



## Programme Details

### About the Scholastic Writers Academy Programme

This is an online writing programme where budding authors are given an opportunity to hone their writing skills and become published authors under an international brand.

Writers with a flair and passion of writing are:

- **Selected** through an online selection testing
- **Mentored** in a 10-day online programme
- **Published** under the brand name of the world's largest publisher of children's books, Scholastic

### Eligibility to join Scholastic Writers Academy

Anyone with a knack for storytelling and a passion for the written word

Age: 9 to 17 years

### Participation Fees

➤ **Registration: Rs 395**

- This fee enables the participant to take the Selection Test.
- Each participant gets a Scholastic gift e-voucher for the same amount (Rs. 395). This can be redeemed at: <https://homelearning.scholastic.co.in/> (on a minimum purchase of Rs. 750/- with a one-month validity)

➤ **Programme Fees:**

On clearing the selection test, there is a programme fee of INR 20,000\* + GST applicable.

Enrolling with the mentoring fee ensures:

- Participation in the 20-hours (10-day) mentoring session
- Final story being published by Scholastic India
- One copy of the final anthology (sent to the participants residence)
- One copy of the anthology sent to the participant's school principal.

## Selection Rounds

### 1. How many rounds of selection are there?

There is 1 round of selection test that each participant has to clear to be eligible for mentoring

### 2. How will the testing be done?

The testing will be conducted online, on the video conferencing application called **Zoom** (<https://zoom.us>).

### 3. How long will the test take?

The test takes 45-60 minutes.

### 4. When will the result be announced?

The results of the test will be announced within a week.

### 5. What if I have appeared in the Selection Test and did not clear it, but I want to try again. Will I get a second chance?

Yes, you may, but there will be a fresh fee of Rs 395.

[Editors' Recommendation: If you did not clear the first level of testing, our advice would be that you work on your language and skills for a while and then return to the testing. This will avoid both disappointment and expenditure.]

### 6. What if I don't clear the selection test. Will I get my money back?

No, but the e-voucher for Rs 395 will still be valid and you can redeem it on

<https://homelearning.scholastic.co.in/>

(on a minimum purchase of Rs. 750/- with a one-month validity)

### 7. What do I require to be able to participate?

- You need a laptop or a desktop. The computer should be equipped with a working microphone and camera.
- You will need an internet connection to get online and will also have to install and activate the application Zoom by Microsoft (<https://zoom.us>).
- You will need to email your answer during the test session
- You will not be able to attend the mentoring programme using a phone, a tablet or an ipad

### 8. Is preparation required for the test?

For taking the test, no prior preparation is required.

However, you should be able to write clearly and without errors of grammar, spelling, punctuation or syntax.

### 9. In what language will the test be conducted?

The tests, the mentoring sessions and the final book would all be in English

## Mentoring Sessions

### 1. When will the mentoring begin?

The mentoring batch will begin within 30 days after we have announced the results of the selection test, as soon as the batch has the requisite number of participants.

**2. How long will the mentoring session last each day and for how many days?**

The online mentoring will be held for two hours (120 minutes) every day, for 10 days. (conducted on weekdays)

**3. What will the writers and the mentor do during those ten days?**

Working with the mentor, the selected candidates will pitch unique story ideas, develop them and complete the manuscripts of their individual short stories – under the mentor’s close guidance.

**4. Is it compulsory to attend all days of the mentoring sessions?**

Yes, it is compulsory to attend all the days of the mentoring. Each day is unique. To have a good story which can be published under the brand name of Scholastic, it is mandatory to attend all 10 sessions

**5. What if I miss a day or a few days of the mentoring? Will I be given special classes?**

No, there will be no special classes for absentees. Please make sure that if selected, you attend all the sessions.

**6. What will happen at the end of ten days?**

At the end of the ten days, each writer’s short story manuscript will be ready.

After that the manuscripts, will be edited, refined, and compiled as a printed book of short stories.

**7. Do my ideas have to be original or can I copy any story from the internet and use it?**

Your ideas have to be absolutely original. You cannot take anyone else’s idea, whether from a book, a film, a television programme, YouTube, a blog or any other source, whether digital or printed. Your entire story will be written during the mentoring programme.

The stories should contain content/text/ideas which are entirely the own work of the writer. Any evidence to the contrary will result in immediate disqualification. By submitting the stories to this programme the writers undertake and declare that such stories are their own and autonomous work and have not been copied, paraphrased either from any literary work (published or unpublished) or visual works including but not limited to articles, books, newspapers, blogs, movies, series and other online content. The writer understands and agrees that plagiarism detection software will be used on his/her such submitted stories.

The stories shall be written only for the purposes of the programme and must not have been published, self-published, published on any website, blog, online forum, or on any other platform.

**8. Who are the mentors?**

Our mentors are highly qualified and experienced teachers, professors, journalists, novelists and guides. They are experts in the literary field with experience in working with children and young adults.

**9. Will the writers be required to write a story on a given theme?**

No, each participant will think of a unique story to write.

**10. What kind of a story can I NOT write?**

The stories published under the Scholastic Writers Academy banner are intended for entertainment purposes. Any story that contains content that hurts the sentiments of any individual, community, sect, religion, institution, organisation and nationality will not be published. Further, the content cannot be offensive to readers and this may include but not be limited to content that is vulgar, obscene or sexual in nature. In each case, the decision of the mentor in the selection of the final story and its contents will be final and binding.

**11. Won't younger children feel overwhelmed by the presence of older people in the same group?**

In our experience, we have observed that children adapt and learn to participate regardless of the age bracket of their group. All participants in the group are part of the process to hone their writing skills and become a published author. This common goal brings them together and gives them a sense of community, regardless of their age.

Finally, the Scholastic Writers Academy encourages an environment where a respectful sharing of ideas is encouraged and fostered.

**12. Will you teach the children how to write?**

No. The Scholastic Writers Academy is intended for young minds who have a knack for writing and storytelling. The mentoring sessions are structured to hone the writing skills each participant and mould and develop their story through the course of the programme. This work is done through the sharing of ideas, and guidance by our team of skilled mentors.

**13. Will you give out notes, handouts or lectures?**

No.

## Publishing of the Story

**1. How long will it take for the book to be released?**

The book will be ready for release in approximately 9-10 months after the completion of the mentoring sessions

**2. Why will the editing take so long?**

Each writer deserves the keen attention of a qualified and experienced editor. That is how a good story becomes an outstanding one. It is not only editing; review, corrections and proofreading also take time. A book of quality needs time to be prepared.

**3. What kind of a book will it be?**

It will be a printed book. The book will be available on Amazon.

**4. How will you promote the book?**

Scholastic websites, social media, including Facebook, twitter, Instagram and blogs.

**5. How big will a group of writers be?**

A group of writers will consist of 18-20 participants in a mentoring-batch.

**6. What is copyright protection and why the same story cannot be used on multiple platforms?**

Copyright is an intellectual property right attributed to the skill, knowledge, idea and efforts of an individual in the creation and expression of an original idea. Copyright protects original works such as literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works. Copyright protection is automatically provided under the Copyright Act 1968, and gives the creator of the work various rights and be recognised as its creator.

As per the arrangement under Scholastic Writers Academy, all the Intellectual Property rights in the stories originally created under Mentoring Programme are to be transferred to Scholastic. This is the reason why the same story cannot be used on multiple platforms.

## About the Publisher

**Scholastic** is the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books. It has been in existence for 100 years and has its presence in over 150 countries.

## For the Participants

### **1. How can participating in this programme help a school-leaving student?**

The Union ministry of HRD has made a provision for extracurricular activities (ECA) to help high school students gain admission to colleges and universities. Under the ECA category, writing and being a published author occupy a significant place and position.

Having been published in a book of such high standards can add significantly to a candidate's chances of admission to a college in both India and internationally.

### **2. Do all participants have to be from the same school or region, or can they be from all over the country?**

The participants can be from anywhere in the country.

It is this diversity in every batch, that makes the learning experience even more enriching for the participants.

### **3. Will the participants get a certificate?**

All participants, who complete the mentoring programme of 10 days would get an e-Certificate of Completion from Scholastic.