



# Little Stories Big Ideas

SCHOOL INFORMATION PACK

**A creative writing competition  
for Australian Secondary School Students**

**Igniting the imagination of Generation Next**





***"It is our vision that Little Stories, Big Ideas becomes a popular platform for today's youth to express their literary voices, using contemporary issues and themes as a springboard to let their imagination leap in any direction it chooses." Rebecca Fraser - Competition Director***

## **What is Little Stories, Big Ideas?**

Little Stories Big Ideas is aimed at inspiring and motivating our youth to use their creativity and imagination in the form of a story of 100 words or less, in any literary style they like. The competition is open to Secondary School students from all around Australia, and runs four times per year coinciding with school terms. Entry is free.

## **The all-important theme**

Each quarterly competition will have a theme. Entries must be 100 words or less, and incorporate the current theme. How the theme is included is up to the imagination of the writer. Any literary style is welcome – short story form, poem, haiku, limerick, song – but entries must be in English.

***"Writing enlarges the landscape of the mind." It goes further than that though. When it comes to the benefits of creative writing for kids, especially those who may struggle to express themselves, their thoughts, or feelings, creative writing offers a way to channel their emotions and harness their imaginations into a vehicle of self-expression." Author VS Pritchett***

## **What types of themes can be expected?**

We believe kids have a lot to say about the world in which they live. Little Stories, Big Ideas embraces themes that impact and shape their world, and are topical, relevant, and important. Think: climate change, environmental issues, diversity, respect, acceptance, inclusion, political landscape, asylum seekers and refugees, and more. Writing to a prompt allows entrants to explore and push boundaries with their creativity.



# Benefits to students

Through storytelling, kids explore their moral compass, and tap into their understanding of the world around them. Whether their stories feature mermaids or unicorns, school principals, farmers, or astronauts, the way they portray characters and the plots they star in consistently deal with issues and themes that are relatable and relevant to today's youth.

***Additional benefits of creative writing for kids are multifaceted and include:***

- Problem solving and analysis. By using their imagination and flexing their creative muscle to come up with plots, alternative solutions, and organise their thoughts and ideas, kids are learning to think beyond the square and actively seek fresh ways of identifying, assessing, and tackling problems.
- Self-confidence. Children can be full of doubt about their ideas and abilities. Creative writing offers a safe and supportive environment for them to find and express their voices.
- Discipline and Persistence. It takes time to organise your thoughts, create characters, dramatic plots, and interesting settings, and then put them into a cohesive sequence. Creative writing is a fun way to develop tenacity within kids.
- Inquisitiveness and Research Skills. Kids, by nature, are naturally curious. Writing creatively allows them to take it one step further by igniting a desire to learn more about something to enrich their tale, get facts right, or make it more believable. We've seen many kids become mini experts in their field of interest – whether it's avalanches, panning for gold, the atmosphere on Mars, or how to slay a vampire!

## Entry is easy and free

Students can enter by visiting [www.littlestoriesbigideas.com.au](http://www.littlestoriesbigideas.com.au) and submitting their entry before the close date. There are junior (Years 7 - 9) and senior (Years 10 - 12) categories with prizes for both age groups . Details of prizes can be found at [www.littlestoriesbigideas.com.au](http://www.littlestoriesbigideas.com.au)



## Keep informed

Competition dates, winner announcements, and other important information is posted regularly on the Little Stories, Big Ideas website and on our Facebook page and Instagram. Students, teachers, and parents can visit the website, follow the social media pages, or subscribe to the newsletter at [www.littlestoriesbigideas.com.au/newsletter/](http://www.littlestoriesbigideas.com.au/newsletter/) to keep informed.



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sign up at website

## Getting your school involved

We would love to see as many schools as possible get involved in our competition. Little Stories, Big Ideas could be a great addition to your school curriculum, opening up creative opportunities for your students and giving them a challenge in the process.

## Get in contact so we can help you

We have many resources available to help your school promote Little Stories, Big Ideas including posters and digital assets that can be used on school websites and social media channels.

We can also visit your school and run workshops on creative writing, covering topics like:

- The types and use of narrative voice
- The use of literary devices such as metaphor
- Character development and the use of dialogue

At the completion of the workshop, the aim is for each student to have created a story they can enter into the competition.

# The Little Stories, Big Ideas team

## Rebecca Fraser -Competition Director

Rebecca Fraser is an award-nominated Mornington Peninsula-based author who writes genre-mashing fiction for both children and adults. Rebecca's short stories and poetry have appeared in numerous anthologies, magazines, and journals since 2007, and her middle grade fantasy adventure *Curtis Creed and the Lore of the Ocean* was released in 2018. Her collection *Coralesque and Other Tales to Disturb and Distract* was released in 2021. Rebecca holds a MA in Creative Writing, and a Certificate of Publishing (Copy Editing & Proofreading).



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## Joe Novella - Founder

Joe Novella is the author three books, *'Pepe and Poppy'*, *'The Ultimate Self-Help Guide for Men'* and his latest written for his beautiful boy James titled *'Naughty Bart and his Giant Fart'*. A documentary maker, podcast host and short-film maker, Joe has a passion for all things creative and digital. Currently, Joe works as a Marketing and Content Manager for a busy small business and juggles his day job, with being a Husband and Dad, and somewhere in there he gets to indulge his passion for storytelling. Sleep is not an option for Joe. Joe is also the founder of 'Write from the Heart' Microfiction Competition, an international flash fiction competition where 50% of the entry fee is donated to charity. [www.writefromtheheart.com.au](http://www.writefromtheheart.com.au)



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