



2026 Silva Award

PICTURE BOOK COMPETITION

Submission Deadline: 15th June 2026



SILVA AWARD

A. Purpose of the Competition

The **Silva Award** is organized to contribute contemporary and original works in children's and young adult literature. The inaugural edition of the award will be presented in the category of unpublished picture books within the field of children's literature. This international competition seeks to inspire authors and illustrators to produce high-quality picture books and contribute to the development of the genre. The competition is organized and promoted by **Silva Literary Agency (a brand of Tudem Publishing Group)**.

B. Conditions for Participation

1. The competition is open to all writers/illustrators worldwide who are 18 years or older, regardless of nationality or educational background.
2. Employees of Tudem Publishing Group, members of the jury, and their first-degree relatives are not eligible to participate.
3. Participants are deemed to have accepted these terms and conditions.
4. Each participant may submit up to three entries.
5. There is no entry fee. However, participants are responsible for any costs incurred during preparation and submission.

C. Submission Guidelines

1. Submissions must be written in English.
2. The competition is held in the category of picture books for the age group 3–6.
3. Submissions may consist of wordless picture books or picture books accompanied by text, either fiction or non-fiction.
4. Entries must not:
 - have been previously published in full or in part, or be under contract with another publisher;
 - contain sexist, racist, or other discriminatory content or hate speech;
 - have previously won a literary prize;
 - be created, in whole or in part, through the use of artificial intelligence technologies.
5. The work must be original; it should not replicate or copy any existing work. Plagiarized submissions will be disqualified. If a submission is determined to be non-original after receiving an award, the author/illustrator agrees to return the prize amount with an additional 25% penalty, as stated in the Letter of Commitment included in this document. The author/illustrator shall bear full legal responsibility for any claims made by third parties.
6. If a non-winning work is later published and found to be unoriginal, the author/illustrator must compensate Tudem Publishing Group for any damages incurred.

D. Format Guidelines

Submitted works must adhere to the following format requirements:

1. Picture books must have a minimum of 16 interior pages, excluding the cover.
2. There is no restriction on book dimensions.
3. All illustrations for inner pages and covers must be fully completed.

4. Illustrators may apply with their own stories or collaborate with writers.
5. Illustrators may use any artistic technique of their choice.

E. Submission of the Entries

1. All entries must be submitted electronically to the following email address: **competition@tudem.com**
2. The email must be sent with these attachments:
 - a- The PDF of the work
 - b- Identity Form and Letter of Commitment, which must be signed and completed.
 - c- Short biography of the artist(s)
3. The PDF must be a single file not larger than 10 MB.
4. The PDF file must contain the full text of the book.
5. The title of the PDF should include the nickname of the author/illustrator and the title of the work as shown in this example: Nickname-TitleoftheWork.pdf
6. The name of the author/illustrator must not be stated on the PDF file of the picture book
7. Physical copies and original illustrations must not be sent. Any such materials received by parcel will not be returned.
8. In the case of multiple contributors, each artist must individually complete and sign the Identity Form and Letter of Commitment.
9. Entries must be submitted by 17:00 on June 15, 2026.

F. Evaluation Criteria

1. All submitted works will first be reviewed by a preliminary selection committee to ensure compliance with the rules outlined in this specification.
2. Each eligible work will be evaluated by the jury members and scored out of 100 points. The jury will convene in September 2026 to finalize the evaluation. In the event of a tie, the tied works will be re-evaluated to determine the final ranking.
3. Should the Selection Committee determine that no work merits an award, no prizes shall be conferred.
4. The evaluation process shall be completed no later than September 30, 2026.

G. Announcement of Results and Awards

1. Winners will be officially announced in October 2026.
2. Awards will be granted to the submitted work itself. In the case of multiple creators, the monetary prize shall be divided equally among them.
3. 2026 Silva Award includes the following monetary prize: 2,000 Euros
4. The jury panel will consist of selected experts in alphabetical order:

Alex Latimer

Marco Somà

Rocio Bonilla

H. Publication of Works

1. Tudem Publishing Group will hold the publication rights to all submitted works for a period of one (1) year after the submission deadline. During this period, authors/illustrators wishing to publish their work elsewhere may request a written release from Tudem Publishing Group.
2. The publication rights of the award-winning work will be transferred to Tudem Publishing Group for five (5) years. If the work is selected for publication, a copyright agreement outlining the mutual rights and responsibilities of the author/illustrator and the publisher will be signed.
3. Tudem Publishing Group is not obligated to publish the awarded work. However, it may choose to publish other submissions as well. In such cases, publication arrangements will be made directly between the author/illustrator and the publisher. The selection committee is not involved in publication decisions, which are made independently by the publisher.

I. Contact Details

For any inquiries regarding the competition or the submission process, please contact us via email at: **competition@tudem.com**

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To the Organizing Committee / İzmir

I hereby declare that the work titled below, which I have prepared for your competition, is original and my own, has never been previously published in any form, has not received any award, and is not subject to any binding contract with any publishing house for publication.

I acknowledge and undertake in advance that I have read and accepted the special provisions of this competition, and that if my work is deemed worthy of publication by Tudem Publishing Group, I irrevocably transfer the publishing rights to Tudem Publishing Group for a period of five (5) years. I also undertake not to make any claims other than those specified in the terms and conditions.

Nickname:

Title of the Work:

Number of Pages:

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR INFORMATION

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

Country:

City/Province:

Postal Code:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

Please fill out this form legibly in capital letters.

Identity Form
and Letter of Commitment