

2026 Blue Kite Writing Contest

Contest Rules and Terms

1. Overview

The 2026 Blue Kite Writing Contest invites middle and high school students enrolled in any school across South Korea—international, foreign, or domestic—to submit a single original prose work, either fiction or nonfiction, for consideration in our annual print anthology.

This contest is designed to uplift emerging voices and share stories that explore the complexities of identity, movement, language, and belonging.

2. Timeline

- **Submissions Open:** August 30, 2025
- **Submission Deadline:** January 15, 2026 at 11:59 PM
- **Winners Notified:** By March 31, 2026
- **Anthology Release Date:** June 10, 2026

3. Eligibility

- Open to all **middle and high school students** currently enrolled in **any school in South Korea**, including international, foreign, or domestic institutions
- **Middle School Division:** Grades 7–8

International Calendar: Entering 7th or 8th grade in Fall of 2025.

Korean Calendar: Entering 중1 or 중2 in Spring 2026 & Entered 중3 in Spring 2025.

- **High School Division:** Grades 9–12

International Calendar: Entering 9th through 12th grade in Fall of 2025.

Korean Calendar: Entering 고1 through 고3 in Spring 2026 & Entered 고3 in Spring 2025.

- Only **one entry per student** is allowed
- Submissions must be **original, unpublished**, and **not submitted elsewhere**, including for school assignments or other contests

4. Submission Guidelines

- **Accepted Genres:** Prose only — either fiction or nonfiction narrative
- **Word Limit:** Up to 2,000 words
- **File Format:** .docx or .pdf
- **Formatting:**
 - Font: Times New Roman or similar serif
 - Size: 12 pt
 - Spacing: Double-spaced
- **Language:** All entries must be written in **English**
 - Students whose **primary language is not English** may submit a **translated version** of their work
 - The **name of the translation tool or process** used (e.g., Google Translate, Papago) must be clearly stated at the top of the document
 - The **original Korean version** must be included at the end of the file
 - Selected works submitted through this pathway will be paired with a bilingual editor through our editorial scholarship program to polish the English version prior to publication
- **Anonymity:** The manuscript must not contain any identifying information (name, school, etc.) — submissions will be reviewed anonymously

5. Submission Process

- All entries must be submitted via our online portal at [www.bluekitepublishing.com]
- A **submission fee of ₩20,000** is required at the time of submission (credit card payment only)
- **Financial assistance** is available on a case-by-case basis — students may email operations@bluekitepublishing.com to request a waiver
- Before submitting, all entrants must **read and agree to these Contest Rules and Terms**

6. Selection & Recognition

- Entries will be reviewed by at least **two members of our Editorial Board**
- Selection criteria include originality, voice, emotional resonance, and literary craft
- **Ten winning entries** will be selected:
 - 5 from the Middle School Division
 - 5 from the High School Division
- **Honorable mentions** may also be awarded at the discretion of the editors
- Winners will receive:
 - Publication in the 2026 Anthology *Between and Beyond*
 - Complimentary contributor copies
 - An official certificate of recognition
 - An invitation to the anthology release event in June 2026
- No royalties will be provided

7. Rights & Editing

- Authors retain **full copyright** over their submitted work
- By entering the contest, students grant Blue Kite Publishing **first publication rights**
- Selected authors will collaborate with editors through our editorial scholarship program prior to publication
- Minor edits may be made in consultation with the author

For questions, payment, or access concerns, contact: operations@bluekitepublishing.com