

Submission Guidelines: Please read carefully.

Who is eligible?

Residents of Trinidad & Tobago aged 12-19 years, inclusive.

Members of the board, committees, judges or staff of The Allen Prize, their immediate family members, or members of their households may not apply.

Rights and Agreements

Applicants:

By submitting your entry (or entries) to The Allen Prize, you affirm that:

- You are the sole and original author of the work.
- The rights of publication are entirely yours: the work is not the property of another publisher or organization.
- The work has not been previously published.

The Allen Prize:

The Allen Prize for Young Writers:

- Shall have the right to publish and reproduce the winning entries on the Internet as well as on accompanying material of products that could be manufactured or sold.
- Will retain the right to record and broadcast a reading or staging of the winning entries, in whole or in part, on its Web site and any and all media deemed appropriate, and all rights to publish and reproduce the winning entries.

Publicity:

Winners, their guardians or other persons accompanying them, agree to have their image, name and voice used by the Allen Prize for purposes of publicity.

Categories

All entries must be original and unpublished works. Entries must be written in English or English-based Creole.

All entries must fall within one of the following genres and be within the specified word count *:

- Poetry
- Prose Fiction¹
- Creative non-fiction²
- Drama

Participants may submit entries to as many genres as they wish, but only one entry per genre.

Applicants are free to submit work to future Allen Prize competitions. Participation in this year's competition does not exclude a writer from submitting work in upcoming years, provided their age still falls within the described categories.

NOTES:

1. Prose fiction refers to a short story, chapter of a novel or excerpt from a large body of work such as a novel or novella.
2. Creative non-fiction is a prose narrative that uses literary techniques and language to describe and discuss events and circumstances that have really happened (i.e. are not invented). Can include memoir or biography, social or cultural commentary, reporting on current or historical events, and essays on people, places, or ideas.

Categories

- Junior category entrants must be no younger than 12 and no older than 15 years on the date of the deadline for submissions.
- Senior category entrants must be no younger than 16 and no older than 19 years on the date of the deadline for submissions.

For each entry, participants must complete a separate official entry form. Only submissions accompanied by a completed official entry form will be judged.

What to Send

*Junior

- Poetry: Three poems
- Prose (fiction and non-fiction): One story, 750-3,500 words
- Drama: A one-act play. Entrants must also include a character list, plot outline and setting

*Senior

- Poetry: Three poems
- Prose (fiction and non-fiction): One story, 750-3,500 words
- Drama: A one-act play. Entrants must also include a character list, plot outline and setting

Please Note:

- **Poetry:** If you are short-listed in the poetry genre you will be required to submit two additional poems to be considered for the final prize.
- **Prose fiction:** If you are short-listed in the prose fiction genre you will be required to submit one additional prose fiction piece to be considered for the final prize.
- **Creative non-fiction:** If you are short-listed in the creative non-fiction genre you will be required to submit one additional creative non-fiction piece to be considered for the final prize.

Prizes

The Prize has three elements:

1. A cash award
 - Junior category: \$1,500,
 - Senior category: \$2,500,
 - Senior category genre winners: \$1,000 (Awarded to each of the writers of the best work in fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry and drama)
2. The opportunity to participate in an intensive writing workshop.
3. Publication in media including but not limited to the Allen Prize web site.

The prize will be awarded on the basis of originality, expression, voice and form.

The judges' decision is final.

How to submit

Mail

Download and print the entry form in either

- [Microsoft Word Format \(.doc\)](#) or
- [Portable Document Format \(.pdf\)](#) ,

and after filling it out completely, mail it with your entry to the address below.

The Allen Prize for Young Writers
c/o The Cropper Foundation
Building 7, Fernandes Industrial Centre,
Eastern Main Road,
Laventille

All submissions must be:

- Postmarked or time stamped before midnight on the deadline date for submissions.
- Accompanied by the official entry form (electronic or print version).
- Typed in 12-point Times New Roman.
- Printed on single sided white A4 or letter size paper.
- Double spaced, except for poetry entries.

Please note:

- The name of the entrant must appear **ONLY** on the application form. Applicants' names must not appear anywhere on the text to ensure that judging is blind.
- All submissions are final: no changes or substitutions are allowed.
- No handwritten manuscripts or fax entries will be accepted.
- Entries will not be returned.
- Acknowledgement of receipt will be sent via email to those who provide a valid email address.
- Entries should not be stapled or bound. Paper clips are permitted.