**Judge's Report - Term 3, 2022**

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**Theme: Body**

Term 3’s theme “BODY” drew the greatest response in the two-year history of Little Stories, Big ideas with 385 entries pouring into our inbox from secondary school students across every state and territory, including home schoolers, and The School of the Air!

Entrants certainly had some big ideas when it came to interpretation of the theme. From the literal to the abstract, the inventive and the emotive, we were captivated by the power and the passion of their words. Not only was this round a reminder of the scope of talent Australia’s young writers wield, it served as a potent demonstration of micro fiction’s “less is more” power. Many of the 100-word stories received certainly punched above their weight!

From body love to body shame, body horror and beyond, students didn’t just skate up to the line of existential exploration, they took a flying leap across it with glorious results. Others wrote creative responses touching on everything from #MeToo to machines, oceans to emotions, art to AI, and sexuality to sustainability.

While the level of talent was a joy to read (and we read and respect each and every entry), it also makes judging a (happy) challenge! After much rumination and reflection, our winners and honourable mentions have been chosen. You’ll find their names and the entries of our winners and placegetters below. We hope you’ll enjoy reading their work as much as we did.

The theme for Term 4 **FEAR** has now opened for entries. You can catch our [recorded Zoom conversation](https://www.facebook.com/littlestoriesbigideascomp/videos/776370410254711) discussing the various ways students can interpret the theme along with some answers to commonly asked questions.



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!

Thanks for your ongoing support,

Joe and Rebecca

**Year 10 - 12 Winners**

**First Place**

***Body***  by Vidushi Trivedi, Our Lady of Mercy Paramatta, NSW

The universe collides  
Tethers of explosive hue  
Scintillating strands of cosmic hair  
From which my body came  
  
Hail the planets!  
Luminescence in which mine eyes construct  
Mercury running through my veins  
Venus spiralling down my divine tresses  
  
Earth in my core, mars under my feet  
Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune  
Run up spine, middle, bosom, temple  
Born to my brain, waking the presence of my body  
  
Oh this enchanted form  
Chakric charges intermingling  
Swirls of planetary fibre  
In which this form enacts its steps  
  
Swimming, sinking  
My body drifting in oceans of stars  
The universe collided  
And then my body born

**Second Place**

***Timeless*** by Emily Crosby, Kolbe Catholic college, WA

fingertips

draw over the bed

tracing the cotton memory

of your hospital pyjamas

seeking

the drum of your heart a rhythm matching the tempo of your thoughts.

in a homesick blur of nostalgia

the empty space

is shaped like you

glowing with the ghost of my favourite colours

your veins

rushing alive with blues and purples

your giggles

sparkling the silence like cherry soda

your neck

glittering with the bubblegum scent of your perfume

i reach to twirl

your strawberry tornado of hair

instead my nails click against

the picture frame on my nightstand

your smile deathless behind the glass.

**Third Place**

***Expired*** By Syazwani Saifudin, Hoppers Crossing Secondary College, VIC

I pull out my eyeballs, cup them in both palms  
soak them in an ice bath, pop them back in  
peel off my skin like topsoil, let a new layer of life grow  
extract every bone, cement the cracks with fresh milk  
dislocate my shoulders and remove all the tons  
before returning them weightless  
tie my hair to tree branches to let it soar in the wind  
absorb that lightness so that when I reattach it  
strand by strand, it always keeps me afloat  
strip off the soles of my feet, sand out the callouses  
add a new soul

**Honourable Mention**:

* ***37°*** by Shaun Ly, Sydney Technical High School, NSW
* ***Ocean Town*** by Sophie Roland, Rosebay Secondary College, NSW
* ***The Whispering Ink*** by Rheanna Galea, Gosford High School, NSW
* ***Poetry in Motion*** by Noah Green, Gosford High School, NSW
* ***Body Art*** by Jessie Walton, North Lake Senior Campus, WA
* ***Five Faces*** by Caro Fosser, Figtree High School, NSW
* ***The Golden Child*** by Zoe Peck, Westbourne College, NSW
* ***Breath of Midnight*** by Alexander Johnson, Mansfield State High School
* ***Le Corps*** by Amelia Tu, Shalom College, QLD
* ***Our Bodies*** by Nina Tyson, Gosford High School, NSW
* ***Fashioning Frankenstein’s Monster*** by Athena Jiang, Danebank Anglican School for Girls, NSW

**Year 7 – 9 Winners**

**First Place**

***Alter Me Up*** by Norah Salameh, Beverley Hills Girls High School, NSW

Alter Me Up,  
the way You like.  
sew the threads  
to connect my skin,  
and weave my hair  
into my scalp.  
bind my waist  
until it's so thin,  
too thin for me  
to breathe.  
then, dress me up  
like a doll  
in pretty pink.  
i'm a playhouse,  
You're the kid.  
dance inside of me,  
and run wild.  
until You're tired,  
and i'm beat down.  
then once again,  
Alter Me Up,  
because You're the Man,  
and i'm just  
A Mannequin.

**Second Place**

***Fishing Trip*** by Sophie Nham, Perth Modern School, WA

Sunday morning  
Trample down hidden path  
Push aside twisting tendrils  
Until you reach it, glittering in morning sun  
Bait the rod, then cast  
Water ripples as it sinks into the murky abyss  
Then wait…  
and wait…  
Watch leaves drift across the surface  
Listen to birdcalls from above  
  
Then, a tug  
Sharp, like needle prick  
Wind back, then pull  
Stumble backwards as you drag it up onto the shore  
Stifle a scream  
  
A girl  
Skin white as porcelain  
Eyes a muddy brown  
Hair matted, yet still stringy yellow  
Lips a bruised blue  
A blue nightdress, torn  
Decayed, yet unmistakable  
Margot?

**Third Place**

***The Greed of The Body*** by Ryan Allen, Randwick Boy’s High School, NSW

The rangers of Rengrove Reserve were in the boardroom with the corporate body of Alexander Industries, arguing against them bulldozing Rengrove Reserve.

Ranger Jeremy began by saying, “You plan to slaughter inordinate populations of wildlife…”

The rangers exhibited their evidence.

The honourable Miss Penelope came to deliver the verdict. She stared down the rangers with disdain. “The body will continue our plans.” She said effervescently.

Jeremy thought, how can she be titled honourable and show no honour? How can they be titled a ‘body’ yet have no heart or soul?

“I guess we’ll see you in court!” He said disgustedly

**Honourable Mention:**

* ***Not My Body, No More*** by Alna George, Yeronga State High School, QLD
* ***Dame*** by Olivia Campbell, Presbyterian Ladies’ College, VIC
* ***Human*** by Zoe Morris, Melbourne Girls’ School, VIC
* ***Torture*** by Harshitha Jonnalagadda, Mt Waverley Secondary College, VIC
* ***Stars and Blood*** by Aurora Delvescovo, ET Secondary College, NSW
* ***Staring*** by Zi Ao Zhou, North Sydney Girls’ High School, NSW
* ***Arts and Crafts*** by Mikah Williamson, Bunbury Senior High School, WA
* ***The Mortuary Assistant*** by Maddie Flentje, Thornbury High School, VIC
* ***Soon to be Star*** by Ava Bond, Saint Mary Mackillop College, ACT
* ***Methamphetamines*** by Tara Jayaguhan, Gosford High School, NSW
* ***Body Paragraphs*** by Ellen Wei, Taroona High School, TAS