

EACH year, the New Straits Times organises an annual awards ceremony to celebrate the achievements of our young writers who contribute to Niexter, School Times, and the campus newspapers - UPM's ExquiSeed, UM's The Pioneer, IIUM's The Torch - under our Journalism on Campus project. Since its inception in 2010, the event has grown to be one of the country's most prestigious writing awards for preteens, teens and young adults. This year, April 6th will see the 3rd NST Young Writers Awards Ceremony play out. Over 800 students and their guest are expected

to attend the event to be held at Marriott Putrajaya. This year we are also introducing the School Times Teacher and School of the Year Award. Our guests of honour are the Deputy Director-General of Education (Teaching Professionalism Development Sector), YBhg. Datuk Dr Khair bin Mohamad Yusof and Director General of the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), YBhg. Prof. Datuk Dr Rujhan bin Mustafa.

Niexter is Malaysia's first teen lifestyle weekly published with the New Straits Times every Thursday. It is written and compiled by teenagers from around Malaysia to weekly deadlines. The publication is aimed at

helping youngsters improve their writing and language skills through real-life journalism training.

School Times is a weekly 40-page education supplement targeted at students and teachers of primary and secondary school. Each page comes complete with Activity Board, Teacher's Guide, Glossary and Answer Keys. The worksheets address syllabus requirements and the general content addresses critical thinking skills and general knowledge.

The Journalism on Campus project is a soft skills enhancement initiative for public universities that culminates in the publication

of campus newspapers under the guidance of mentors from the New Straits Times. Published monthly, the content for the monthly campus newspapers, its layout and design are put together by each university's editorial team.

This year's awards have more award categories and the winners are drawn from all across Malaysia. The organising committee of young writers have chosen the Shire theme for the event and everyone is excited to see who the best dressed young hobbit will be. We at the New Straits Times would like to wish all young writers the very best of luck, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Theme: Hobbits of the Shire

THIS year the theme for the 3rd Young Writers Awards is the Hobbits of the Shire. The theme was selected by our young writers themselves. The Shire was the settlement for the Hobbits in the year 1601. From *The Hobbit*, you get to know that before residing in the Shire, the Hobbits had lived in Dunland. Running away from the trouble caused by the Easterlings, these pint-sized people found refuge in the Shire.

Hobbit clothes are of a simple country style and come in mostly earthy colours. Yes, the dress code for the 3rd Young Writers Awards can be hard to put together, but we are here to help you find the wardrobe that best suits you. Here are some ideas inspired by Tolkien's characters.

So come suitably attired and vie for the Best Dressed Award.



HOBBITS

Hobbits are a fictional diminutive humanoid race. They are between two and four feet tall. They dress in bright colours, favouring yellow and green.



DWARVES

Dwarves are short and stocky. These metal and stone smiths are able to withstand both heat and cold. Dwarves have an average lifespan of 250 years and they live underground.



ELVES

Elves represent men with greater ability, beauty and a longer life span. They created the Three Rings in order to stop their domains in mortal lands from "fading".



WIZARDS

The Wizards came to Middle Earth around the year 1050 of the Third Age. They are clothed in the bodies of old Men. These men of super powers age slowly and are in fact immortal.

Dress Guidelines

Female

Blouse with peasant pleats

Medieval bodice or vest

Colonial apron

Peasant skirt (length up to your ankle)

Male

Shirt and pants (suspenders are optional)

A sleeveless buttoned vest or waist coat

A long sleeved jacket with
gold colour (or brass)

Cropped pants or folded trousers

An earthy hooded cloak

