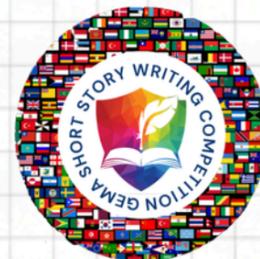


# From Blank Page to Global Bookshelf

---

The GEMA International Short Story  
Writing Competition 2026

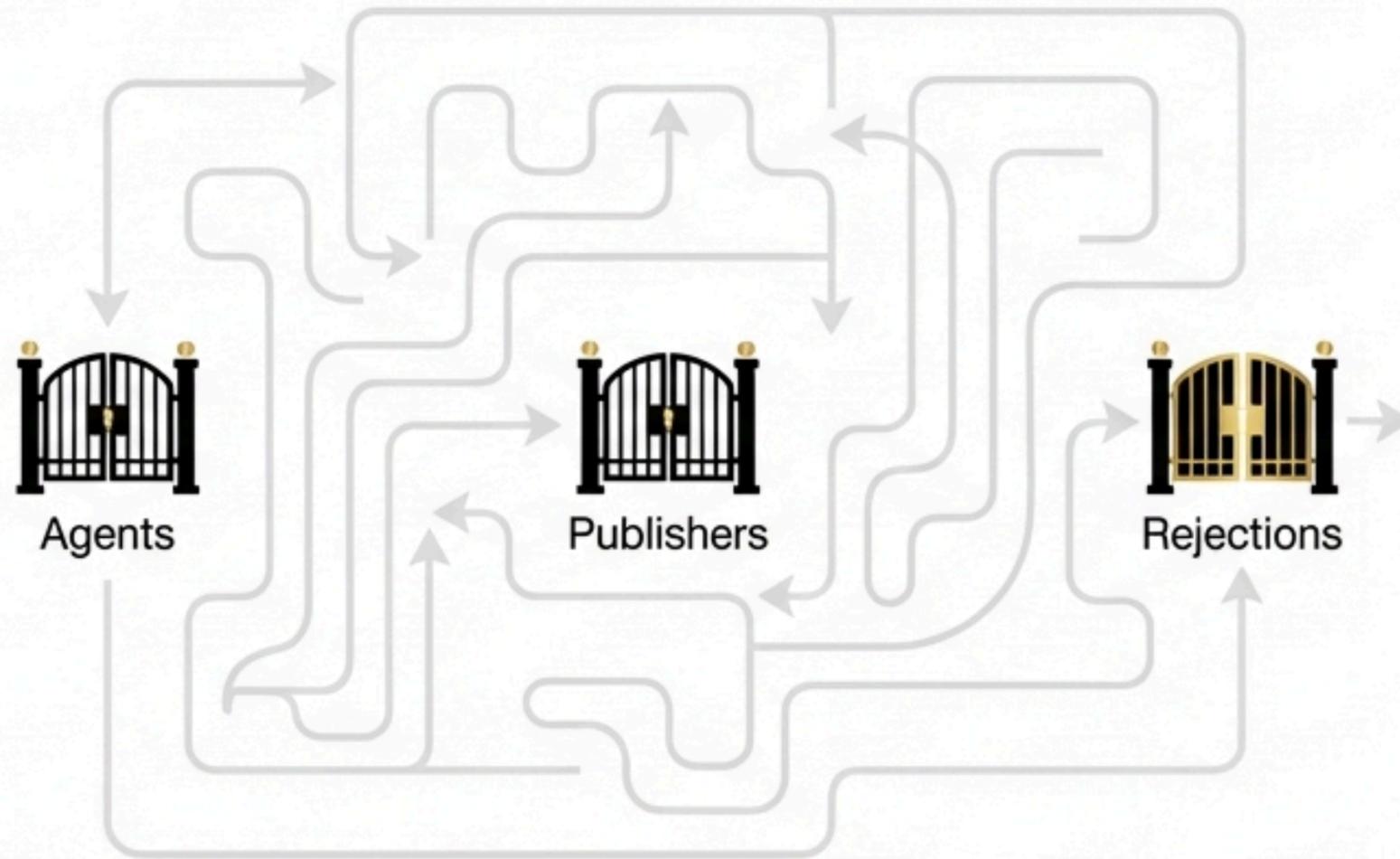


A Blueprint for Publication | Ages 7–18 | Deadline: 15 June 2026

# The Democratization of Publishing

GEMA offers a direct launchpad for young authors. By pairing a nominal entry fee with an open-theme policy, a seven-year-old writing from their bedroom can secure global physical and digital distribution—bypassing traditional publishing gatekeepers entirely.

## The Traditional Route



## The GEMA Pipeline



# Your Story, Sold Worldwide



## Digital Reach (Amazon)

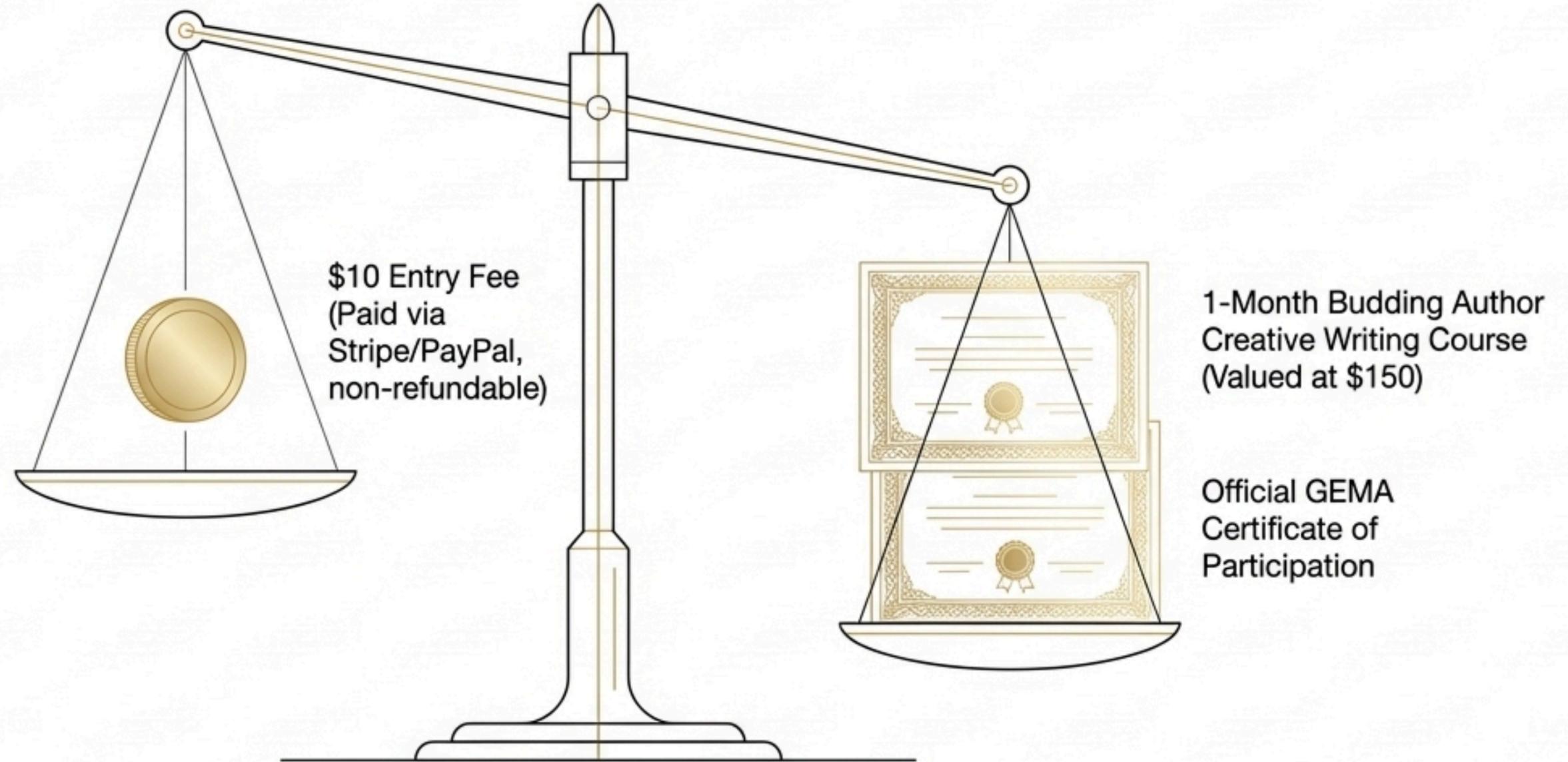
USA, UK, Germany, Spain, Italy, Japan, Canada, India, Australia, France.

## Physical Shelves (Select Bookstores)

Books Kinokuniya (Tokyo), Borders (Oman), Bookhero (Dubai), A Novel Idea (USA), Seekers Books (Canada), Om Book Shop (India).

# The Investment

# 15x Guaranteed Return



Every single entrant instantly unlocks professional creative writing training, ensuring an immediate return on investment before the judging even begins.

# The Editorial Parameters: Age & Length

Universal Maximum: **1,500 Words**. No exceptions.

Word  
Count

## **Sub-Junior**

Ages 7-8

Minimum: **300** words

## **Junior**

Ages 9-11

Minimum: **500** words

## **Middle**

Ages 12-14

Minimum: **700** words

## **Senior**

Ages 15-18

Minimum: **1,000** words

# The Anatomy of a Perfect Manuscript

English Language Only.  
Typed in MS Word.  
Preferred: Times New Roman  
or Arial, 12-point, Black.

Text only. Zero illustrations,  
drawings, or photos allowed.

Mandatory Metadata: Must include Full Name,  
Date of Birth, Category, Stripe Transaction  
Number, Story Title, School Name, Country,  
and Email (Parent/Teacher allowed).

Pen names are permitted for  
publication, but legal names are  
required for prize distribution.

# The Editor's Rubric: How We Judge

## Pillar 1: Creativity & Vision

- **Originality:** Fresh concepts and unpublished work (plagiarism checks enforced).
- **Theme:** The underlying message or central idea (Genre is entirely your choice).
- **Passion:** The visible enthusiasm and voice of the author.

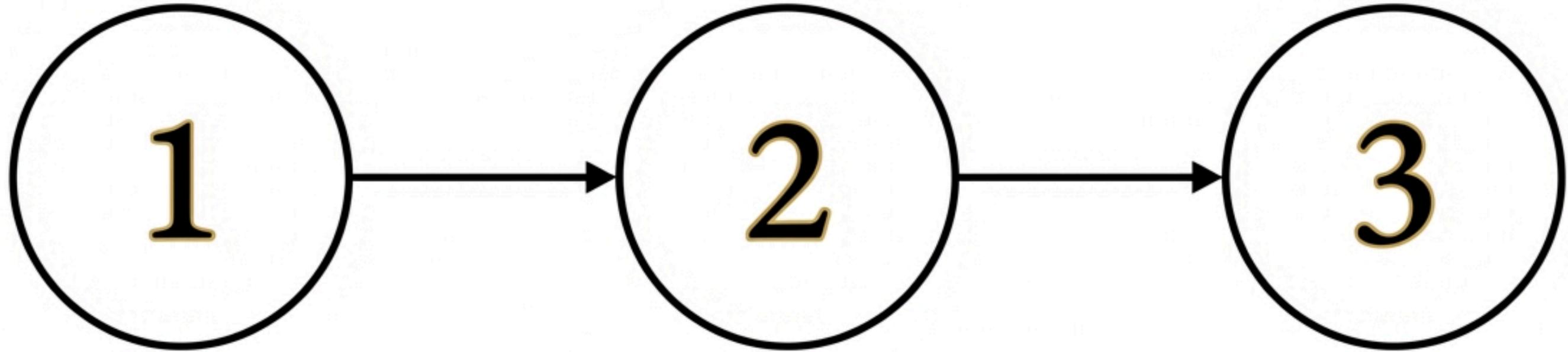
## Pillar 2: Structural Architecture

- **Plot:** Pacing, conflict, and a complete narrative arc (must stand alone).
- **Characterization:** Depth and development of the subjects.
- **Setting & Atmosphere:** World-building and environmental immersion.

## Pillar 3: Technical Execution

- **Writing Quality:** Vocabulary, flow, and stylistic choices.
- **Mechanics:** Grammar, punctuation, and structural formatting.

# The Submission Pipeline



## Register

Fill out the initial registration form on the GEMA website.

## Secure Entry (\$10)

Pay via Credit/Debit or PayPal.  
**Crucial Action: Do not** close the window; payment generates your unique, one-time upload link.

## Upload Manuscript

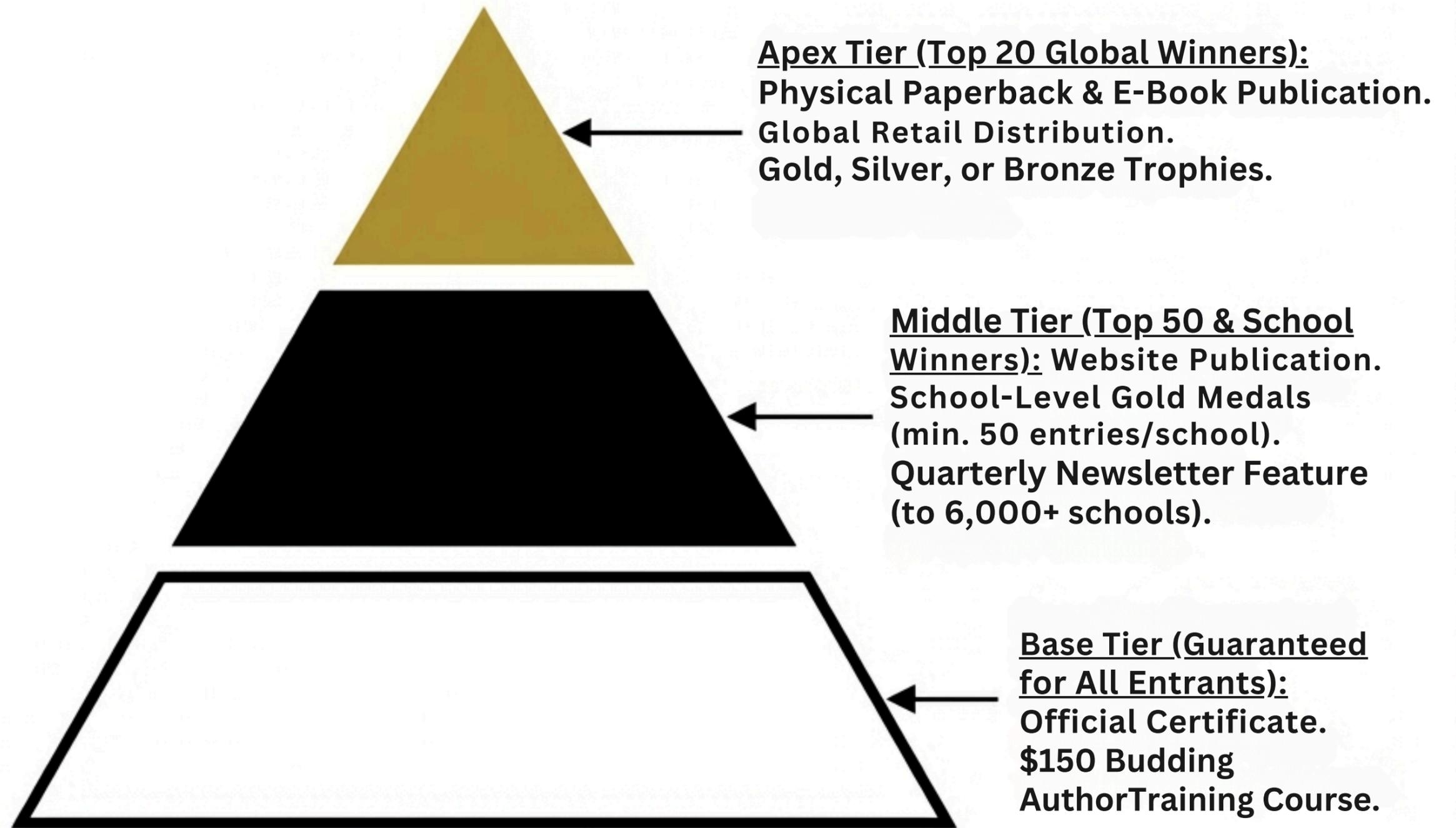
Upload your .doc story file (Max 1MB) and valid Age ID (.jpg/.pdf).



## Bypass Lane

Bulk School Entries (**Min 50**). Skip individual registration. Attach all entries in one email to [contact@storywritingcompetition.com](mailto:contact@storywritingcompetition.com) to receive a single, combined payment link.

# The Reward Architecture





# The Press Deadline Awaits.

**Final Date to Register & Submit: 15 June 2026**

**Results Notification:** Top Award Winners notified within 30 days  
of result announcement.

[www.storywritingcompetition.com](http://www.storywritingcompetition.com)

**Publisher:** GEMA, 20 Burj Gate Tower, Downtown, Dubai, UAE

**Direct Contact:** +971-527809450 | [contact@storywritingcompetition.com](mailto:contact@storywritingcompetition.com)

**Note:** Entries are not returned. Please retain a master copy of your manuscript.

