

Katha Utsav 2017, National Children's Writer's Workshop is a three day literary event for children, where selected students get an opportunity to meet and be mentored by professional national and international writers, poets, illustrators, artists, filmmakers, theatre artists, director, expressive arts practitioners and translators in writing workshops. Katha's Search for Excellence in Creative Writing is designed to draw out the storyteller in every child and cultivates a culture of writing among young people. The event strives to bring the excitement of the printed word in this technology-driven era and revive the touch and feel of crisp paper and storybooks. It also strives to demonstrate the fact that using digital and printed books can go hand in hand and each segment has its unique and justified place in our ecosystem.

Started four years ago, Katha Utsav gives children an exposure to the field of literature and writing. Children from classes 4 to 12 are eligible for the Katha Writing Workshops. The East Zone Katha Regional Workshop had been held in Royal Global School from 3rd to 4th November. It was Katha's first time in Guwahati and was no less than a huge success! Renowned authors Padma Shri Mamang Dai, Rashmi Narzary, Amanda Bashisha, Srutimala Duara and Merry Baruah acted as mentors for the budding writers of the region. The event helped Katha find yet another bunch of zonal finalists. 22 of them were from Royal Global School. 14 Royalites made it to the final event.

The National Katha Utsav was held in Ridge Valley School in Gurugram from 27 December to 29 December 2017. The founder of Katha Utsav Geeta Dharmarajan welcomed the national and international participants with her contagious energy which ignited the minds of the participants. After the opening ceremony, began three days of fun and drafts, constructive discussions and socializing. The Utsav celebrates India's unique story-telling diversity and in the edition of 2017, "Empathy" was brought under the spotlight. It carried an important message through its theme, "Creating a Kinder World: Building Empathy". Mentors delved into the areas of their specialisation and practice and shared it with the students, portraying the theme in different ways. 13 mentors spearheaded various workshops on poetry, ethnography, expressive arts and communication, theatre and heritage. Mentors gracing this occasion were- haiku poetess Kala Ramesh, filmmaker-musician Aseem Asha Usman, actor, educator and India Youth Icon 2010 Sattyakee D'Com Bhuyan, writer-editor Anurag Garg, leadership coach, editor Ishani Butalia, writer-theatreperson Lavanya Prasad, educator, actor, director, painter Gunjan Gupta, writer and social activist Rashmi Chaudhary, Founder and Director of Sukhmanch Theatre Shilpi Marwah, journalist, educator and counsellor Suverchala Kashyap, educator and social activist Vikram Aditya Sahai, heritage activist and educator Vikramjit Singh Rooprai and performance storyteller Vikram Sridhar.

The Royal Global School team was the show stopper in the Utsav as it seized the top 4 positions in the National Entries (Grand Certificates) namely Avika Lohia (Grade VI), Riddhiman Deb (Grade VIII), Aditi Choudhury (Grade XI) and Disha Thakuria (Grade XII). Their work would be published by the Katha at their dedicated blog. Jugarka kaushik (Grade V), Mendha Tashi (Grade V), Aman Bhuyan (Grade X), Monalisha Gogoi (Grade XI) and Kriti Jain (Grade IX) bagged Laureate Certificates for their fresh content and innovative writing.