

The Project

THE FIRST BOOK

(An Uva Provincial Project Under Clean Sri Lanka Concept)

Organized by The Uva Provincial Library Services Board

Technical and Literal Assistance

1. Ucircle Uva Forum
2. The Same Hearts Foundation
3. Dimuthu Publishers

Objectives

1. To support the young authors (school level from grade 6-13) to publish their first book.
2. To increase the reading ability among school children.
3. To uplift the literal capacity in Uva Province through uplifting the quality of novice authors and their works.
4. To make school children understand the importance of engage in fictional writing.
5. To uplift the Uva Province from its literal ruts and make it recognized internationally in the context in fictional writing.
6. Encourage the Clean Sri Lanka concept through the concept - Clean Uva through a Clean Mind.

The Target Group

The school children in Uva Province from grade 6-13 either in Sinhala, Tamil or English medium sections. (Government, semi-government and private schools)

1. The children who have not published a book yet. (with proper ISBN standards and National Archive registrations)

Aim

To support the school children in Uva Province to write and print and publish their first fictional writing either in Sinhala or Tamil or English Languages. (The books should be in acceptable standards approved by the panel of judges)

Medium

1. Sinhala
2. Tamil
3. English

Genres

1. Novel
2. Short story
3. Poetry
4. Adventure stories
5. Children stories
6. Science fiction (Novel or short story collection)
7. Drama scripts

The Methodology of the project

STEP 1 – The First Round. (BEST TO PRINT – ROUND)

1. The school children from grade 6 to 13 are motivated to present their fictional writings in this competition. The necessary guidance can be obtained by The Uva Provincial Library Service Board.
2. The children have the chance to present their books to THE FIRST BOOK COMPETITION.
3. The books completed after following the necessary guideline given by and with a properly filled application should be sent to

The Uva Provincial Library Service Board to represent the First Round. (Applications can be obtained from all the public libraries of Uva Province, Uva Pusthakalaya Facebook site (uva pusthakalaya), Uva Pusthakalaya Website (<http://sites.google.com/site/uvalibrary1>), and by contacting the following numbers 055-2222204 and 055-2231114, and also a copy of the application is attached at the end of this booklet.)

4. The books will be supervised by a board of judges appointed by The Uva Provincial Library Service Board and Nominated them as BEST TO PRINT and all of those books will gain the necessary qualification to the Second and Third rounds.
5. All the books presented will be allocated to a Manuscript section of The Uva Provincial Library Service Board to be referred by anyone.

STEP 2 – The Second Round.

1. THE BEST TO PRINT manuscripts will be judged by a panel of the second round judges selected by The Uva Provincial Library Service Board and 10 books will be selected from each section of the competition as NOMINEES. (210 books representing each genre and each medium)
2. All the books nominated will be awarded with a certificate.

STEP 3 – The Third Round.

1. The judging will be done by a team of national judges appointed by The Uva Provincial Library Service Board and considered expertise in each segment of genres.
2. The judges will SHORT LIST the final 3 books of the last round with the BEST BOOK.

3. The Best Book, The two other nominee books, will be given certificates and trophies at a ceremony conducted by The Uva Provincial Library Service Board with the national recognition.
4. The BEST BOOK of each category (21 books) will be printed under the patronage of The Uva Provincial Library Service Board and each author will be given an author share too.
5. The launching of the printed books will be held on another festival organized by The Uva Provincial Library Service Board.
6. For the other NOMINATED BOOKS publishing support will be given by The Uva Provincial Library Service Board based on the funds of the project. (The authors are free to publish them as Author publications or under a publisher. But THE BEST BOOK authors should come to an agreement with The Uva Provincial Library Service Board to print their books as a publication of The Uva Provincial Library Service Board.)

STEP 4 – The Phase BEST TO PRINT

1. The BEST TO PRINT can be published as school based minor projects. The necessary guidance will be given to the school regarding the printing and publishing of the books. And the continuous support will be given to the author and the school regarding layouting, cover designing, ISBN applying, printing and registration under the National Archives. The Uva Provincial Library Service Board is not in the capacity of supporting this phase in financial context and the school is encouraged to find the financial support by SDS or through well wishers or as author contribution. Arrangements can be made to purchase limited number of book The Uva Provincial Library Service Board.

The Advisory Board

1. The Chairman of the The Uva Provincial Library Service Board.
2. The Director The Uva Provincial Library Service Board.
3. The Board of Directors The Uva Provincial Library Service Board.
4. Selected expert members of the relevant sections of genres. (3 in number representing Sinhala, English and Tamil sections.)

General Rules of the Competition.

1. Only for the students of the schools of Uva Province.
2. Open to grade 6-13.
3. Can submit the manuscripts in Sinhala, Tamil or English. Can use any theme or themes. The fiction should be one of your original writing and not to be a translation or copying of any work of earlier.
4. He or she has the chance of applying under different genres. (but maximum one book under a specific genre.)
5. The children stories should be with minimum 16 pages and all the other manuscripts should exceed 49 pages (A5) in the fiction excluding the preliminary pages of introduction, preface, copyrights page, content page, etc.
6. The manuscript should be in high language quality. (without spelling and grammar issues)
7. The manuscript should be submitted under following specifications.
 - a. Typesetted using FMabaya font if Sinhala, Times New Roman if English, and Bamini if Tamil. (No submissions will be accepted in Unicord or Iskolapotha fonts)
 - b. Font size 12.
 - c. Page Size A5

- d. Double side printed.
 - e. MS Word format. (all the layouting should be done using Microsoft Word software)
 - f. Margins – top 1 inch, bottom 1 inch, left and right 1.1 inches with mirror margins. (Header and footer 0.5 inches)
 - g. Page numbering – bottom of the page and center.
 - h. Header should include the Name of the book and the authors name.
 - i. Line spacing 1.15 (No before and after paragraphing spacing)
8. The Page order should be as below.
- a. First page - name of the book
 - b. Second page – keep it empty
 - c. Third page – Name of the book and the authors name
 - d. Fourth page – Keep it empty
 - e. Fifth page – Dedication
 - f. Sixth page – Keep it empty
 - g. Seventh page – Preface
 - h. Eighth page – Keep it empty
 - i. Ninth page – Forward
 - j. Tenth page – Keep it empty
 - k. The fictional writing starts with the 11th page onwards.
9. In children fiction, if you are using drawings you must keep safe all the drawings with you and present them if they are requested.
10. All the manuscripts should be bound using staple pins on the left.
11. For the front and the back cover two art boards can be used. (Do not write anything on the top of them)
12. After binding you can paste a gum tape over the left margin. (Please do not use any transparent sheets over the art board.)
13. The completed manuscripts should be sent to the following address.

Uva Provincial Library Services Board
Race Course Road,
Badulla.

14. The soft copy of the book in both MS word format and PDF format should be sent to the following email. (uvalibrary3@gmail.com) (If a school sends more than one book, please be kind enough to send all the soft copies at once by using one email. You have to notify the name of the school and contact details.)
15. For further clarifications you can contact us by following numbers.
055-2222204 and 055-2231114
16. The decision of the The Uva Provincial Library Service Board will be the final.
17. The closing date of the applications is 2025-05-20

The Time Frame

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| 1. Opening of the application process | 2025-01-20 |
| 2. Make aware the schools | 2025-01-20 to 2025-02-20 |
| 3. Closing date of the application | 2025-05-20 |
| 4. The documentation period | 2025-05-20 to 2025-06-01 |
| 5. First Round Judging | 2025-06-01 to 2025-06-31 |
| 6. Second Round Judging | 2025-07-01 to 2025-07-15 |
| 7. Third Round Judging | 2025-07-15 to 2025-07-31 |
| 8. The documentation period | 2025-08-01 to 2025-08-15 |
| 9. The book printing stage | 2025-08-16 to 2025-09-16 |
| 10. The book launching and the award ceremony on one of the dates of the last two weeks of September. | |