

YONKOMA MANGA COMPETITION 2026 – RULES & REGULATIONS

Write and illustrate an original *yonkoma*

1. ELIGIBILITY

- 1.i The competition is open to all legal residents of the United Kingdom. There are two categories; **Yonkoma Youth** for entrants aged 11, 12 or 13 by 1 January 2027. Entrants must be born between 2 January 2013 and 1 January 2016.
Yonkoma 14+ for entrants aged 14 and over by 1 January 2027. The Embassy of Japan reserves the right to ask for proof of identity and address as a condition of winning.
- 1.ii The entrant's parent or legal guardian must also complete and sign the official Competition Entry Form.
- 1.iii An entrant can submit only one entry.
- 1.iv Entrants to Yonkoma 14+ are also permitted to submit entries to Manga Jiman, should they wish to do so.

2. CONDITIONS

- 2.i The *manga* must be an original creation which has never been published or publicly displayed before. AI-generated art or text will not be accepted.
- 2.ii The *manga* must be written in English.
- 2.iii The entry must be drawn on **one Yonkoma Sheet** which is A4 portrait size paper. A template can be found on the Embassy of Japan website and www.mangajiman.co.uk. Contact us should you have any technical questions regarding file formats. The story must finish within the four panels on one sheet i.e. stories which end 'to be continued' will not be accepted.
- 2.iv The entry can be in either in full colour, black and white or any combination. No special consideration will be given to colour entries over those in black and white. The entry can be created digitally or drawn by hand or a mixture of both. If drawn by hand, the finished entry must be inked with marker, pen or brush (**not left as pencil**).
- 2.v The entry can be in any style or genre (humour, action, adventure etc).
- 2. vi This year the manga must in some way refer to the theme: '**20**'. Please highlight your reference on the entry form.
- 2.vii Entries can be submitted by either posting a photocopy of your artwork **OR** emailing PDF files to the Embassy.
 - All posted entries should be photocopies of the original artwork. The Embassy of Japan reserves the right to request original artwork from the winners for exhibition after the closing date of the competition. Clearly print your name, on the back of each page of the photocopies.
 - Digital artwork should be sent as PDF files, sized to A4. Please note that our email account (manga@ld.mofa.go.jp) can accept attachments up to 10MB. For larger files, please use a shared drive or a file transfer service. Contact us should you have any technical questions.

Upon receipt of an entry, a confirmation email will be sent to the entrant. If you have not received a confirmation email within 5 working days, please get in touch.

- 2.viii The Embassy of Japan reserves the right to use any part of any entry for its own purposes.
- 2.ix Entries will only be accepted accompanied by an official and completed entry form downloaded from: https://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html or www.mangajiman.co.uk
- 2.x **Artwork and completed entry forms** should be sent together

by post to:
YONKOMA MANGA JIMAN COMPETITION 2026
Japan Information and Cultural Centre
Embassy of Japan
101/104 Piccadilly
London W1J 7JT

OR

by email to:
manga@ld.mofa.go.jp

- 2.xi The closing date for receiving entries is **5pm, Monday 4 January 2027**. Late submissions will not be considered. The Embassy of Japan is not responsible for lost, delayed, incomplete or damaged entries.
- 2.xii Regrettably, submissions cannot be returned nor any postage paid.
- 2.xiii The Embassy of Japan reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions of this competition at any time without prior notice.

3. JUDGING CRITERIA

- 3.i Entries will be judged on originality, storytelling, character design, use of onomatopoeia and other such signifiers of manga, artistic ability and style.
- 3.ii Entries will be judged by members of the Embassy of Japan, a panel of manga experts and publishing experts.
- 3.iii The judges' decision is final.

4. INELIGIBILITY

- 4.i An entry which does not meet the entry specifications will not be eligible.
- 4.ii Any entry which contains reference to, or explicit depiction of, gratuitous acts of violence or of a sexual nature, nudity, obscenity and indecency, and any actions deemed offensive or considered inappropriate for exhibition at the Embassy will be disqualified.
- 4.iii Employees of the Embassy of Japan and their families are not eligible to enter the competition.

5. PRIZES

- 5.i **1st Prize – Yonkoma 14+:** A superb prize from the Japanese Gallery.
1st Prize – Yonkoma Youth: A superb prize from Manga Originals.
- 5.ii Runners up will receive a selection of prizes.
- 5.iii The winners' works will be displayed at the Embassy of Japan in a special manga competition exhibition.
- 5.iv Prizes are non-exchangeable, non-returnable, non-transferable and not redeemable for cash prizes.
- 5.v A list of finalists will be available from the Embassy of Japan website (https://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html) and prizes will be awarded in early 2027.
- 5.vi You agree, by your entry in this competition, that the Embassy of Japan can publicise your name on the Embassy of Japan's website if you are a winner.