

HKYWA 2023 WINNER INTERVIEW



Student: Aanandi Jambholkar Srivastava

School: Shanghai Singapore International School

Winner: Creative Writing Fiction: Group 3

Questions: 1. Please share with us how you benefited from entering a writing competition.

(Aanandi): Entering a writing competition was all due to my teacher. We were forced to write something, and send it in. While writing, I learnt how to draft ideas, meet a deadline, and how research can be used as a tool to help your writing.

2. Describe how you felt when it was announced that you were the winner? (Aanandi): It was honestly surprising. My results were announced much after the piece was written; therefore, the competition was quite forgotten. It was quite satisfying, selfishly, as I was quite pleased with what I had come up with, and after many years of entering this competition, it had all paid off.

3. How did you prepare for HKYWA 2023?

(Aanandi): My preparation for this competition was quite scattered, in all honesty. To prepare, research was my best bet. Judge Pao was someone completely unknown to me, so there was a lot of ground that needed to be covered. Overall, my preparation was mainly intense research, to fully understand the situation I was in.

4. Do you have any writing tips for students looking to enter this year's competition? (1 about research, 1 about writing skills)

(Aanandi): Research is important. To understand the parameters that you are given for your story is extremely vital. The background history, the main character, the setting, prepare for it like an exam. The story doesn't have to be written using extremely difficult words, or written with overly difficult phrases, instead, description is key. Create a setting, a character, and build your story around those two things.