**Library and Information Services presents**

**Junior Creative Writing Competition 2025**

Last year, the Professional Services and Programmes in collaboration with libraries rolled out a writing competition which focused on environmental awareness. A total of 131 entries were received from 33 libraries with 100 coming from the 9-13 category. The winners were announced at the Open Book Festival with the theme “Libraries growing Authors” on the 7 September 2024.

Due to the success in the junior category, the City of Cape Town Library and Information Services would like to encourage, primary schools, book clubs and members of the public to participate in this year’s competition that will run from 05 May - 8 August 2025.

The prize-giving will take place during the Open Book Festival on 6 September 2025

**Target Audience:**

The key focus will be on children aged 9-13 years.

**Theme: The Mysterious Box**

Imagine that you are exploring your school or local library and you stumble upon a mysterious box hidden away between the shelves. The box has strange symbols and emits a faint humming sound. What could be inside this box?

Write a short story about what happens when you open up the box. Did you find a hidden treasure, a magical object, or a strange message? Share your adventure.

**Afrikaans: Die Geheimsinnige Boks**

Verbeel jou jy is besig om jou skool- of plaaslike biblioteek te verken toe jy op ‘n geheimsinnige boks afkom wat tussen die rakke versteek is.  Die boks is vol snaakse tekeninge en ‘n dowwe dreungeluid kom daaruit.  Wat sou daarin wees?

Skryf ‘n kort storie oor wat gebeur toe jy die houer oopmaak.  Het jy ‘n skat gevind, ‘n tower voorwerp of ‘n geheimsinnige boodskap?  Deel jou avontuur?

**Xhosa:**

Yiba nombono ulaqalaqaza ujonga isikolo sakho okanye ithala leencwadi lasekuhlaleni, ubhaqe ibhokisi engacacanga ifihlwe phakathi kweshelufu zeencwadi. Le bhokisi ineempawu ezingacacanga kwaye kuphuma kuyo isandi esithuthuzelayo. Ingaba inokuba yintoni ekule bhokisi?

Bhala ibali elifutshane ngento eyenzekayo xa uvula le bhokisi. Ingaba ufumene ubutyebi obufihlakeleyo, umlingo wento, okanye umyalezo ongaqhelekanga? Khawabelane nathi ngokwenzekayo.

**Criteria:**

* Word Limit: Between 500- 1500 words
* Must be an original story- No AI - generated stories will be accepted
* Must be handwritten
* Can be in the form of a picture book, short/long story or graphic novel
* Drawings and illustrations are encouraged
* Can be in English, Afrikaans or isiXhosa
* **Key Elements of the Story**
* A mysterious box in a library setting
* A magical adventure
* A relatable main character or object
* Can be in the form of a picture book, a short story or a graphic novel
* Illustrations/drawings are encouraged

**Tips to remember**:

* Use your imagination and be creative
* Must be original works
* Points will be given for illustrations/drawings
* Most importantly have fun

Closing date for submissions: **8 August 2025.**

Interested members of the public or schools can submit their stories to psp.libraries@capetown.gov.za or submit their story at their nearest library.



**COMMUNITY SERVICES & HEALTH**

**LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES**

**Junior Writing Competition 2025: Admission Form**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NAME & SURNAME |  | | |
| CONTACT NUMBER |  | AGE |  |
| EMAIL |  | LIBRARY |  |
| STORY TITLE |  | LANGUAGE |  |
| SCHOOL |  | GRADE |  |

I …………………………………………………………….. (parent/guardian) of the above student, hereby consent to the written story submission.

By signing this form, you are giving your consent for the City of Cape Town and other entities to capture, publish and share pictures of yourself and your written submission. We respect the privacy rights of everyone who uses or enquires about our services. Protecting your personal information, as defined in the Protection of Personal Information Act, Act 4 of 2013, will be respected. All submissions received will remain the intellectual property of the original author. Should your work be selected as a finalist, the City of Cape Town will publish and/or use your work in programmes and events.

Personal information will only be shared for purposes of resolving customer enquiries, providing customer services or for any other legitimate purpose relating to City functions and events. For further information, refer to the CoCT Privacy Policy (www.capetown.gov.za/general/privacy).

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**Parent Guardian: Name and Surname Signature Cell Number**

**INTERNAL USE ONLY**

**……………………………………….. …………………….......... …………………...**

**Staff Member: Name & Surname LIBRARY SIGNATURE**