



GROWSMART STORY WRITING COMPETITION 2018 INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Introduction

In addition to the Growsmart Literacy competition, there will also be a Story Writing competition (three learners from each participating school). The Story Writing competition will be for individuals, not teams, and will be completely separate from the normal Growsmart Literacy competition. You may choose your three best creative writers from the pool of learners in Grades 4, 5 and 6 and they must not be the same learners as the team competing in the Growsmart Literacy competition.

Eligibility

- Only the 150 selected and Growsmart-registered schools from Metro Districts East, North, South and Central may participate in Growsmart.
- Each school shall select three learners from Grades 4, 5 and 6 to form a team and represent their school in the Growsmart literacy competition, and three other learners from the same Grades will each submit a story for the Story Writing competition. In other words, six. There will also be Science and Maths competitions, with three other learners for each competition - see separate documents for those competitions. This means that if your school competes in all four competitions you would have twelve learners from your school competing for Growsmart prizes.
- Important note: If a learner competed in a previous year's Growsmart competition, that learner may not compete again this year.
- Learners may not compete in Growsmart unless their parents or legal guardians have signed the Growsmart Indemnity Form.
- Teams must arrive on time for their competition rounds or they may be disqualified from the competition. Teams not arriving at all will be prohibited from participating in the next 3 years of the competition.
- Any contestant or school not in compliance with the eligibility requirements may be disqualified from the competition. Up to four months after the competition has ended, any school or contestant found not to have been eligible may forfeit their prizes or benefits received.



Growsmart Story Writing Competition format

- Each school may select 3 learners from the pool of learners in Grades 4, 5 and 6 (they must not be the same learners who are competing as team members in the Growsmart Literacy, Maths or Science competitions). Each of the learners will submit a unique story of their own. This is a competition for individual learners, not teams.
- The winners will receive the following prizes, courtesy of Growthpoint Properties:

1st place

- Approved educational assistance valued at R10 000
- The mentor receives a R2 500 shopping voucher

2nd place

- Approved educational assistance valued at R8 000
- The mentor receives a R1 000 shopping voucher

3rd place

- Approved educational assistance valued at R4 000
- The mentor receives a R500 shopping voucher

Most visually creative book

- Approved educational assistance valued at R4 000

- Each learner will receive a writing pack in a blue folder consisting of:
 1. A journal. This is an A5 book for scribbling, writing down ideas and notes, and planning the story.
 2. An A4 story book which has lined pages alternating with blank pages. This is for writing the final story and illustrating it.
 3. Various stationery items.



Disqualification criteria

To avoid the risk of disqualification learners need to carefully abide by the following rules.

Two books must be submitted

- Important: Both books - the journal and the story book - must be returned in the folder to Growthpoint Properties in Claremont or to Mustard Seed in Stellenbosch by the deadline (see further below for address details). Both books will form part of the evaluation process and will not be returned to the learners. Learners may keep the other stationery items. Failure to submit both books will result in immediate disqualification.

Story topics

- The story must be the learner's own, original story. It must not be copied or plagiarised from elsewhere. Learners must write their story by hand, in black pen (not pencil), on the lined pages of their story book and provide hand-drawn, colourful illustrations (on the blank pages) that match and enhance the text. Learners must choose any **one** of the following topics for their story:
 1. How I made the earth laugh
 2. The day I met a tokoloshe
 3. My mysterious double
 4. Ubuntu
 5. My ancestors
 6. The mysterious smoke
 7. The Fairy messenger who lost her way
 8. The magical mosu tree
 9. Write your own story choosing any topic
 10. If I were president



The A4 story book: the cover, the first page and the story

- The cover must be creatively illustrated, as if it was a published book.
- The back cover must contain a summary of the story.
- The front cover must contain:
 - the **author's name**,
 - the selected **topic**
 - their own **title** for the story
- The first page of the book must contain the author's name, school, grade and age.
- The story itself must be written by hand, in pen (NOT pencil), and the illustrations must be drawn and coloured by hand. The learner is encouraged to use their imagination and creativity when compiling their final A4 story book.
- Please go over the Evaluation Matrix - you will see how the story will be evaluated and how the marks will be allocated.
- Note: The journal does not have to follow the above rules for the story book, but it must show evidence that it was used to plan the final story. The journal must contain the author's details.

Length of text

- The minimum and maximum length of the story will differ per grade, as below:
 - Grade 4: minimum 300
 - Grade 5: minimum 400
 - Grade 6: minimum 500



Timing

- Learners will have from the Growsmart launch in February until 3:30 pm on **Friday, 11 May** to complete and submit their work. Mentors must ensure that all Story Books and Journals are returned by the above date. Do not wait until the last minute - the books can be returned earlier, even as soon as the stories have been completed. Late submissions will be disqualified, as will submissions which do not contain both the A4 story book and the A4 journal.

Disqualification

- Failure to comply with the requirements above will result in immediate disqualification, and the story will not be evaluated.

GROW SMART



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PROPERTIES



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Evaluation

- The stories will be evaluated by a team of judges according to criteria set by the WCED, based on the CAPS policy document for the Intermediate Phase. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The top 20 works will be selected for display at the Growsmart Final on 15 September and the winners will be announced on the same day. The top 20 will require contracts to be signed in case the stories are published.
- Learners should follow the writing process and show evidence thereof (in their journal), as per CAPS:
 1. Pre-writing/planning
 - Consider target audience and purpose
 - Consider type of writing
 - Brainstorm using mind-maps/lists
 - Organise ideas
 2. Drafting
 - Word choice
 - Structuring sentences
 - Main and supporting ideas
 - Specific features of the required text (e.g. direct speech for dialogue)
 - Read own writing critically
 - Get feedback from peers and teacher
 3. Revising, editing, proofreading and presenting
 - Revise: improve content and structure of ideas
 - Refine word choice, sentence and paragraph structure
 - Edit: correct mistakes in grammar, spelling and punctuation
 - Present neat, legible final version
- The judging criteria will be taken from the process above and will incorporate elements such as creativity, originality, most inspiring, etc. Please see the evaluation matrix for further information.



Important: all completed stories must be submitted by 11 May 2018

- The mentor for each team must ensure that the completed Story Books and Journals are returned no later than **Friday, 11 May 2018, 3:30 pm.**

The clear folders containing the two books must be returned to either Growthpoint or Mustard Seed:

GROWTHPOINT PROPERTIES

Reception desk
4th Floor
MontClare Place
Main Road
Claremont

MUSTARD SEED

1st Floor, Block E, Capital Place
15 - 21 Neutron Avenue
Techno Park (along the R44 between Somerset West and Stellenbosch)
Stellenbosch

Creative writing tips

- Mix news items with incidents from your own life, or from your observations or imagination. What emerges should not be a mere retelling of the facts but a creative shaping of the events into a story with your own unique stamp on it.
- Look through newspapers and magazines, and cut out photos of fascinating faces on which you can build your characters.
- Read books by other authors, too: not so much to copy their work as to see how you might use their ideas as a springboard from which you could develop your own original storyline.
- Writing that's too wordy, disorganized, or lacking in description can overwhelm the reader.
- Vary your sentence length.
- Avoid plagiarism.
- Observe and listen to people around you. Their mannerisms and facial expressions, their distinctive diction and memorable turns of phrase, their personality quirks and oddities, their experiences. Any of these may spark off your imagination, leading to a story revolving around one or more fascinating, unforgettable characters. If you write about them, then make sure you get their consent first. Be careful about basing your characters or plot directly or solely on a real-life person or event.

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- It's much safer to build characters that are a combination of various real people and fused plots, based on several different incidents - and you will get a richer story with more in-depth characters, too.

In conclusion

Further details will be communicated to all the participating schools as we approach Level 1 of the competition. We continue to be very excited about Growsmart and look forward to your active and enthusiastic participation. Should you have any queries at all, please don't hesitate to contact me on the cell number below. All the best!

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