



Short Story Competition

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ELIGIBILITY AND ORIGINALITY

Entries must be entirely the work of the entrant and must never have been previously published, in print or online, or broadcast, or have won a prize in another writing competition. Any entry found to have been plagiarised will be disqualified.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools or software to generate any part of the story is strictly prohibited. All entries must be written entirely by the entrant without any AI assistance.

ANONYMITY

Entries will be read and judged anonymously; entrants names and contact details should only appear on the digital entry form and not anywhere on their story. The submitted document must not contain any personal information about the author.

JUDGING PROCESS

All entries will be reviewed by a panel of Western Downs Regional Council staff who will select a shortlist. The shortlist will be presented to a guest speaker of the festival, who will select the winners. The judge's decision is final, and no correspondence or discussion will be entered into.

COPYRIGHT AND LICENSING

Authors retain the copyright of their work and agree to grant Western Downs Regional Council an irrevocable non-lapsing licence to use, reproduce, and publish their short stories on its event website and for hard copies to be made available at the Words Out West Writers Festival, and for the use in any further relevant marketing/promotional materials.

PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded during the Festival Day. Winners will be notified prior to this. Winners and runners-up may be required to participate in media opportunities.

WITHDRAWAL AND DISQUALIFICATION OF ENTRIES

Any entrant wishing to withdraw a story from the competition before the closing date must notify us in writing at library@wdrc.qld.gov.au.

Entry implies an acceptance of all the rules of the Words Out West Short Story Competition. Entries that fail to comply with the entry rules and requirements may be disqualified.

ENTRANTS UNDER 18

For all entries, a parent or guardian must consent to the entrant participating in the competition, and to these terms and conditions. The parent or guardian warrants that the work submitted is original and does not infringe the copyright, moral rights or other rights of any third party, and that the entrant owns all rights and interests in the work submitted and they have their parent or guardian's permission to enter the competition. A failure to provide a parent or guardian's consent may deem the entry ineligible.

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