Contest Policy on
Artificial Intelligence (AI 🤖) Use

The goal of this contest is to celebrate the **original voice, imagination, and unique effort** of young writers. Therefore, all submitted work must be substantially your own creation.

Any entry that is determined to be generated, in whole or in part, by an Artificial Intelligence model (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Bard) will be ***disqualified***.

🟢 Permitted Use (AI as a Tool)

The following uses of AI tools are permitted, as they serve as assistants to the human writer:

- **Brainstorming & Idea Generation:** Using AI to generate a list of general themes, potential character names, or to overcome initial writer's block. *(The final, core idea and the content written must be yours.)*
- **Basic Polishing:** Using AI-powered editors (like Grammarly or MS Editor) primarily for **grammar, spelling, and basic punctuation checks**.
- **Research:** Using AI to quickly gather general factual information about a setting or specific detail. *(Entrants remain solely responsible for the accuracy of all facts.)*

🔴 Prohibited Use (AI as an Author)

The following uses are strictly **prohibited** and will result in immediate disqualification:

- **Text Generation:** Copying and pasting any text generated by an AI model into your story, regardless of length.
- **Core Creative Elements:** Using an AI prompt to create the fundamental **plot structure, main characters, major conflict, or thematic argument** of the story.
- **Paraphrasing or "Humanizing":** Submitting text generated by an AI and then using a separate tool or the AI itself to rewrite or rephrase it to make it sound "human."
- **Submitting AI Output:** Presenting any content that you did not personally compose, edit, and substantially transform.

The Originality Check: Process and Authorship

We celebrate the unique journey of every writer. To verify that your submission is your own original creation, please provide one of the following as a separate document:

Option A: A Handwritten Draft (Recommended for Kids) Submit a photo or scan of your story (or a significant portion of it, such as the first page or a key scene) written out in your own handwriting. This shows us the genuine, messy start of your creative work.

Option B: Version history (Recommended for Preteens/Teens) If the story is typed, share a version history (if using Docs), or something that shows proof of process, such as a mindmap, outline, or an earlier draft.

Option C: Process Note (Recommended for teens): Write a 100–150 word note discussing the creative challenge you faced while writing this story. What specific element (character, setting, plot point) did you struggle with the most, and how did your original idea change or evolve as you drafted the final version?