

JEWELL PARKER RHODES FELLOWSHIP FOR EMERGING VOICES (the “Contest”)

OFFICIAL RULES

1. **Contest.** Little, Brown and Company Books for Young Readers (“LBYR”), a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc. (the “Sponsor”) is inviting previously unpublished or self-published, unagented writers of middle grade fiction to submit an outline, synopsis, and three sample chapters targeted at middle grade audiences (each, a “Submission”). For purposes of this Contest, “unpublished” means not having previously published a book with a publishing company. The winner will receive, as further described in Section 4, (a) one grant of U.S. \$10,000 (the “Grant”) from Jewell Parker Rhodes (the “Author”); (b) a U.S. \$1,000 stipend to be utilized for a trip to New York City to meet with an LBYR editor and receive two rounds of feedback on their Submission; and (c) access to one informational discussion with an agent from Literary Agents of Change (the “Agent”) (not to exceed 30 minutes, subject to availability) (collectively, the “Prize”).
2. **Eligibility.** The Contest is open to any author who (a) has not previously published a book with a publishing company and is not currently represented by a literary agency or agent; (b) is a legal resident of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia; (c) is 18 years of age or older as of the first date the Contest begins; and (d) includes in their application a Submission. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these Official Rules, the Contest is NOT open to (i) authors who have previously published any book with a publishing company; (ii) authors who are currently represented by literary agents; or (iii) employees of Sponsor or any of Sponsor’s parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, retailers, suppliers, distributors, or advertising/promotion agencies (collectively, “Contest Entities”), or the immediate family members of any of the foregoing (which includes spouses, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, or daughters, regardless of where they reside) and/or those living in the same household of any of the foregoing, whether or not related to such employees. The Contest is void where prohibited by law.
3. **Submission Period.** The Contest’s submission period for all entries is between **12:01 am Eastern Time (“ET”) on February 25, 2026 and 11:59 pm ET on April 17, 2026 (“Submission Period”)**. Any entries received outside the Submission Period and any entries that do not meet the requirements of these Official Rules will not be eligible for entry to the Contest.
4. **Contest Details.**
 - (a) To enter the Contest, an entrant must submit a Submission in accordance with these Official Rules via the website form available at <https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/landing-page/jewell-parker-rhodes-fellowship-for-emerging-voices/>. Each entrant will get one (1) entry per person/household. No automated entry devices and/or programs are permitted. All entries become the sole and exclusive property of Sponsor and receipt of entries will not be acknowledged or returned. Only fully completed entries are eligible, and all lost, late, illegible, stolen, incomplete, invalid, unintelligible, misdirected, technically corrupted, or garbled entries will be disqualified. Proof of submission will not be deemed to be proof of receipt by Sponsor.
 - (b) Each Submission will be judged on the following criteria: literary excellence, originality, voice targeted to the intended audience of the writing sample, and ability to reflect both middle grade and historically underserved experiences (50%); clarity of vision for how the Grant will advance the winner’s writing career (25%); impact and relevance (does the story offer representation or insights that are currently missing or underserved in middle grade literature?) (25%).
 - (c) On or about June 15th, three (3) finalists will be selected by a panel of one (1) representative from LBYR’s editorial team, one (1) representative from We Need Diverse Books, one (1) representative from Literary Agents of Change, and one (1) representative from The Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). One (1) winner will be selected from the pool of finalists by the Author on **July 13th**. The judges’ decision for the selection of finalists and the winner is final.
 - (d) For clarity, there is no commitment or guaranty that the winner will be represented by the Agent; this is an informational discussion only.
 - (e) The winner will also have their Submission reviewed by an LBYR editor, selected in HBG’s discretion, to be considered for publication, although HBG has no commitment nor obligation to publish the Submission or any derivative thereof or anything else by the winner.
 - (f) The winner agrees to submit their Submission and/or any manuscript resulting from their Submission (the “Manuscript”) exclusively to Sponsor before submitting the same to any other publisher.
 - (g) The winner is responsible for all taxes that may become payable because of the Prize (federal, state, city, sales), as well as the proper reporting or declaration of income and payment of taxes and related costs, including interest and/or penalties, to the appropriate governmental authorities.

- (h) If the winner and Sponsor fail to execute a publishing contract within 45 days of Sponsor's receipt of the winner's Submission and/or Manuscript, the winner will be free to submit their Submission and/or Manuscript elsewhere without further obligations to Sponsor except for those set forth under these Official Rules.
- (i) The name of the winner will be announced on August 3, 2026 on Sponsor's website. The winner will be informed of their winning by the Author. Sponsor will have no liability for any winner notification that is lost, intercepted, delayed, or not received by the winner for any reason. The winner may be required to execute and return an Affidavit of Eligibility, Copyright Assignment, Liability Waiver, Non-Disclosure Agreement, and, unless prohibited, a Publicity Release ("**Prize Claim Documents**"), each on Sponsor's standard terms and conditions, within five days of being notified as the winner. If the winner does not respond to the initial notification within the time period stated, all required Prize Claim Documents are not returned within the specified time period (if applicable), prize notification is returned as undeliverable, or the winner is otherwise not in compliance with these Official Rules, the winner will forfeit their rights to the Prize and, at Sponsor's discretion, an alternate winner may be selected from the finalists. The names of the winner and/or the finalists may be publicized in other media or on social media sites belonging to Sponsor.
- (j) Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to (i) not select a winner; (ii) not select any finalists; (iii) cancel this Contest; or (iv) alter the details of the Prize or any other prize offered hereunder or judges without notice. No cash alternative or other alternatives to the prizes provided hereunder will be provided if Sponsor exercises any of its rights under this Section 4(i).

5. **Submission Requirements.** By entering into this Contest, each entrant represents and warrants that (a) their Submission is original; (b) they are the sole creator of the Submission; (c) they own the copyright in their Submission; (d) their Submission does not violate the rights of any third party or infringe or violate any law and, as of the date of the Submission, is not the subject of any actual or threatened litigation or claim; (e) their Submission does not and will not violate any applicable laws, and (f) their Submission is not and will not be defamatory, libelous, pornographic, or obscene. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any Submission if Sponsor believes the Submission to be potentially infringing, or in violation or potentially in violation of, a third party's rights, or if it deems the Submission to be lacking in taste or quality or to otherwise be objectionable. Each entrant will defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Contest Entities from any actions, proceedings, damages, penalties, claims, demands, causes of action, liabilities, fees (including attorneys' fees), costs, or losses of any kind of nature whatsoever in connection with, based upon, or arising out of any breach by such entrant of any of the representations and warranties made in this Section 5.

6. **General Prize Conditions.** The Prize will only be awarded if the winner fully complies with these Official Rules. No interest will be paid on any prize. The Prize and any other prize offered hereunder are non-transferable and non-assignable, and non-cash prizes cannot be redeemed for cash. All details and other restrictions of the Prize and any other prize offered hereunder not specified in these Official Rules will be determined by Sponsor in its sole discretion. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute the Prize or any other prize offered hereunder due to any reason whatsoever. The Prize and any other prize offered hereunder are awarded "as is," with no warranty or guarantee, either express or implied.

7. **Publicity.** By participating in the Contest, each entrant irrevocably grants the Contest Entities and their respective successors, assigns, and licensees the right to use such entrant's first name, state or residence, and Submission, in whole or in part, in any and all media now or hereafter known, in any manner and together with other materials, for any purpose, including, without limitation, advertising and promotional purposes or in connection with the Contest and/or other promotions conducted by the Contest Entities, worldwide in perpetuity, without further compensation or notice to or permission from such entrant, and each entrant hereby releases the Contest Entities from any liability with respect thereto. Contest Entities are not responsible for any unauthorized use of Submissions by third parties. Sponsor has no obligation to make use of the rights granted herein.

8. **Sponsor Intellectual Property.** Sponsor owns, solely and exclusively, all rights, title, and interest in its trademarks, logos, service marks, and trade names (collectively, the "**Trademarks**"). No entrant may use any Trademark unless authorized in writing by Sponsor.

9. **Limitation of Liability/General Liability Release/Force Majeure.** Under no circumstances shall any Contest Entity be liable to any entrant for any indirect, incidental, consequential, special, or exemplary damages or losses or damages for any loss of data, profit, goodwill, anticipated savings, revenue, or business, in each case, whether based on contract, tort, or other legal theory. Sponsor's aggregate liability to any entrant for any claim relating to these Official Rules, whether based on contract, tort, or other legal theory, will not exceed ten dollars (USD \$10). Each entrant agrees that the Contest Entities (a) shall not be responsible nor liable for any losses, damages, or injuries of any kind resulting from participation in the Contest or any Contest-related activity, or from such entrant's acceptance, receipt, possession, and/or misuse of the Prize or any other prizes; and (b) have not made any warranty, representation, or guarantee, express or implied, in fact or in law, with respect to the Prize or any other prizes, including, without limitation, to quality or fitness for a particular purpose. The Contest Entities assume no responsibility for participation in the Contest or use of the Prize or any other prizes. The Contest Entities are not responsible for (i) lost, late, incomplete, damaged, inaccurate, stolen, delayed, misdirected, undelivered, or garbled Submissions or email or entry forms; (ii) lost, interrupted, or unavailable network, server, Internet Service Provider (ISP), website, or other connections, availability, accessibility, or miscommunications; (iii) failed computer, satellite, telephone, or cable transmissions, lines, or technical failure; (iv) jumbled, scrambled, delayed, or misdirected transmissions or computer hardware or software malfunctions, failures,

or difficulties; (v) other errors or difficulties of any kind, whether human, mechanical, electronic, computer, mobile device, network, typographical, printing or otherwise, relating to or in connection with this Contest, including, without limitation, errors in these Official Rules or errors or difficulties which may occur in connection with the administration of the Contest, the processing or judging of Submissions, the announcement of the Prize or any other prize, or in any Contest-related materials; (vi) any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by users, tampering, or hacking, or by any equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Contest; or (vii) injury or damage to any person's computer related to or resulting from participating in this Contest. Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, disqualify any individual who is found to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Contest, to be acting in violation of these Official Rules, or to be acting in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner or with the intent to disrupt or undermine the legitimate operation of the Contest or to annoy, abuse, threaten, or harass any person, and Sponsor reserves the right to seek damages (including attorneys' fees) and other remedies from any such person to the fullest extent permitted by law. Each entrant agrees that nothing in these Official Rules will prevent Sponsor from publishing any book by any third party, now and in the future, that is or may be similar in topic to that of any Submission. In the event Sponsor is prevented from awarding the Prize or continuing with the Contest as contemplated herein by any event beyond its control, including, but not limited to, fire, flood, natural or man-made epidemic, earthquake, explosion, labor dispute or strike, act of God or public enemy, satellite or equipment failure, riot or civil disturbance, terrorist threat or activity, war (declared or undeclared) or any federal state or local governing law, order, regulation, public health crisis, order of any court or jurisdiction, or other cause not reasonably within Sponsor's control (each, a "**Force Majeure**" event or occurrence), then Sponsor shall have the right to modify, suspend, or terminate the Contest. If the Contest is terminated for Force Majeure before the designated end date, Sponsor will (if possible) select the winner from all eligible, non-suspect Submissions received as of the date of the event of Force Majeure giving rise to the termination using the judging procedure set forth above or as otherwise deemed fair and appropriate by Sponsor.

10. Modification/Amendment. These Official Rules cannot be modified or amended in any way, except in a written document issued in accordance with law by a duly authorized representative of Sponsor. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of these Official Rules shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision. If any provision is determined to be invalid or otherwise unenforceable or illegal, these Official Rules shall otherwise remain in effect and shall be construed in accordance with their terms as if the invalid or illegal provision were not contained herein.

11. Governing Law/Jurisdiction. ALL ISSUES AND QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE CONSTRUCTION, VALIDITY, INTERPRETATION, AND ENFORCEABILITY OF THESE OFFICIAL RULES OR THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF ENTRANTS OR SPONSOR IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONTEST SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERNAL LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK WITHOUT GIVING EFFECT TO ANY CHOICE OF LAW OR CONFLICT OF LAW RULES OR PROVISIONS THAT WOULD CAUSE THE APPLICATION OF ANY OTHER STATE'S LAWS.

12. Data Collection. Information provided in connection with this specific Contest will be used as set forth in these Official Rules or in accordance with Sponsor's privacy policy, available at <http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/privacy-policy/>.

13. Winners List. To obtain a copy of any legally required list of winners, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to **JEWELL PARKER RHODES FELLOWSHIP FOR EMERGING VOICES** Winner List, Hachette Book Group, Inc., 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104, Attention: SM-5-701. All requests must be received by Sponsor within six (6) weeks after the end of the Submission Period.

14. Sponsor Contact Information. Hachette Book Group, Inc., 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104, Attention: SM-5-701.