

THE LITERARY AND CULTURAL CONTEST

CREATED BY ENPA, COSTANZA RIZZACASA D'ORSOGNA, AND CORRIERE DELLA SERA,

INSPIRED BY THE DIFFERENTLY-ABLED KITTEN PROTAGONIST OF THE
“STORIA DI MILO” TALES

The second edition of the Milo Prize, the literary and cultural competition created by ENPA, Costanza Rizzacasa d'Orsogna, and *Corriere Animali* of *Corriere della Sera*, opens with many new features. The contest is inspired by Milo, the differently-abled kitten protagonist of the bestselling trilogy *Storia di Milo* (Guanda, 2018–2023), beloved by readers of all ages.

Following the success of the first edition—sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Environment of Roma Capitale and awarded to a young student in Rome, who was honored at the Campidoglio on May 7 and published on *Corriere.it*—this year's theme is **the beauty and importance of diversity**. Tall or short, big or small, with five fingers or six toes, we are always enough. We are perfect. We are beautiful—just like Milo, who, despite being unable to jump, became one of the most beloved feline characters of recent years. Over time, his big yellow eyes, charm, and determination won the hearts of tens of thousands of readers across Italy, Europe, and Asia.

For the first time, the Milo Prize is also under the patronage of the **Italian Cultural Institute of Bangkok**, in Thailand, a country with which Milo's tales have always shared a special connection.

Submission Guidelines

- Written entries (maximum three pages / 5,400 characters) must be submitted by **February 17, 2026**, World Cat Day, to premiomilo@enpa.org.
- Three finalists will be selected.
- The winning text will be published on *Corriere Animali* at corriere.it.
- This year the Milo Prize introduces a **new video category**. Short films (no longer than 3 minutes), with narration, possible dialogue, and images, will also be considered. The winning video will be published on corriere.it.

The top three winners in each category will also receive copies of the *Storia di Milo* trilogy, generously offered by the publisher Guanda.

The contest is open to everyone, children and adults alike. Stories may feature animals of any species, not only cats.

Milo, the little “wobbly” black kitten born with cerebellar hypoplasia and also the protagonist of the *Corriere.it* column *Io e Milo*, passed away on March 22, 2024, after a brief illness. In his nearly eleven years of life, he traveled across Italy and abroad with his human mother, Costanza, spreading a message of empathy wherever he went. Not being able to run or jump never stopped him: Milo hiked in the Dolomites and swam in the Mediterranean Sea.

The theme of diversity is central to the trilogy *Storia di Milo* by Costanza Rizzacasa d'Orsogna. In 2006, in a widely contested decision, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) reclassified Pluto as a “dwarf planet.” Although it orbits the Sun and is nearly spherical, Pluto did not meet the criterion of “orbital dominance” set by the IAU, meaning it does not clear its orbit of other similarly sized celestial bodies. This episode serves as the backdrop to the third book of the series, *Storia di Milo, il gatto che salvò Plutone* (Guanda, 2023).