

litlinks 2026

A CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION OPEN TO
ACT SCHOOL STUDENTS IN YEARS 7-12 & THEIR TEACHERS

The focus of the LitLinks competition is short stories in any genre. All entries must be original works and unpublished. The word count should be in the range of 400 - 1,500 words.

Entry is free and ACT schools may submit up to five entries for each category:

- Years 7 - 8
- Years 9 - 10
- Years 11 - 12
- Teachers as Writers

To be considered for judging, entries must comply with the required word count range and be proofread to a publication standard. Original artwork may be included.

ENTRY GUIDELINES

The following entry requirements apply:

- The school contact person may submit up to 5 entries for each category. Only one entry is permitted per student/teacher. Entries will not be accepted from individual students.
- Stories must be submitted as electronic files in .docx or .doc format (no PDFs or Google files please). Do not include rationales.
- All files will be de-identified before judging.
- For administration purposes, electronic files should be named by the title of the work.
- Stories over 1,500 words will not be accepted.
- Entrants must not use AI tools such as ChatGP to generate any part of their short story or artwork.
- Only stories accompanied by a completed entry form that confirms acknowledgment of the entrant's agreement to the terms and conditions will be accepted. Entry forms can be submitted as PDFs.



PRIZES

Winner, Highly Commended, Judges' Choice, Speculative Fiction and Writing Encouragement Awards will be determined for each category.

ACTATE has formed a panel of highly qualified educators and writers to serve as competition judges.

Prizes include: Book vouchers, Passes to the Canberra Writers' Festival in 2027, Marion memberships and LitLinks certificates for all entrants, with a prize pool of \$8,500.

DATES & DEADLINES

Entries close at midnight on
Friday 11 September, 2026
Week 8, Term 3

Winners announced in
Term 4

Supported by



Visit www.actlitlinks.com.au to read winning entries and find out more

SUBMITTING ENTRIES

Submit entries via email to: info@actlitlinks.com.au.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- All submitted work (including artwork/photography) must be their own original work and all entrants must agree that their entries do not contain any material that infringes the rights of anyone else.
- The use of AI tools to generate any part of their short story or artwork is not allowed.
- Artworks may be created by another student/person, as long as the work is original and acknowledged.
- All entrants agree to their stories being published on the Litlinks Website, and to ACTATE using them in teaching and learning resources.

COMPLETE THE ENTRY FORM AND SUBMIT WITH EACH STORY:

NAME:

SCHOOL:

YEAR GROUP:

TITLE OF STORY:

ENTRANT DECLARATION:

By submitting this form, I confirm that I have read and agree to the LitLinks entry requirements and terms and conditions, and accept the judges' decision as final.

I also declare that all material (including artwork/photography) is my own original unpublished work and does not infringe the rights of anyone else. I have acknowledged any original artworks created by another student/person.