH AND FORMAT OF WORKS

For **Section A – Short Story and Fairy Tale** The following limits are recommended:

- 7–9 years: maximum 2,000 words;
- 10–12 years: maximum 3,500 words;
- 13–14 years: maximum 5,000 words .

For **Section B – Poetry** *it is possible to submit from 1 to 5 compositions* .

For **Section C – Nursery Rhyme** *it is possible to submit from 1 to 5 compositions* .

For **Section D – Caviardage** *it is possible to submit from 1 to 5 works .*

Caviardage works may be presented in digital format through scanning or high-quality photography , according to the methods indicated by the organization.

The Jury may take into consideration works that slightly exceed the indicated limits if they present particular characteristics of originality and creative value .

Art and Design Section

The drawing will have to to be made on a unique elaborate , preferably in A4 or A3 format , in orientation vertical or horizontal . For the works made on support paper , will have to to be sent a photograph or scan of the work in digital format , in good quality and such as to allow its correct viewing and evaluation . For the works made exclusively in digital format , the file will have to to be broadcast in one of the formats indicated from the organization . I am not expected limits specific in relation to the technique artistic used , provided that the work is made from the participant and both attributable to the Art and Drawing section .

ART. 9 – PARTICIPATION

Participation in the Award **is totally free** .

Each participant can submit:

- only one work in Section A – Short Story and Fairy Tale ;
- *up to five compositions in the Section* B – Poetry ;
- *up to five compositions in the Section* C – Nursery rhyme ;
- *up to five works in the Section* D – Caviardage .

The works must be sent by the date indicated in the official calendar of the Award via this email address: ***labussoladelleparole@gmail.com***

For each participant the following must be provided:

- **name and surname;**
- **date of birth;**
- **Country of Residence;**
- **title of the work;**
- **section and category;**
- **contact information of the parent or guardian;**
- **authorization to participate.**

Attached is Annex A which will have to be fully completed and signed and Annex B which contains the release for the publication of photos and Images.

ART. 10 – JURY

The works will be evaluated by an ***International Jury*** *composed of writers, poets, children's literature experts and representatives of the cultural and educational world.*

The Jury is composed of:

Jury President: Dr. Sabrina Morelli - *Radio speaker for a cultural program (Radio Studio 107 Milan) and television host (Lombardia TV and Sky). She is a columnist for the art and*

literature magazine Live Show Magazine and writes for the web publications Fai. Informazione, Nella Notizia, and LIVE Roma. She graduated in Law from Sapienza University of Rome. She later focused on computer science and earned her master's degree after three years at the Wall Street Institute in Rome.

Jurors:

Rita Iacomino *– Poet and writer, author of poetry collections and fiction, creator and executive president of several literary awards, and founder of the cultural association Rette Parallele.*

Arjan Kallco *— Writer, poet, journalist and teacher of Italian language in Albania; born in Korçë in 1967, he carries out literary and cultural activities*

Dr. Venera Torrisi *— Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, poet, and Tiberina Academician; involved in cultural and literary activities and former coordinator of literary award juries .*

Dr. Maria Concetta Borgese *— Honorary Tiberina Academy, Doctor of Letters at HC and Knight of Labor. Poet and member of literary juries of the Tiberina Academy and other important literary competitions.*

Dr. Cinzia Vermi *- Graduate in Science Policies , with postgraduate specialization in Bioethics and Sexology at the Pontifical Salesian University of Rome. In possession of the qualifications to teaching in the School of the nursery and primary school and for the competitive class A089 – Discipline Legal and Economical .*
It boasts a consolidated experience In the sector of education and training and a constant professional
development course . He obtained the certification English linguistics B2 and numerous certifications in the field educational , inclusive and digital.
For years promotes a teaching oriented to inclusion , innovation and the valorization of skills of the students .

Zaira Sellerio *- Author of the internationally successful novel "COURAGE IS A FEMALE," which also won an award from the Accademia Tiberina as part of the prestigious G. Belli-F. Lami Prize. Zaira is the author of numerous children's books. She is the cultural editor of the newspaper Swiss Federalism , where she writes short stories, poems, and book reviews. As a poet, she has entered numerous competitions, winning top prizes and prestigious awards. She will present her bilingual fables as part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Italian Culture Week.*

Teresa Barbaro - *Elementary school teacher, author, and trainer. She teaches languages at the ICS IV Novembre in Cornaredo (MI), also serving as assistant teacher. She has been involved for years in promoting reading, poetry, and creative writing in schools. A member of the Library Committee, she was the coordinator of the "Emozioni" poetry competition. She*

has published fiction and poetry, including works for children. She is a certified trainer of Tina Festa's Caviardage Method and leads creative writing workshops. Her extensive educational and literary experience allows her to evaluate the expressive and creative quality of young participants' work with sensitivity, expertise, and care. She graduated from the "C. Rebora" Teacher Training Institute in Rho (MI).

Romina Satriano *- Teacher of Spanish Language, Literature, and Culture at the "L. Muratori" Middle School in Cornaredo (MI). She holds a master's degree in European and Non-European Languages and Literatures from the University of Milan, specializing in Spanish Linguistics and Teaching, and is certified to teach Spanish. She has gained significant experience in language education and the education of children and adolescents. She specializes in the Montessori method for middle schools and has been the contact person for international students since 2021. In the 2024/25 and 2025/26 school years, she held the "New Languages" Instrumental Function. She has attended and completed training courses in Italy and abroad, including at the Universidad Complutense of Madrid and the Instituto Cervantes. She has a C2 level of Spanish, a C1 level of English, and an A2 level of French. She is also a trainer for DELE A2/B1 certifications. Her experience in language, literature, intercultural education, and youth development contributes to her qualification as a member of the* ***Jury of the International Prize "La Bussola delle Parole*** *," dedicated to girls and boys aged 7 to 14.*

The composition of the Juries will be made public through the Award's official channels and social media.

The decisions of the Jury are final and unquestionable .

ART. 11 – EVALUATION CRITERIA

The works will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- originality ;
- imagination and creativity ;
- narrative or poetic quality ;
- ability to involve the reader;
- power of imagination;
- authenticity of the young author's voice;
- ability to express emotions, ideas and points of view;
- personal use of the language;
- consistency with the agegroup ;
- interpretation of the proposed theme.

Taking into account the above, the jury will express a vote from 6 to 10 with decimals.

Caviardage section the following will also be evaluated:

- originality of the composition;
- ability to select and combine words;
- relationship between text, space and image;
- expressive power of the work;
- personality of the creative intervention.
- The evaluation will not be based solely on grammatical correctness.

The Prize aims to highlight, first and foremost, **the young author's authentic voice,** his ability to imagine and his personal way of looking at the world.

ART. 12 – PRIZES

For each age group may be assigned:

1st PLACE

- **From 7–10 YEARS to** *first classified they will come delivered: One small tricolour sash writer Tiberine, a parchment of Little Tiberino Writer and a Little Bear Tiberino , second and third classified will come delivered; a parchment of Little Tiberino Writer and a Little Bear Tiberino,*

- **From 11–14 YEARS to the first Three classified, they will come the writer 's medal was awarded Tiberino and a diploma.**

- **To the companions will be delivered a gadget I remember**

- **To the children participants they will be donated of the books by children 's authors present .**

Diploma of merit and special award.

Diplomas will also be awarded in:

- **Young Readers Award** ;
- **Special Prize for Fantasy** ;
- **Special Award for Originality**;
- **Special Poetry Prize** ;
- **Special Prize for Nursery Rhyme** ;
- **Special Prize for Caviardage** ;
- **International Special Award** ;
- **any honorable mentions.**

The organizationmay establish further special prizes during the event .

ART. 13 – AWARD FOR SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS

The Award provides special recognition to schools, children's writers, libraries, associations, and teachers who have distinguished themselves in various ways in promoting reading and writing.

The award will take into account the quality of the educational and creative path promoted and not only the number of works submitted.

The goal is to enhance the role of those who accompany children and young people on the journey of discovering reading, writing and artistic expression.

ART. 14 – ANTHOLOGY OF THE PRIZE

The finalist and winning works may be collected in an anthology of **"La Bussola delle Storie",** in paper and/or digital format.

The publication of works by minors will be carried out exclusively after obtaining the necessary authorizations from their parents or guardians.

ART. 15 – AWARDS CEREMONY

The closing ceremony of the **1st Edition 2026/2027** will take place in 2027, at a location that will be communicated by the organization.

The finalists and winners will be invited to the ceremony.

For participants from abroad ,remote participation options may be available .

The ceremony may include readings, performances, exhibitions of Caviardage 's works, and other events dedicated to young authors.

ART. 16 – PROTECTION OF MINORS

participation of minors is subject to theauthorization of a parent or guardian.

The organizationguarantees particular attention to the protection of the dignity, privacy and image ofthe participants.

Personal data will be processed in compliance with current legislation on personal data protection.

The publication of the name, image or other identifying elements of the minor will be carried outexclusively on the basis of the required authorisations.

ART. 17 – PARTICIPANT'S DECLARATIONS

By participating in the Prize, the parent or guardian declares:

1. that the workis original and belongs to the young author;
2. that the workdoes not violate the rights of third parties;
3. that the workhas not previously been awarded;
4. that the information provided to the organization is truthful;
5. to fully accept this regulation.

For the Caviardage section , the parent or guardian also declares that the submitted work is the result of the creative intervention of the young author and that any source text is used in compliance with applicable regulations.

ART. 18 – CALENDAR

Publication of the Call: October 15, 2026

Registration opens: October 15, 2026

Deadline for submissionof works: March 28, 2027

Evaluation of works: April – 2027

Announcement of finalists: April 30 – 2027

Award Ceremony: May 2027 (date and location to be determined)

The organizationreserves the right to change the dates for organizational reasons, giving timely communication through the official channels of the Award.

ART. 19 – ACCEPTANCE OF THE REGULATIONS

Participation in the Prize implies full acceptance of this announcement.

Unless otherwise expressly provided, all decisions are the responsibility of the Organizing Committee.

The Organizing Committee also reserves the right to exclude works that do not comply with the conditions set out in these regulations.

Any changes or additions to the rules will be communicated through the official channels of the Award.

THE COMPASS OF STORIES

International Children's Literature Award

Young authors aged 7 to 14

1st EDITION – 2026/2027

Every story is a path.
Every child can point the way.

Promoter: Accademia Tiberina
Headquarters : ROME
Official website: www.accademiatiberina.it

Theme of the 1st Edition:

A JOURNEY THAT NEVER ENDS