



An initiative by GROWTHPOINT
PROPERTIES



In collaboration with
Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION



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GROWSMART STORY WRITING & POETRY COMPETITION 2020

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Introduction

Growsmart is an educational programme that hosts inter-school competitions in Literacy, Story Writing & Poetry, Mathematics and Science for learners in Grades 4, 5, and 6. A Debating competition is also hosted for learners in Grade 6. A pilot competition in Entrepreneurship is also being hosted for learners in Grade 6 in 2020. It is a corporate social responsibility initiative by Growthpoint Properties and is supported by the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Limpopo Education Departments. The broad purpose of the competition is to promote the importance of education in a practical and fun way that will benefit both the schools and their learners.

The Story Writing & Poetry competition will run alongside the normal Growsmart Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Debating, and Entrepreneurship competitions, although it will be completely separate from these.

Growsmart Story Writing & Poetry competition

The Story Writing & Poetry competition is compulsory.

Each participating school must select the three learners from Grades 4, 5, and 6 who will form the school team for each competition. This can be done through a series of preliminary competitions at the school, conducted by teachers at class level, inter-class level, and grade level. The school has the discretion to decide how all learners can be encouraged to participate in the selection stage.

The mentors will be the coordinators for their elected competitions and they will ensure that their teams are adequately prepared.

There will be a Practise Edition of the Growsmart newspaper, which is designed to be used for selecting your candidates, plus three other editions which will follow prior to each competition level. The concepts will be expanded through stories and activities to be used for reading practice, enjoyment, and comprehension.

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The mentor will obtain consent from the parents or legal guardians of each participating learner, ensure the team prepares adequately for each competition round, and arrange transportation for the team to and from the competition venue.

The team that is enrolled with Growsmart will represent your school in the Growsmart Story Writing & Poetry competition.

Each learner needs to submit either a story or poetry anthology AND three book reviews to Growsmart before 16:30 on **22 May 2020**.

Each participating learner will receive a writing pack in a plastic folder consisting of:

- A workbook. This is a prepopulated A4 journal for drafting your story or poems, scribbling, writing down ideas and notes, and planning.
- An A4 story or poetry book. This will have lined pages alternating with blank pages. This is for writing the final story or final poems and illustrating them.
- Book Review template. Each learner will need to submit reviews of three books, in addition to submitting a story or poetry anthology.
- Various stationery items.

Aside from the stationery items, all of the above are to be returned as part of your competition submission.

Story Writing competition format

- 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 page must contain:
 - The author's name;
 - The selected **topic**;
 - Their own **title** for the story; and
 - Word count.
- The story itself must be written by hand, in pen (NOT pencil), and the illustrations must be drawn and coloured by hand, though any other creative materials are encouraged to be used. The learner is encouraged to use their imagination and creativity when compiling their final A4 poetry book.

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- Please review the evaluation matrix criteria, which will indicate how the stories will be marked and how marks will be allocated.
- Note: The workbook 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 workbook must contain the author's details.

Length of text

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

Poetry anthology format

Should the learner decide to submit a poetry anthology as opposed to a story, the cover must be creatively illustrated, as if it was a published book.

- The front page must contain:
 - The **author's name**;
 - Their own title for their anthology of poems; and
 - The title of each poem.
- The poetry anthology must contain ten poems.
- The poems themselves must be written by hand, in pen (NOT pencil), and the illustrations must be drawn and coloured by hand, though any other creative materials are encouraged to be used. The learners are encouraged to use their imagination and creativity when compiling their final A4 storybook.
- Please over the evaluation matrix - you will see how the poems will be marked and how marks will be allocated.

Note: The workbook does not have to follow the above rules for the poems, but it must show evidence that it was used to plan the final anthology of your 10 poems. The workbook must contain the author's details.

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Number of poems to be submitted

- 10 original poems to be submitted.

Book review format

- This is compulsory and must be submitted together with the storybook or the poetry anthology.

Number of books to be reviewed

- A minimum of three books needs to have been reviewed.
- Please go over the template included in your workbook and complete one for each of the books being reviewed.
- Your submission must include correspondence, either via email or post to the author.

Timing

Learners will have from the Growsmart launch on **5 or 6 February 2020** until 16:30 on Friday, **22 May 2020**, to complete and submit their work.

- Mentors must ensure that all story-books or poetry anthologies and book reviews together with their respective workbooks 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 or poetry anthologies have been completed.

Late submissions will be disqualified, as will submissions which do not contain all of the following: storybook or poetry anthology, book review, and workbook.

Each submission must be the learner's own work and may not be copied, adapted, or plagiarised from elsewhere.

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Disqualification criteria

To avoid the risk of disqualification learners, participants need to carefully abide by the following rules:

- Both books - the workbook and the storybook/ poetry anthology - must be returned in the folder to Growthpoint Properties in Claremont by the deadline date **22 May 2020**.
- 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 and the book review by the deadline date will result in immediate disqualification.**
- The story or anthology of 10 poems must be the learner's own, original work. **It must not be copied, adapted or plagiarised** from elsewhere. Learners must write their story or poems by hand, in black pen (not pencil), on the lined pages of their storybook 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:

Story topics

- 1 When Lebogang opened the door of her cupboard the next morning, there were two of every piece of clothing she owned. How had her clothes duplicated overnight?
- 2 The whole family sat down for the picnic, and the mouse sat down with them
- 3 The life of a mosquito
- 4 Pen a piece called "50 Reasons for Dressing Well Every Day"
- 5 I don't understand why...
- 6 A beggar has won a million rand in the lottery. Write about the thoughts that emerge inside his mind and the behaviour of the people around him before he goes and takes the money
- 7 Write a story about how one should go about caring for a pet monkey
- 8 I would like to invent a machine that...
- 9 Dancing in the rain!
- 10 I'll never eat another ...
- 11 A dark passage
- 12 A special photograph
- 13 Life in a wheelchair
- 14 The red bus trip
- 15 We got caught
- 16 Flooding in our neighbourhood

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- 17 Is honesty really the best policy?
- 18 Dear Mr President ...
- 19 The secret city
- 20 The fairy who lost her wings
- 21 When a friendly spirit walks around and visits
- 22 My alien connection
- 23 My trip to Mars
- 24 Catastrophe
- 25 Lost in space
- 26 Any other story of your choice

Story Writing & Poetry workshop

A Story Writing & Poetry workshop will take place on Saturday, **22 February 2020** where participating learners, mentors, and principals will receive guidance regarding the Story Writing & Poetry competition.

For the benefit of the young writers, everyone is urged to join us at this gathering.

Venue: Oude Molen Academy of Science and Technology

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.

A progress report template has been included in the workbook to this year's competition, where mentors are required to indicate the progress of the learners. The report needs to be included with your submission and marks will be awarded for this.

CAPS Curriculum all writing process

Learners should follow the writing process and show evidence thereof (in their workbook):

1. Pre-writing/planning
 - Consider the target audience and purpose
 - Consider type of writing
 - Brainstorm using mind-maps/lists
 - Organise ideas

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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, inspiration, etc.

Please see the evaluation matrix for further information.

The top 20 works will be selected for display at the Growsmart Final on **5 September 2020** and the winners will be announced on the same day.

The authors of the top 20 works will be required to conclude contracts in order for their works to be published by Via Afrika Publishers.

An electronic online registration form will be emailed to your school for the enrolment of your learners in February 2020. The closing date for registration will be 20 March 2020.

Further details will be communicated to all the participating schools as we approach Level 1 of the competition. Should you have any queries at all, please do not hesitate to contact us on the cell phone numbers below. All the best!

Growsmart Coordinators

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CREATIVE WRITING TIPS

- Mix news items with incidents from your own life or from your observations or imaginations;
- 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;
- Read through newspapers and magazines for inspiration - DO NOT ADAPT any of the articles - that is considered plagiarism and YOU WILL BE DISQUALIFIED;
- Writing that is disorganised and lacking in description can overwhelm the reader - follow a story road map, and use your workbook;
- Read, read, read - other books, not so that you copy their work (as that would be considered plagiarism and YOU WILL BE DISQUALIFIED) but in order to learn and see various ways to tell a story;
- Vary your sentence length;
- Observe and list people around you;
- Identify their mannerisms, facial expressions, their distinctive diction and memorable turns of phrase, note their personality traits and quirks and describe them;
- This will spark your imagination, leading to a story that would literally revolve around you; and
- If you are writing about someone else, make sure to have their consent first.

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GROWSMART STORY WRITING COMPETITION 2020 | MARKING MATRIX

	CRITERIA	COMMENTS MARKER 1	
DISQUALIFIED	1. Evidence of plagiarism		
	2. No draft submitted with the story book		
	3. Story submitted after cut-off date		
	4. Content is of sensitive nature – refer to WCED		
	CRITERIA (1 mark each)	POINTS MARKER 1	POINTS MARKER 2
CONTENT	1. Evidence of mentor marking		
	2. Length/number of words in accordance with requirements of the topic (Grade 4: min 300 words max 500 words; Grade 5: min 400 words max 600 words; Grade 6: min 500 words max 700 words)		
	3. Content developed in a clear and creative manner		
	4. Content shows impressive insight into topic		
	5. Ideas are thought provoking and mature		
STRUCTURE	1. Excellent structure; creative and interesting introduction, body and conclusion		
	2. Evidence of author's name, title of the book and summary on the back cover		
	3. Paragraphs are linked by good connectors and have excellent internal cohesion		
	4. The climax of the story is a turning point for the character/s		
	5. A well-presented, neat and legible final presentation		
VOCABULARY	1. Vocabulary is above the expected level		
	2. Creative, expressive and diverse use of vocabulary		
	3. Accurate use of vocabulary in the context of the topic		
	4. Choice of words is highly appropriate		
	5. Displays critical awareness of the impact of language		
GRAMMAR	1. Almost no grammatical inaccuracies		
	2. No / minimal punctuation errors		
	3. Commonly used vocabulary spelled correctly		
	4. Very few errors in spelling of creative vocabulary above the required level		
	5. Style, tone and register is highly suited to the topic		
ORIGINALITY OF TEXT	1. A good description of the characters		
	2. An interesting atmosphere or tone in the story		
	3. Evidence of the use of figurative language such as similes, metaphors, alliteration, personification to make the story more colourful		
	4. Personification to make the story more colourful		
	5. An interesting and entertaining reading experience		
ARTISTIC CREATIVITY	1. Illustration on the cover grabs the reader's attention		
	2. Use of colour contributes to the emotions/mood in the story		
	3. Illustrations / drawings clearly link to the story		
	4. Characters / scenes are creatively illustrated		
	5. Illustrations / drawings are detailed, creative and well thought through		
TOTAL			

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GROWSMART POETRY COMPETITION 2020 | MARKING MATRIX



	CRITERIA	COMMENTS MARKER 1	
DISQUALIFIED	1. Evidence of plagiarism		
	2. No draft submitted with the story book		
	3. Story submitted after cut-off date		
	4. Content is of sensitive nature – refer to WCED		
	CRITERIA (1 mark each)	POINTS MARKER 1	POINTS MARKER 2
THE WRITING PROCESS: Planning Rough draft Review & editing Final draft	1.Learner shows systematic evidence of planning which indicates the effort applied to the writing process. The poem has no errors.		
	2.Learner devoted adequate time and effort to the writing process and provides some evidence. The poem may have one or two errors.		
	3.Learner devoted some time and effort to the writing process but was not very thorough. There are several errors.		
	4.Learner devoted little time and effort to the writing process. It appears that the Learner did not follow the writing process. The poem has many errors.		
TITLE Creatively links to the poem	1.The poem has a title that clearly relates to the poem and adds interest and depth to the theme or message of the poem		
	2.The poem has a title that relates to the poem and shows a clear connection to the content.		
	3.The poem has a title.		
	4.The poem has no title.		
NEATNESS: Presentation Creativity Illustrations	1.The final draft of the poem is readable, error-free, neat and attractive. It is creatively illustrated. It looks like the poet took great pride in it.		
	2.The final draft of the poem is readable, neat and attractive. It may have one or two illustrations. It looks like the poet took some pride in it.		
	3. The final draft of the poem is readable and some of the pages are attractive. It looks like parts of it might not have been thought through.		
	4. The final draft is not neat or attractive. It looks like the poet just wanted to get it done and didn't care what it looked like.		
STYLE: Creative use of imagery	1.The poem is written with a great sense of style. The poem has been well thought out and evokes reaction from the reader.		
	2.The poem is written with a defined with style. Thoughts are clear to read and understandable.		
	3.The poem is written with minimal style. Thoughts are clear to a degree.		
	4.The poem lacks style and the poet's thoughts did not come out clearly on paper.		
VOCABULARY: Creative use of words	1.The poem is filled with descriptive vocabulary that appeals to the reader.		
	2.The poem includes many descriptive elements and is appealing.		
	3.The poem includes some descriptive words and phrases.		
	4.The poem lacks description and does not allow the reader to visualize the poem.		
TOTAL 20			