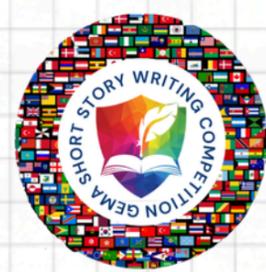




From Blank Page to Global Bookshelf

The GEMA International Short Story
Writing Competition 2026

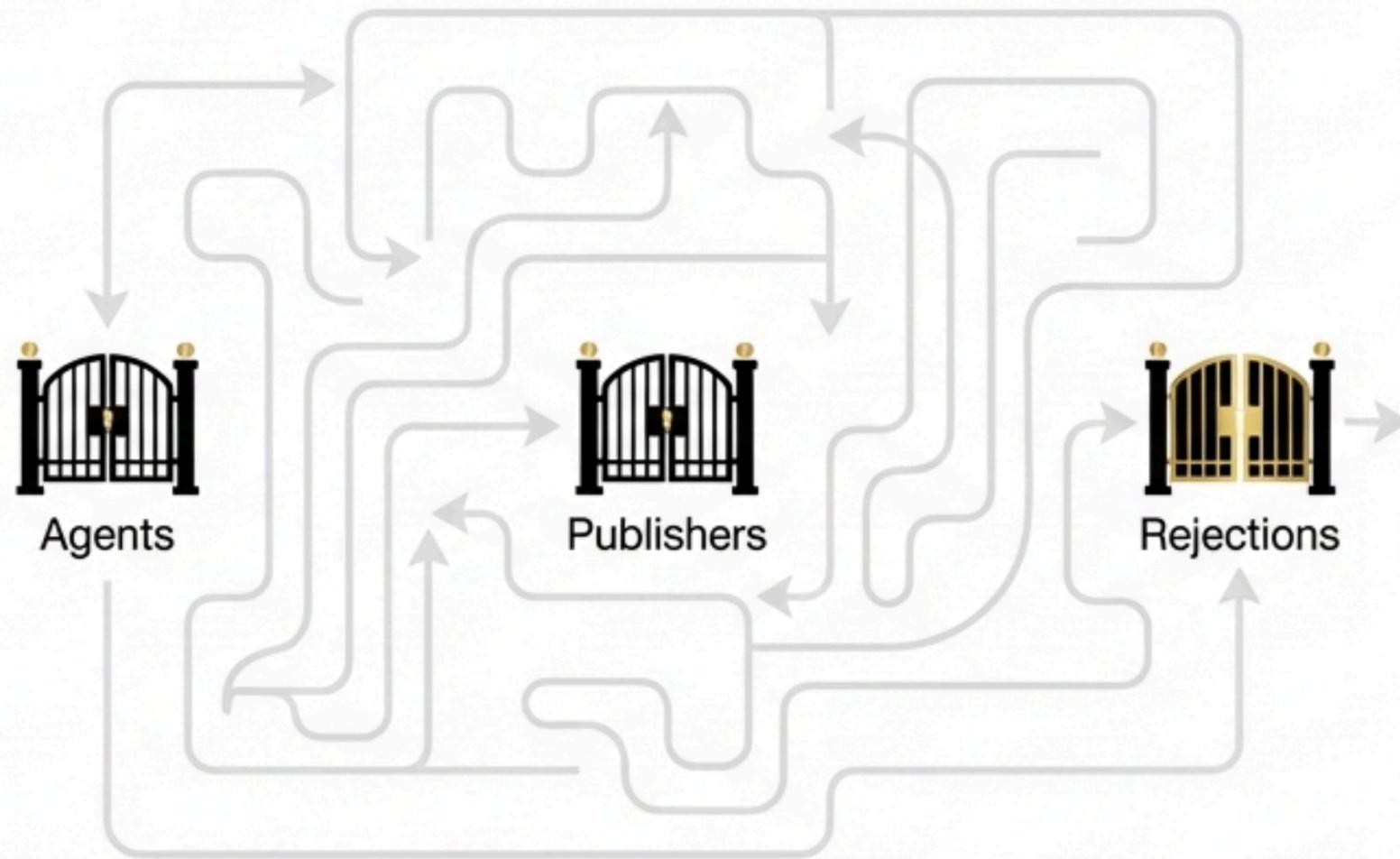


A Blueprint for Publication | Ages 7–18 | Deadline: 15 June 2026

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)

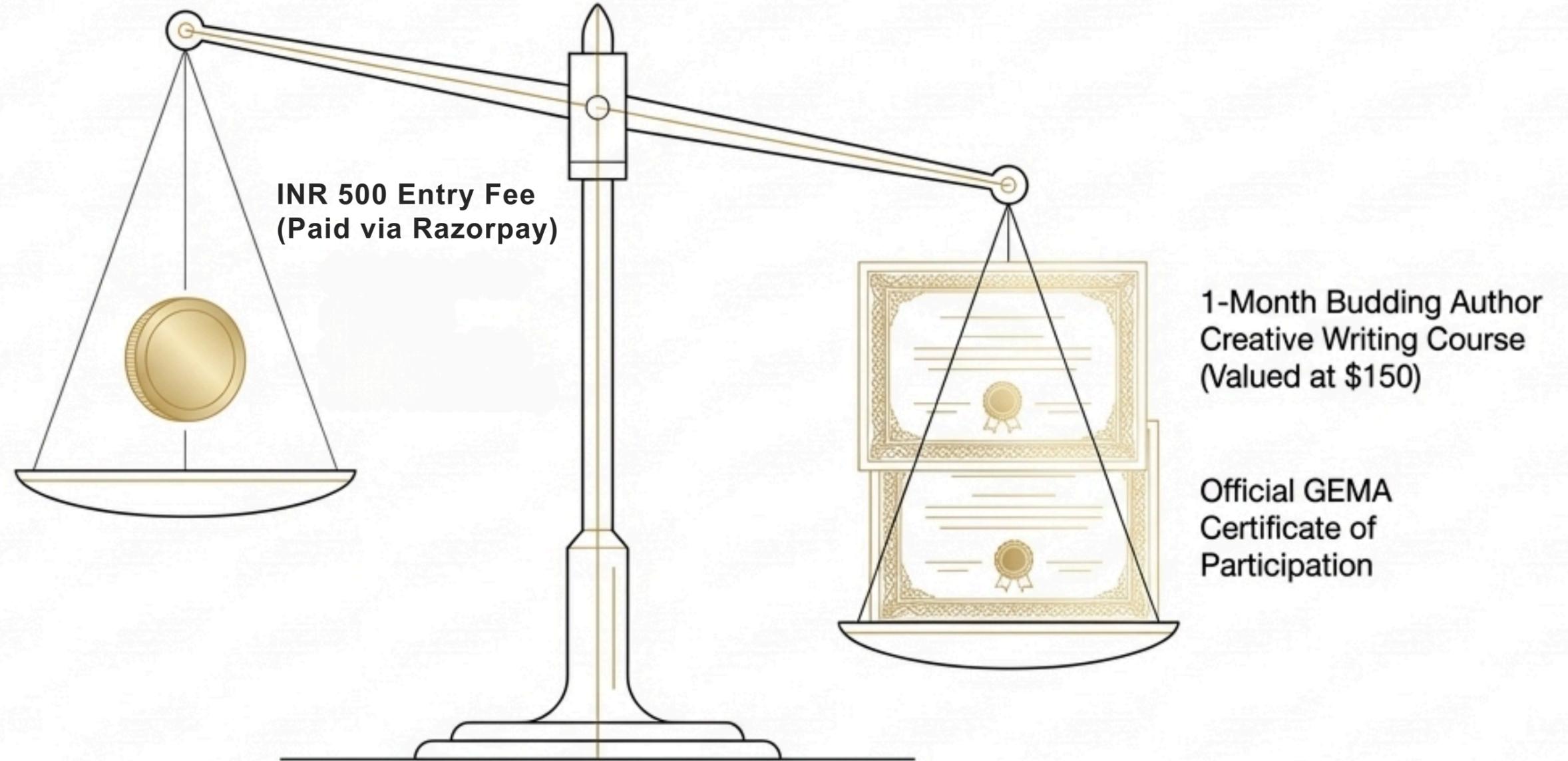
USA, UK, Germany, Spain, Italy, Japan, Canada, India, Australia, France.

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.

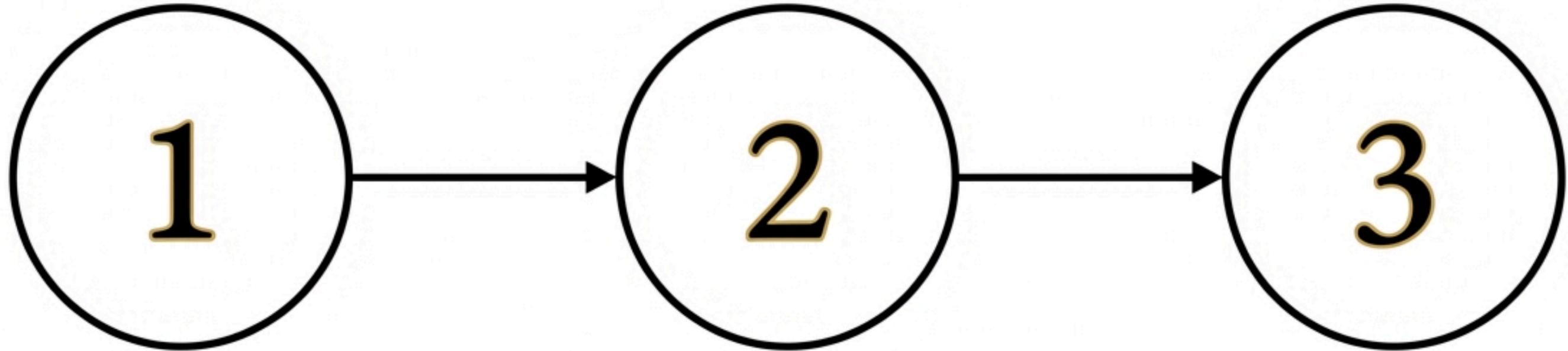
Pillar 2: Structural Architecture

- **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 (INR 500)

Pay via Credit/Debit or PayPal.
Crucial Action: Do not close the window; payment generates your receipt, which needs to be uploaded in the form.

Upload Manuscript

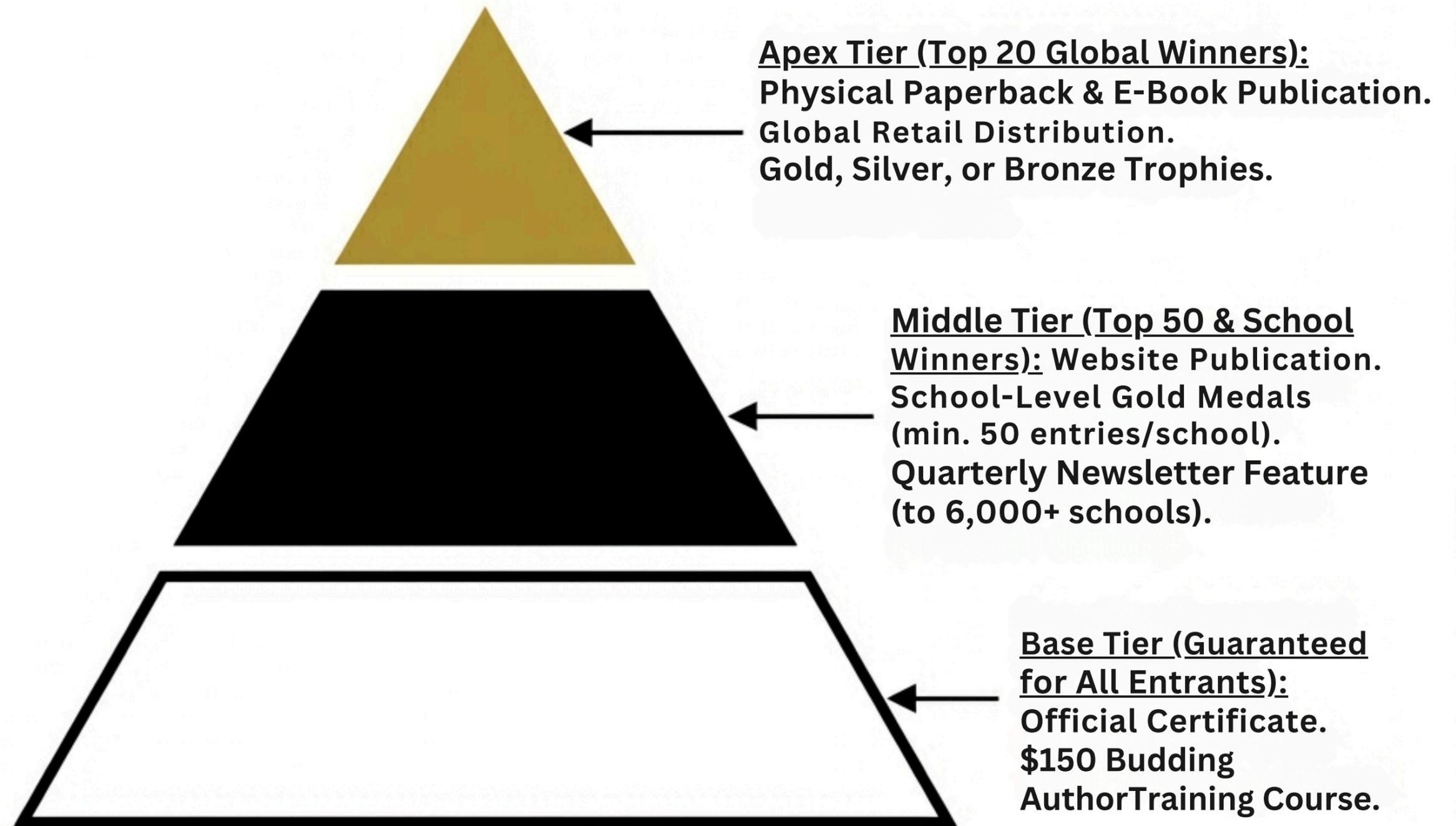
Upload your .doc story file (Max 1MB) and valid Age ID (.jpg/.pdf).



Bypass Lane

Bulk School Entries (**Min 50**). Skip individual registration. Attach all entries in one email to contact@storywritingcompetition.com 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.storywriting.in

Publisher: GEMA, 20 Burj Gate Tower, Downtown, Dubai, UAE
Direct Contact: +971-527809450 | contact@storywritingcompetition.com
Note: Entries are not returned. Please retain a master copy of your manuscript.

