

STATE LIBRARY⁷
QUEENSLAND

YOUNG WRITERS AWARD

2025

**TERMS AND
CONDITIONS
OF ENTRY**

YOUNG WRITERS AWARD

State Library of Queensland invites entries to this year's short story award, which aims to find the best short fiction by a young Queenslander. On offer in 2025 is a first prize of \$2,000, publication with *Kill Your Darlings* and a Queensland Writers Centre membership. Up to three runners-up will receive prizes of \$500 each plus Queensland Writers Centre membership. Judges may also recognise highly commended entries.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read and follow these terms and conditions of entry to ensure your story is eligible for the award.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Entry is free.
- The award is open to Queensland residents aged 18–25.
- Entries must be received by **5 pm AEST on Monday 12 May 2025**.
- Late entries will not be accepted under any circumstance.

AUTHOR REQUIREMENTS

- To be eligible, the writer must be:
 - an Australian Citizen or Australian Permanent Resident, **and**
 - a Queensland resident on 12 May 2025, **and**
 - 18 to 25 years (inclusive) of age on 12 May 2025, **and**
 - living at the date of entry.
- All finalists will be required to show proof of residency and age.
- Only **one entry per person** will be accepted.
- If you have entered the Young Writers Award in the past, you are welcome to enter again, unless you have won the award.
- Previous finalists of the Young Writers Award are eligible to enter.

STORY REQUIREMENTS

- The short story must:
 - be an original work written entirely by the entrant
 - be written predominantly in English
 - not currently be entered in other writing competitions, or under submission to a publisher, or subject to contractual negotiations, or have previously won a prize (previously shortlisted is permitted)
 - be unpublished. This is understood to mean that the story cannot have been previously published in print or online, including self-published or on a blog. Stories submitted to school or university courses (but not published publicly) are permitted.
- The maximum word count is 2,500 words.
- Entries over 2,500 words will not be accepted.
- Previously submitted stories are welcome.

OTHER AWARD INFORMATION

- The 2025 Young Writers Award prizes will be awarded to entries the judges consider are of the highest literary merit.
- The prizes are:
 - First prize: \$2,000, plus publication with *Kill Your Darlings* and a Queensland Writers Centre membership.
 - Up to 3 runners-up: \$500 each, plus a Queensland Writers Centre membership.
 - The judges may also acknowledge up to 5 highly commended writers.
- Entrants grant State Library of Queensland a perpetual non-exclusive worldwide licence to publish their entered work digitally or in printed format. All finalists' stories will be published on the State Library website.
- The copyright of any material submitted remains with the author. Entries must be the whole and original work of the author/s and/or illustrator/s, and subject to copyright. At their discretion, State Library and judges may determine that an entry does not comply with this condition. In some circumstances, they may determine that an award is to be withdrawn and prize money is to be repaid to State Library.
- *Kill Your Darlings* editor/s will work with the winning writer on their short story towards publication and offer a contract with industry-standard terms. An excerpt of the winning story will be published on the State Library website.
- The winner, runners-up and highly commended will be announced on the State Library website.
- Stories by the runners-up will be published, in full, on our website.
- The winner and runners-up should be prepared to participate in a small number of media and/or promotional opportunities at the time of, and in the year following, being awarded and published with *Kill Your Darlings*. These opportunities will be coordinated by the State Library's Communications team and *Kill Your Darlings*.
- The winner and runners-up will be required to have their photo taken, or submit a headshot, for publicity purposes.
- The judges' decision is final; judges reserve the right to not award any or all prizes.
- If after reasonable efforts a prize winner cannot be contacted, cannot accept a prize or is deemed to be ineligible to enter the Award, State Library reserves the right to select a different prize winner, or no prize winner, and will publish the details of any different prize winner on State Library's website.

HOW TO ENTER

How to format your short story

- Do not include your name on any page of your entry. Submissions are judged anonymously.
- Please prepare your nomination using the format below:
 - stories must be submitted as .doc or .docx (no PDFs)
 - use Times New Roman, 12-point font
 - use 1.5 line spacing with a three-centimetre page margin
 - include the title of your story in the header of each page
 - number each page
 - the word count cannot exceed 2,500 words (excluding the title).
 - save your document file name as the title of your story only e.g. Cinderella.docx

The entry form can be found **here**. All forms must be submitted via the online form by **5 pm AEST on Monday 12 May 2025**. Enter your contact details and upload your story as a Word document.

Library staff and judges reserve the right to remove from the competition any entries not complying with these conditions.

INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES

If you have any questions, please contact State Library of Queensland.

Email:
storiesideas@slq.qld.gov.au

Web:
www.slq.qld.gov.au/ywa

Phone:
07 3842 9321

PRIVACY NOTICE

State Library of Queensland collects the minimum personal information necessary to process an entry and administer the Young Writers Award. We will only use the personal information from the online application form for the purpose for which it has been provided and for directly related purposes such as contacting the applicant, assessing the merits of the entry and to promote winning entries. We will not disclose personal information without the consent of the individual to whom the personal information relates, except for purposes directly related to administering this award program.

State Library of Queensland is subject to privacy legislation which applies to the Queensland public sector — the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (the Act). The Act contains several privacy principles that set out how agencies must handle personal information. Further information on the Queensland Government's information privacy scheme can be accessed through the Office of the Information Commissioner.