

Children's Book Week® Short Story Competition 2026

Write a short story for your chance to win a Children's Book Week® prize pack valued at over \$100!

By submitting an entry in the Children's Book Week® Short Story Competition 2026 ('the Competition'), you are deemed to have agreed to the following Terms and Conditions.	
Terms and Conditions	
Who can enter?	1. The Competition is open to all primary school students from Kindergarten to Year 6, living in the Wollongong Local Government Area.
Who cannot enter?	2. Council employees and their immediate family and/or household members are not eligible to enter this Competition. 3. 'Immediate family' means spouse (including de facto), child, parent and sibling (and includes 'step' variations of same).
How to enter	4. Pick up an entry form from a branch of the Wollongong City Libraries ('WCL') and fill in the required details. 5. Next, write a short story on the relevant page. The story must: - fit on the relevant page; - be original work – no generative Artificial Intelligence tools of any kind can be used; and - be inspired by the official 2026 CBCA Book Week 'Symphony of Stories' artwork or characters. 6. Entries must be submitted in person to any WCL branch between Saturday 22 August 2026 and 5pm Friday 25 September 2026 ('Submission Period'). 7. All eligible entries will be included in the Competition and are eligible to win a Children's Book Week® prize pack valued at over \$100 ('the Prize'). 8. For the purpose of these Terms and Conditions: 'eligible entry' means an entry form that satisfies the requirements set out in '5' and '6' above; and 'eligible story' refers to the story included in an eligible entry.
The Assessment Panel	9. Between 28 September 2026 and 9 October 2026, all eligible stories will be assessed by a panel comprising Council officers against the following criteria: - originality; - creativity; and - the enjoyment of the reader(s). For clarity, stories will not be judged on punctuation or grammar. 10. Seven (7) winners will be picked based on the criteria outlined in '9' above, one winner from each Wollongong City Libraries location (Corrimal, Dapto, Helensburgh, Thirroul, Unanderra, Warrawong, and Wollongong).
The Prize	11. The panel will notify the winners via phone and email by Friday 16 October 2026 ('the Notification'). 12. Each winner must make arrangements to collect their Prize, in person, from a WCL branch. 13. The panel will choose a new winner from the eligible entries if: - at the time of collecting their Prize, a winner cannot prove their eligibility to enter the Competition (residential address and school year); or - a Prize remains unclaimed four (4) weeks after a Notification. 14. Council will not accept any liability for the following: - ancillary costs associated with collecting a prize; or - damage to, or loss of, the Prize after it has been collected by a winner.

Publication	15. Council reserves the right to publish any eligible story, together with the first name and school year of the author, on Council's websites, social media channels or in print.
General	16. Council accepts no responsibility for late, lost, delayed or incomplete entry forms. 17. Council may cancel or vary the Competition at any time. Council will not be liable for any loss or costs incurred by any third party as a result of the cancellation or variation. 18. Any decision made by the panel or by Council in relation to any aspect of this Competition is final and binding and no correspondence of any kind will be entered into regarding the result, including in the event of a dispute.
Privacy Notice	• <i>Purpose of collection:</i> Council will collect the personal information of individuals who enter the Competition in order to be able to contact the winning entrants. • <i>Intended recipients:</i> Council staff. • <i>Supply:</i> While the supply of personal information is voluntary, the information provided will enable your participation in the Competition. • <i>Access / Correction:</i> Your personal information may be accessed by you and Council. A request to access, update or correct any information should be directed to Wollongong City Council. • <i>Storage:</i> The personal information collected will be stored by Council for the purposes indicated above. Personal information may be disclosed by Council if required to do so by law.