**THE LITERACY FUND (2017) - GUIDELINES**

**About the Foundation:** The Wilbur and Niso Smith Foundation is a charitable organisation dedicated to empowering writers, promoting literacy and advancing adventure writing as a genre. We see a world where everyone can have their own adventures, made possible by the words on a page.

**About The Literacy Fund:** The Literacy Fund is concentrated geographically on Sub-Saharan Africa, a region with one of the highest rates of illiteracy in the world. Particularly relevant are its young people whose level of literacy is recorded at only 71%, compared to the global rate of 91% (UNESCO).

We invite organisations based or working in this region to apply for a small grant of up to £2,500 GBP to support a project that aims to increase literacy in young people (aged 21 years and under). We will prioritise those which use the broad nature of adventure writing to achieve their aims. You can read what we define as adventure writing [here](http://www.wilbur-niso-smithfoundation.org/index.php?p=page/definition-of-adventure-writing).

The Literacy Fund aims to:

* support projects aiming to improve literacy levels in young people
* see stories and novels recognised as a valuable learning resource
* provide opportunities for young people who may not otherwise be able to access them

**Eligibility:** Our special interest is in small-scale organisations and projects which are locally managed. Applications can be for a pilot project or one that is already running.

We will also consider applications from larger, international organisations if they are seeking support for a project in the region that is either a pilot or has been running for less than a year.

We welcome applications from:

* charities and non-profits
* NGOs
* festivals
* schools
* community groups

You can seek funding for:

* events
* workshops
* teaching support
* books or publications
* video or radio projects

We will not support individuals or academic research through the fund.

**Application form guidelines:** All word counts indicated in the application form are a maximum. Please do not exceed this limit.

1. **Organisation Details**

* Type of organisation refers to your structure. For instance, are you a charity, a school, an unincorporated group? Please tell us the term that best describes your organisation

1. **Work of your organisation**

* Provide an overview. It is useful to consider the ‘who, what, when, where, why’ of your work and to include the impact your organisation aims to have
* We must be confident that you will be able to deliver the project you are proposing. Please tell us about previous work you have successfully delivered. If you do not have a relevant example, tell us about a partner you have worked with. We will contact you first should we require a reference

1. **Your project**

* Again, please consider the ‘who, what, when, where, why’ of the project and what you hope to achieve through it
* Tell us about the results you expect to see and who you expect to benefit. This could be a direct or an indirect beneficiary e.g. a young person who has attended a workshop or a young person who has received improved teaching or resources because of your work
* Please consider the aims for The Literacy Fund and the wider mission of the Foundation (above)

1. **Financial Information**

* Your budget may include a percentage of core or administrative costs. If your application is successful we will part or fully-fund your project up to the sum of £2,500 GBP

1. **Evaluation**

* Please consider: how will you know whether your project has been successful? Could you take learnings from the project into your wider work? Do you hope this project will continue in the future?