



Judge's Report - Term 4, 2021

Theme: Revolution

As 2021 draws to a close, we like to think we've started a micro fiction revolution this year at Little Stories, Big Ideas! Term 4's competition attracted a record 171 entries from across our wide brown land, reinforcing two things:

1. Australia's young writers are as talented as they are diverse. 2. The opportunity for them to showcase their work and express their ideas is welcomed and valued. It's been so rewarding to see the growth in entries, and school and community engagement with each passing term, and we thank you all for your enthusiastic support and participation.

Term 4's theme of "Revolution" drew forth a clarion call from entrants, who each put their own 'spin' on this multi-faceted word. A riot of entries gyrated into our inbox exploring the full potential of the theme. Some entrants chose a literal path, or surprised with a fresh angle; some explored contemporary issues and themes with unflinching heart, and others entertained and astonished with their wonderfully creative 'outside the box' interpretations.

From corrupt politicians to ruthless governments to socio-economic upheavals, uprisings were documented across a range of countries and eras. French, Chinese, and Russian rebellions mingled with the technological, steam, AI, and industrial revolutions.

A number of entries focussed on important themes—whispers along chain link fences, and battle cries for justice on blood-soaked streets. They explored ethical complexities, oppression, suppression, domestic abuse, women's rights, feminism, slavery, gender, Black Lives Matter, #MeToo

And intermingled throughout, a stream of entries from spectrums inventive and imaginative: Daleks and discrimination, ancient gods and incitement, spirals, circles, and spinning subversions. Our reading journey took us from BC to the year 1792, we touched down in 1952, then took a flying leap into a far future...

As always, the quality and diversity of entries made judging extremely difficult. To this end, along with our amazing winners and placegetters in each category, there is a

larger than usual number of Honourable Mentions awarded for their creativity, innovation, use of language, narrative technique, and storytelling ability.

Please enjoy the winning stories for the theme 'Revolution' below. Our heartiest congratulations to the winners and place getters, and to all the entrants who took the time to submit an entry to *Little Stories, Big Idea*. We continue to be impressed, moved, surprised, and entertained by the power of your micro fiction!

We're already excited about 2022. Term 1's theme will be **Responsibility**. We know Australia's talented young writers will each apply their unique lens to this theme, and we can't wait to read the results!

Please spread the word to your students, membership base, children, social networks, and anyone you think would be interested in submitting their work for the chance to win terrific prizes while flexing their creative muscle. We'd love to read their entries!

Wishing everyone all the best for the festive season and beyond,

Joe and Rebecca

Year 10 -12 Winners

First Place

Scream by Ella Hamilton of Luther College, VIC

These streets I stroll
I can hear screaming
These streets where I have been
Catcalled
Harassed
Yet I am one in millions
Millions of women
We are told it is
our fault
My shorts are too revealing
"You were asking for it"
Somehow this is normalized
Constantly told,
Never interrupt
Be a good girl
Marry a rich man
Have children
Stand in line
wait
No!
The screams fill my lungs now
Misogyny programmed in my mind by society
It flushes out
I will interrupt
I will decide what to do with my body
I will be unapologetic
I am the revolution

Second Place

Pixels by Gabriel Cant of Penrith High School, NSW

Immersion. A flood of pixels bled into me, each of them a fragmented spectrum, colours alight and melting. I tilted backwards, enveloped by illumination, my eyes sinking beneath the sockets as the light seared through me, my veins engulfed. I could hear the light dancing, glinting to the sound of a dazzling orchestra, unintentional yet harmonious. Slowly, I rose, the final sparks of spluttering pixels settling into me with a nervous jolt. And with that, my final atom dissipated, replaced instead by a intricate code of 0s and 1s. The promised utopia, the digital revolution, was upon us.

Third Place

Baker's Boy by Paige Smith of St Paul's Anglican Grammar School, VIC

My father is the foreman and my mum's the second hand,
They moved out here to Birmingham to find some more demand,
The foreman lists ingredients: flour, alum, yeast,
He sets the sponge and watches as I stoke the flaming beast,
The flour's mixed with alum now to make the bread look fair,
Our sweat drips down into the dough as we breathe the humid air,
We can't afford meat or cheese while managing this scheme,
For a baker's life is poorly in this era run by steam.

Honourable Mention:

- ***You're Not the Hero*** by Pranikaa Gulati of Cairns State high School, VIC
- ***Shards*** by Breanna Bunker of Helensvale State High School, QLD
- ***Passion and Plastic*** by Matilda Knox of Scots All Saints College, NSW
- ***Ode to Changemakers*** by Alphonsa Benjamin of The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School
- ***Back to December*** by Lavinia Tan of Hurlstone Agricultural High School
- ***11:08pm at Home*** by Anirudh Sonti of Suzanne Cory High School
- ***Derke Ferguson will not capitalise the letter i*** by Riddick Smith of Rose Bay Secondary College, NSW

Year 7 – 9 Winners

First Place

They Don't Actually Care by Noa Gomberg of Mount Scopus Memorial College, VIC

Ever since I can remember, I've been told I was change.
My generation was going to save the planet.
We were going to fix our ancestors' mistakes.
We were born with responsibility on our shoulders
And raised with "Do something about it" ricocheting in our heads.
But when we scream, hands are slapped over our mouths.
Our tears are ignored.
And frustration makes us insane.
If there's one thing I've learnt about adults it's that they expect us to revolutionise the world
But the second they're contradicted
We are just stupid little kids.

Second Place

Time for a Revolution by Nibesh Khatri of Perth Modern School, WA

In the great city of Paris, the Bastille burns.
Flames lick the lower turrets of the behemoth fortress while a wave of over two hundred Frenchmen crashes into its tall wooden drawbridge.
Their screams are accompanied by the crack of snapping bones.
A single man stands at the peak of the castle.
A small, curious smile lay plastered to his round face. He waits for the gate to fall, for the head-splitting cacophony as the men and women around him surge forward.
Then, he dusts off his Nike trainers and resets his watch. Time freezes.

Third Place

Ancient Revolt by Sarah Fox of Mount Scopus Memorial College, VIC

Solemn and broken.

Stern and motionless.

A deity of a city long gone.

Cameras clicking.

People surrounding.

The deity sits there expressionless.

It's glory days are long gone.

Chanting of revolution and the start of new ideas.

No cameras can be found.

The leader takes a deep breath and climbs the mountain

The deity is unveiled.

A new era has been ushered in.

The revolution has won.

Now the deity is a tourist attraction on brightly coloured posters and polluting buses.

Some say you can hear the roars of the deity from long ago

Or maybe it's just an echo.

Honourable Mention:

- ***A 1952 Woman; Guilty Freedom*** by Elisa Chen of Methodist Ladies' College, VIC
- ***Ani9mal Kiingdom Revolution. The Rap.*** by Matilda Cumbers of Harvey Senior High School, WA
- ***Tank Man*** by Isaac Estera of Oakhill College, NSW
- ***The "Shadows" Rise*** by Mitchell Kolc of Oakhill College, NSW
- ***Of Rivers*** by Bridie Newman of Oakhill College, NSW
- ***Life*** by Kristijan Magdic of Oakhill College, NSW
- ***The Power of Ideas*** by Leo Maher, Perth Modern School, WA
- ***Evolution Fantasy*** by Ali Shahmoradi of Girraween High School, NSW

- ***Breathe*** by Tully Leonard-Kelly of Perth Modern School, WA
- ***Black and White*** by Emily Pike of Mater Dei Catholic College, NSW
- ***The Carvings*** by Maya Notley of Great Lakes College Tuncurry Campus, NSW
- ***On That Day*** by James White of St Stanislaus College Bathurst, NSW