

# WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

**WRITING  
COMPETITION**



**1 JUNE - 31 JULY  
2024**



STONNINGTON LIBRARY  
+ INFORMATION SERVICE

## Competition summary

**'What's Your Story?'** is a writing competition presented by Stonnington Libraries.

Works can be fiction or non-fiction and based on any theme however must be original and previously unpublished at the time of entry.

Prizes are awarded for Short Story, Poetry and Creative Writing.

To enter the short story and poetry categories you need to be 18 years or over and living in Victoria, while young people aged 5 to 17 years, who live, go to school or work in Stonnington, are invited to enter one of three creative writing categories.

You can enter more than one category if applicable however there is a maximum of one entry per category. For more information, please refer to the 'Categories and Prizes' section.

If you have any questions about the writing competition, please email **[libraryevents@stonnington.vic.gov.au](mailto:libraryevents@stonnington.vic.gov.au)**

## Important dates

Starting date: Saturday 1 June 2024 at 12am.

Closing date: Wednesday 31 July 2024 at 11.59pm.

Category winners will be notified in writing by Friday 1 November 2024.

## Instructions for entering the writing competition

Entries must be submitted online.

Visit **[stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Writing-Competition](https://stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Writing-Competition)** to enter online.

All entries must be received by 11.59PM on 31 July 2024. Late entries will not be accepted.

## Privacy Policy and Data Collection

Stonnington Libraries Information Privacy Policy aligns with the City of Stonnington Information Privacy Policy. We comply with our duties under the Information Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. View Council's Information Privacy Policy at **[stonnington.vic.gov.au/privacypolicy](https://stonnington.vic.gov.au/privacypolicy)**.

Council will be collecting the personal information outlined in the entry forms to:

- Contact entrants about the outcome of the competition;
- Match entrants with submitted stories, poems and creative writing submissions;
- Promote participation in the competition and internally report on outcomes; and
- Publish the winners of each category on Council websites and social media channels as well as on City of Stonnington library notice boards.

Council will share your Personal Information with the public as part of its online communications. If you do not provide your Personal Information you will not be eligible to participate in the Program. If you wish to access or alter any of the Personal Information that you have supplied to Stonnington City Council, please contact Council's Privacy Officer by telephoning 03 8290 1333 or emailing [council@stonnington.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@stonnington.vic.gov.au). For more information about how Council handles Personal Information, please refer to the Privacy Policy.

## **Categories and Prizes**

### **Poetry – Adult**

For: Victorian residents 18+ years

Guidelines: Maximum 40 lines

Prize: \$500

### **Short story – Adult**

For: Victorian residents 18+ years

Guidelines: Maximum 1000 words

Prize: \$500

### **Creative writing, 5 to 8 years**

For: Young people aged 5 to 8 years who live or go to school in Stonnington.

Guidelines: Limit of 300 to 500 words. The entry can be fiction or inspired by real events experienced by the author.

Prize: \$100 book voucher

**Creative writing, 9 to 12 years**

For: Young people aged 9 to 12 years who live or go to school in Stonnington.

Guidelines: Limit of 500 to 750 words. The entry can be fiction or inspired by real events experienced by the author.

Prize: \$200 book voucher

**Creative writing, 13 to 17 years**

For: Young people aged 13 to 17 years who live, work or go to school in Stonnington.

Guidelines: Limit of 750 to 900 words. The entry can be fiction or inspired by real events experienced by the author.

Prize: \$300 book voucher

## Entry Form: Terms and Conditions of entry (Adult Categories)

This entry form is for the Short Story and Poetry categories of the 'What's Your Story?' Writing Competition (the Adult categories).

Please read the following entry conditions before submitting your Entry:

1. This competition is administered by Stonnington Library and Information Services part of Stonnington City Council (the 'Promoter'), 311 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, VIC 3144.
2. Entry to the Short Story and Poetry Adult categories is open to all Victorian residents aged 18 years and over as at 31 July 2024. Entry is open to anyone residing in Victoria, except employees and immediate families of the Promoter, associated companies and agencies and prize givers.
3. The person entering the competition must be the author of the Entry.
4. There is a limit of one Entry per Entrant per Category.
5. There is no entry fee.
6. The competition commences AEST on Saturday 1 June 2024 at 12am and closes at 11.59pm on Wednesday 31 July 2024. Late entries will not be accepted.
7. The competition is open to emerging writers. An emerging writer is a writer who has not published a single-authored book or full-length chapter book with commercial distribution. If you have self-published, or have works in anthologies, magazines, or journals, you are still eligible.
8. Details of the competition categories and prizes are contained online at **[stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Writing-Competition](https://stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Writing-Competition)**

Some competition categories have additional criteria that must be achieved to be eligible in that category. Entrants can only submit one piece of work per entry category in this competition.

9. Entries into the Short Story – Adult category must meet the following requirements in order for their entry to be valid:
  - a. Aged 18 or older at the time of entry into the competition;
  - b. The Entry must be a maximum of 1000 words;
  - c. Entries must be typed in black ink, Arial 12 font and be double spaced;
  - d. All pages must show the title of the Entry at the head of each page;  
and

- e. All pages must be numbered.
10. Entries into the Poetry – Adult category must meet the following requirements for their entry to be valid:
- a. Aged 18 or older at the time of entry into the competition;
  - b. Poetry entry should be no more than 40 lines in length;
  - c. Poems must be typed in black ink, Arial 12 font and be double spaced;
  - d. All pages must show the title of the poem at the head of each page;  
and
  - e. All pages must be numbered.
11. All valid entries must be submitted online by completing the entry form and be received by the Council during the competition period. If required, assistance to upload attachments to the entry form is available at any Stonnington Library.
12. Entries must be original, written in English, and previously unpublished (either in print or online) at the time of entry.
13. Entries must comply to the word limit. Entries exceeding the word limit will be deemed invalid.
14. Entries that are incomprehensible, illegible, incomplete, or do not comply with these terms and conditions will be deemed invalid.
15. Entries that are considered to be of an offensive, harassing, defamatory or discriminatory nature will be rejected and considered invalid.
16. To maintain anonymity for judging purposes, the author's name should not appear on any part of the Entry. The author's name and details must be confined to the entry form only.
17. Due to an expected large number of entries, the Promoter will acknowledge receipt of entries via automated response.
18. The Promoter does not accept responsibility for late, lost, damaged, misdirected or incomplete entries. The Promoter, associated agencies and companies and prize givers associated with this promotion take no responsibility for prizes that are damaged or lost in transit.
19. This competition is a game of skill. There is no element of chance.
20. The winning Entry will be selected based on its originality, skill and effectiveness as a short story or poem by a panel of judges made up of Stonnington Library staff.

21. The winner will receive a prize as outlined on the Categories and Prizes page. In the event of there being joint winners, the prize money will be equally divided. Prize money will be paid via Electronic Funds Transfer. Prizes are non-transferable.
22. The Promoter reserves the right to require the winner to provide proof of identity including place of residence, prior to distribution of the prize. The verifications required are at the sole discretion of the Promoter and if these requirements cannot be satisfied, the winner will forfeit the prize in whole and no substitute will be offered or compensation paid.
23. The Promoter is not liable for any loss or damage whatsoever suffered, including but not limited to, direct or consequential loss, or in connection with the redemption of and/or use of any other prizes. The Promoter has stated the prize values in good faith and any change in the value of the prizes is not the responsibility of the Promoter. The Promoter makes no warranties in relation to the value of the prizes.
24. The Promoter reserves the right to update the Terms and Conditions of entry at any time without notice.
25. The judge's decision is final, and no correspondence or discussion will be entered into.
26. Winners will be notified via email and if necessary, by phone, using the contact details provided in the online entry form, by 1 November 2024.
27. Copyright remains with the author. The Promoter is permitted to display entries and publish all, or part of, an entry including the entrants name on its websites. Entrants agree to participate and cooperate as required in promotional activities relating to the competition, including but not limited to being interviewed and photographed at no cost to the Promoter. The Promoter reserves the right to reproduce the whole or any part of an entry (whether or not it is a winning entry) for the purpose of promoting the 'What's Your Story?' Writing Competition. By submitting an entry, you grant the Promoter a perpetual and non-exclusive licence to display or publish the entry including the entrant's name, on the Promoters website, promote the 'What's Your Story?' Writing Competition Awards in any way determined by the Promoter and to use any promotional footage and photographs in all media worldwide without fee.
28. Entries will not be returned, so authors should retain a copy of the original. Entries will be deleted on 1 December 2024. Winning entries will be retained for 2 years following the selection of the winner.

**Entry Form: – Adult Categories (One Application Form per Entry, if submitting a piece of work to both categories please fill out two forms, one for each category)**

Please print clearly:

Name

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Are you over 18 years old?                      YES / NO

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Victorian resident?                      YES / NO

Are you a Stonnington resident?                      YES / NO

Title of Entry

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Category of Entry:

Short Story      YES / NO

Poetry      YES / NO

Do you agree with the conditions of entry?                      YES / NO

**Entrant's declaration:** This Entry is my own original work; I have read and agree to the conditions of entry.

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Signature



## Terms and Conditions of entry (Creative Writing - Under 18 years of age categories)

These terms and conditions are for the Creative Writing Under 18s categories of the 'What's Your Story?' Writing competition.

Please read the following entry conditions before submitting your Entry:

1. This competition is administered by Stonnington Library and Information Services part of the Stonnington City Council (the 'Promoter'), 311 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, VIC 3144.
2. Entry to the Creative Writing – Under 18s categories is open to all Stonnington residents and educational institution attendees aged under 18 years of age at 31 July 2024 provided that institution is located within the City of Stonnington. Entry is not open to employees of the Promoter and immediate families of the Promoter, associated companies and agencies and prize givers. Persons under the age of 18 need their parent's/guardian's permission to enter this competition.
3. The person entering the competition must be the author of the Entry.
4. There is a limit of one Entry per Entrant per Category.
5. There is no entry fee.
6. The entry will include age appropriate language and will be the authors original work.
7. The competition commences AEST on Saturday 1 June 2024 at 12am and closes at 11.59pm on Wednesday 31 July 2024. Late entries will not be accepted.
8. The competition is open to emerging writers. An emerging writer is a writer who has not published a single-authored book or full-length chapter book with commercial distribution. If you have self-published, or have works in anthologies, magazines, or journals, you are still eligible.
9. Details of the competition categories and prizes are contained online at **[stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Writing-Competition](https://stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/Writing-Competition)**

Some competition categories have additional criteria that must be achieved to be eligible in that category. Entrants can only submit one piece of work per entry category in this competition.

10. Entries into the Creative Writing, 5 to 8 years of age category must meet the following requirements for their entry to be valid:

- a. Aged 5 to 8 years of age at the time of entry into the competition;
- b. Entrant must reside in or go to school within the bounds of the City of Stonnington;
- c. Entries can be either fiction or non-fiction and must not exceed 500 words in length;
- d. Must be submitted with the form labelled Entry Form: Creative Writing, 5 to 8 years of age;
- e. Entries must be typed in black ink, Arial 12 font and be double spaced;
- f. All pages must show the title of the Entry at the head of each page;  
and
- g. All pages must be numbered.

11. Entries into the Creative writing, 9 to 12 years of age category must meet the following requirements in order for their entry to be valid:

- a. Aged 9 to 12 years of age at the time of entry into the competition;
- b. Entrant must reside in or go to school within the bounds of the City of Stonnington;
- c. Entries can be either fiction or non-fiction and must be 500 words minimum and not exceed 750 words;
- d. Must be submitted with the form labelled Entry Form: Creative Writing, 9 to 12 years of age;
- e. Entries must be typed in black ink, Arial 12 font and be double spaced;
- f. All pages must show the title of the Entry at the head of each page;  
and
- g. All pages must be numbered.

12. Entries into the Creative writing, 13 to 17 years of age category must meet the following requirements in order for their entry to be valid:

- a. Aged 13 to 17 years of age at the time of entry into the competition;
- b. Entrant must reside in, go to school or work within the bounds of the City of Stonnington;
- c. Entries can be either fiction or non-fiction and must be a minimum of 750 words and not exceed 900 words;

- d. Must be submitted with the form labelled Entry Form: Creative Writing, 13 to 17 years of age;
  - e. Entries must be typed in black ink, Arial 12 font and be double spaced;
  - f. All pages must show the title of the Entry at the head of each page; and
  - g. All pages must be numbered.
13. All valid entries must be submitted online by completing the entry form and be received by the Council during the competition period. If required, assistance to upload attachments to the entry form is available at any Stonnington Library.
  14. Entries must be original, written in English, and previously unpublished (either in print or online) at the time of entry.
  15. Entries must comply to the word limit. Entries exceeding the word limit will be deemed invalid.
  16. Entries that are incomprehensible, illegible, incomplete, or do not comply with these terms and conditions will be deemed invalid.
  17. Entries that are considered to be of an offensive, harassing, defamatory or discriminatory nature will be rejected and considered invalid.
  18. To maintain anonymity for judging purposes, the author's name should not appear on any part of the Entry. The author's name and details must be confined to the entry form.
  19. Due to an expected large number of entries, the Promoter will acknowledge receipt of entries via automated response.
  20. The Promoter does not accept responsibility for late, lost, damaged, misdirected or incomplete entries. The Promoter, associated agencies and companies and prize givers associated with this promotion take no responsibility for prizes that are damaged or lost in transit.
  21. This competition is a game of skill. There is no element of chance.
  22. The winning Entry will be selected based on its originality, skill and effectiveness as a short story or poem by a panel of judges made up of Stonnington Library staff.
  23. The winner will receive a prize of as outlined on the Writing Competition website. In the event of there being joint winners, the prize money will be equally divided. Prize money will be paid via Electronic Funds Transfer and Book Vouchers can be collected at a nominated Stonnington Library or will be

sent via Australia Post to the address on the Entry Form. Prizes are non-transferable.

24. The Promoter reserves the right to require the winner to provide proof of identity including place of residence, prior to distribution of the prize. The verifications required are at the sole discretion of the Promoter and if these requirements cannot be satisfied, the winner will forfeit the prize in whole and no substitute will be offered or compensation paid.
25. The Promoter is not liable for any loss or damage whatsoever suffered, including but not limited to, direct or consequential loss, or in connection with the redemption of and/or use of any other prizes. The Promoter has stated the prize values in good faith and any change in the value of the prizes is not the responsibility of the Promoter. The Promoter makes no warranties in relation to the value of the prizes.
26. The Promoter reserves the right to updates the Terms and Conditions of entry at any time without notice.
27. The judge's decision is final, and no correspondence or discussion will be entered into.
28. Winners will be notified via email, and if necessary, by phone, using the contact details provided in the online entry form, by 1 November 2024
29. Copyright remains with the author. The Promoter is permitted to display entries and publish all, or part of, an entry including the entrants name on its websites. Entrants agree to participate and cooperate as required in promotional activities relating to the competition, including but not limited to being interviewed and photographed at no cost to the Promoter. The Promoter reserves the right to reproduce the whole or any part of an entry (whether or not it is a winning entry) for purposes of promoting the 'What's Your Story?' Writing Competition Awards. By submitting an entry, you grant the Promoter a perpetual and non-exclusive licence to display or publish the entry including the entrant's name, on the Promoters website, promote the 'What's Your Story?' Writing Competition Awards in any way determined by the Promoter and to use any promotional footage and photographs in all media worldwide without fee.
30. Entries will not be returned, so authors should retain a copy of the original. Entries will be deleted on 1 December 2024. Winning entries will be retained for 2 years following the selection of the winner.

## Entry Form: Creative Writing, 5 to 8 years of age

Please print clearly:

Name

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Are you between 5 and 8 years old?            YES / NO

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Do you live or go to school in the City of Stonnington?   YES / NO

Title of Entry

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Do you agree with the conditions of entry?            YES / NO

**Entrant's declaration:** This Entry is my own original work; I have read and agree to the conditions of entry.

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Signature

**For parents/legal guardians: please provide the following consent:**

*"I am the parent and/or legal guardian of the entrant. I provide my consent for the entrant to enter the competition and for the City of Stonnington to retain and/or publish my child's personal information, and any competition entries on its website, for a period no longer than two years from the date of provision."*

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Parent/guardian's signature

## Entry Form: Creative Writing, 9 to 12 years

Please print clearly:

Name

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Are you between 9 and 12 years old?      YES / NO

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Do you live or go to school in the City of Stonnington?   YES / NO

Title of Entry

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Do you agree with the conditions of entry?      YES / NO

**Entrant's declaration:** This Entry is my own original work; I have read and agree to the conditions of entry.

---

Signature

**For parents/legal guardians: please provide the following consent:**

*“I am the parent and/or legal guardian of the entrant. I provide my consent for the entrant to enter the competition and for the City of Stonnington to retain and/or publish my child's personal information, and any competition entries on its website, for a period no longer than two years from the date of provision.”*

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Parent/guardian's signature

## Entry Form: Creative Writing, 13 to 17 years

Please print clearly:

Name

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Are you between 13 and 17 years old? YES / NO

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Do you live, work or go to school in the City of Stonnington? YES / NO

Title of Entry

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**Entrant's declaration:** This Entry is my own original work; I have read and agree to the conditions of entry.

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Signature

**For parents/legal guardians: please provide the following consent:**

*"I am the parent and/or legal guardian of the entrant. I provide my consent for the entrant to enter the competition and for the City of Stonnington to retain and/or publish my child's personal information, and any competition entries on its website, for a period no longer than two years from the date of provision."*

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Parent/guardian's signature