

**FICTION (ENGLISH)**  
**JUDGES STATEMENT FOR**  
**MAYBANK FOUNDATION - PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION**  
**WRITING & PHOTO CONTEST 2020**

1. This is the statement of the panel of Judges for the Fiction (English) category of the Maybank Foundation - Perdana Leadership Foundation Writing and Photo Contest 2020.
2. This is the third time that Maybank Foundation and Perdana Leadership Foundation are working together to engage young Malaysians. This contest ran from April until November 2020.
3. The contest was open to two age groups: 13-17 years old, and 18-23 years old.
4. Contestants could choose to submit their entries in either Bahasa Malaysia or English. This year marks the first time that each language had its own adjudication and set of prizes.
5. The contest attracted **8,062** entries across all categories. The Fiction (English) category attracted **1,799** submissions across both age groups.
6. Each entry was subjected to three rounds of judging: The first round was the qualifying round to ensure eligibility in terms of age group, title and category, and word count as well as to check for plagiarism. After the qualifying round, each entry was subjected to a shortlisting round, with the top 100 entries submitted for a final ranking round.
7. Entries were identified only by a serial number, and were evaluated independently of each other. The final marks were tabulated by the Secretariat with equal weightage given to each judge's marks to arrive at the final scores.
8. Each entry was evaluated according to various criteria, all of which were published on the contest website throughout the contest period. Judging was based on content, form, style, and overall impact.

9. The Judges noted the following:

- The judges commend the enthusiasm shown for the fiction category as indicated by the high number of entries, a positive indication of creative writing talent and interest among young Malaysians
- Creativity was high as entrants chose different perspectives, settings, and points of view through which to tell their stories.
- Many entrants could have benefited from knowledge of basic story mechanics – ie: beginnings, build-ups, and satisfying conclusions. Additionally, more attention to grammar, punctuation, and spelling would have elevated many submissions. Nevertheless, we enjoyed the stories submitted and the creativity displayed.



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- Overall, the quantity and the quality of entries for this category of the contest was very good and the judges had a tough time selecting the winners. We feel that this bodes well for fiction writing among youth in Malaysia.

10. The judges laud all contestants for their effort and hope that this contest has raised awareness about the power of words and storytelling. We warmly congratulate all winners and will continue to support the quest to encourage and reward good writing. We look forward to the next edition of this writing contest.

Thank You.

WRITING & PHOTO CONTEST

PERDANA  
LEADERSHIP  
FOUNDATION  
YAYASAN  
KEPIMPINAN  
PERDANA

Confirmed by,

**Tunku Halim Bin Tunku Abdullah**

**27 April 2021**

Confirmed by,

**Tina Isaacs**

**28 April 2021**