



X EDITION

Submissions deadline:

June 10th, 2026

The aim of the Narrating Equality Literary Contest is to publish a picture book of the winning submission which should be a story for children which promotes alternative notions of femininity and masculinity, counters gender stereotypes and promotes more equal gender relations.

Entries must be unpublished works, written in Italian, Spanish or English and be aimed at children from 3 to 8 years old.

The Narrating Equality prize was established in 2012 by the Italian association **Women to be** and became an international award just a few years later. It is organized together with the children's publisher, **NubeOcho**, which has always been engaged in gender issues, and **Uscire dal guscio**, a festival for children's and young adult literature.

For more information on how to submit an entry:

www.narratingequality.com www.nubeocho.com



Rules and Guidelines

NARRATING EQUALITY

International Children's Literature Award Tenth edition

ART. 1: Narrating equality

The International Award NARRATING EQUALITY was created by the Woman to Be Association in 2012, supported and sponsored over the years by numerous entities, both public and private.

NARRATING EQUALITY is a literary award that aims at providing young readers with stories that offer alternative models of femininity and masculinity and new gender relationships, based on interchanging roles and psychological features and behaviors. The principles that have inspired this award are the ones that appear in the “*Codice di autoregolamentazione Polite*”, a code written in 2000 and signed by the AIE (Italian Editors Association) within the context of the “*Polite*” project (*Pari Opportunità nei Libri di Testo - Equal Opportunities in Textbooks*). This code outlines the guidelines for editing textbooks for schools, so the published books properly address the subject of gender equality and be free of sexist prejudices. The same guidelines are applied for creating children's books that tackle gender topics.

The characteristics of this tenth edition consist in continuing the effort to spread the award more and more extensively, reinforcing not only its European but also its INTERNATIONAL dimension, in the light of the prestigious recognitions achieved by the publication of the last winning work.

It should be noted that at the European level, and possibly within other continents, children's literature awards with the theme of gender identity and contrast with stereotypes as the central axis are still missing. This reinforces and confirms the significance and uniqueness of the Narrating Equality Award.

ART. 2: Guidelines

- Offer balanced representations of differences, not only in the frequency in which both genders are represented in scale, but also on the activities carried out.
- Promote a culture in which gender equality and respect are core: the female and male protagonists from the stories should be represented in various roles and situations (especially going further than the traditional dichotomy between private-family/female and social/work-male) to offer a wide variety of positive identifications to readers both girls and

boys. It is also wished to have stories in which both male and female collaborate simultaneously in family and caring activities.

- Use language in a different manner, avoiding sexist stereotypes to expose the neutral nature of communication.

ART. 3: Eligibility

Any citizen that is 18 years or older can participate in the only category foreseen: Narrating Equality International Children's Literature Award for authors of children's books, in the previous proceeding of the delivery before the deadline.

ART. 4: Participation

The texts presented have to be unpublished before. They can be submitted in Italian, Spanish or English.

The participants commit to, under their own responsibility, present texts that have not been presented to other literary contests at the same time or that have been submitted to a Publishing House and are under consideration.

The texts can be submitted between the **11 April 2026 and till 10 June 2026**. The latter being the ultimate deadline, not accepting texts submitted after this date. The date of submission is considered to be the date of the receipt of the e-mail with the attached text. The registration into the contest is free of charge.

Texts in ITALIAN AND ENGLISH:

Digital format texts have to be sent in PDF to the following email address:

womantobe@gmail.com

No texts will be accepted in any other format than PDF.

Texts in ENGLISH AND SPANISH:

Digital format texts have to be sent in PDF to the following email addresses:

info@nubeocho.com

No texts will be accepted in any other format than PDF. The subject of the email should include:
Narrating Equality

Art. 5: Text content

The presented text has to be suitable to be published as an illustrated book aimed at an age **group between 3 and 8 years old**. The topic of the text has to be coherent with the guidelines of the contest (see point 1).

The **text cannot be longer than 2.500 characters** (including spaces). The publishing house will handle the layout of the text, since the illustrated book genre requires the harmony between text and illustrations.

The winning text can be modified for editing purposes in case it is necessary to adapt it to peculiar characteristics of the illustrated book genre.

The participant may suggest a division into "double spreads" (one illustration for each double spread) that helps to understand the book. This will be appreciated by the jury as a characteristic that demonstrates knowledge of children's picture books. However, these indications will not be mandatory and in no case will imply any type of limitation on the part of the editing, which will be the sole responsibility of NubeOcho publishing house.

Both the nature of the participation in the contest rules as well as the European, Italian and Spanish laws are a fundamental requirement for the admission. The text cannot contain any elements that are obscene, racist or contain any form of violence.

ART. 6: Submission of the texts

Alongside the texts, a **PARTICIPANT SHEET in PDF** has to be submitted, which specifies the following information: full name, date of birth, address, telephone number, email address of the author and the title of the text. The **PARTICIPANT SHEET** is at the end of these rules.

ART. 7: Selection of the works

The Jury of the contest will analyze all the submissions received until the **10 June 2026 (inclusive)** and will select five works deserving mention, becoming thus the finalists.

Every judge will then evaluate the finalists and attribute to each text a score from 0 to 5, in which 5 is the highest score.

The total points attributed by every judge will represent the final basis for voting. The final ranking will be drawn up with the final voting. In case of a tie, the winner will be chosen by the President of the Jury.

The President of the Woman to be Association will be the President of the Jury, next to experts, both Spanish and Italian, who specialize in children's books and young literature, university research and publishing sector. The selection will be irrefutable and unappealable. The selection

of the winner and the deserving mention of the finalists will be decided by **30 June 2026** and will be published on: www.narratingequality.com

The Woman to Be Association will be in charge of contacting the finalists via email or telephone.

ART. 8: Prize

The publication and official presentation of the winning text will take place in **October 2027**, within the framework of an event held at a significant venue, which will be publicized beforehand and the finalists notified in advance.

The first finalist will win a cash prize of 3.000 Euros, as an advance of Royalties of the book that will be published and distributed in both Italian and Spanish. The publishing house NubeOcho reserves the right of possible publication in English or other languages.

The winning author will sign an international rights contract with the publishing house NubeOcho in which the percentages of rights over the book will appear, both for the countries in which it will be published, as well as for others in which the book can be sold by the publisher and by the international sales agents.

No other cash prizes are foreseen for the other finalists.

NubeOcho publishing house will choose the illustrator for the book.

Woman to Be Association, Uscire dal Guscio and NubeOcho will work on promoting the awarded published book at the international level. After the announcement, the news will be transmitted within the scope of children's books and young literature circles (publishing houses, magazines, European associations that promote reading, European teacher associations, specialized libraries and bookstores, journalists, entities, associations and professionals, etc.).

All the finalists will be invited to participate in other initiatives of the program.

ART. 9: Publication

The winning text will be published in both Italian and Spanish, with a **print run of at least 1500 copies for each language**. The winner will receive from the NubeOcho publishing house annual reports of sales in all countries where the book has been distributed.

ART. 10: General Conditions

The registration in the contest implies accepting all of the contest rules included in this document.

The registration in the contest implies accepting the Jury's decision, that the participants have to consider irrefutable and unappealable.

ART. 11: Legal Terms

The participants in the contest authorize, from this moment forward, the use of their own image (photographs, videos, etc.) for the publication and publicity of the book. They also authorize the use of the images for advertising and promotional purposes of the contest and eventual presentations, without expecting any compensation from the association Woman to be.

With the acceptance of these contest rules, Woman to be association is authorized to use the personal information in agreement with the current legislation. These rules will be at the disposal of whoever asks for them to the Woman to be association and can be downloaded through the website www.narratingequality.com in all three languages (Spanish, Italian and English).

CONTACT:

Associazione Woman to be

Via delle Bocchette ang. Via dei Fabbri 55041

Capezzano Pianore - Camaiore (Lu)

Telephone: 338 29.45.995 (from Monday to Friday, between 15.00 - 19.00)

Fax: 0584 42.61.96

Email: womantobe@gmail.com - www.narratingequality.com

Only shortlisted authors will be contacted.

PARTICIPATION SHEET

Narrating Equality

International Children's Literature Award
10TH EDITION

Name and Surname

Date and Place of Birth

Address

Telephone

E-mail

Title of the Presented Text

Passport or National ID
Number

Fiscal Code (Only for Italian
Citizens)

The candidate declares the complete acceptance of the contest rules.

Signature

Place and Date
