

STORIES FOR STRANGE TIMES

2020 VATE writing competition and online teaching and learning package

VATE is pleased to announce **Stories for Strange Times**, a short story competition and online teaching and learning package for Years 7-10 students and their teachers. We are also delighted to include well-known writers **Maxine Beneba Clarke** and **Will Kostakis** in the program.

The writing competition

Students and teachers are invited to write and submit a short story inspired by the theme **Stories for Strange Times**. There are three categories available in the competition:

Years 7-8 students | Years 9-10 students | Teachers

Entries of no more than 1000 words are due **Monday 1 June 2020** and should be emailed to education@vate.org.au. An application form to accompany each short story entry will be available shortly. The competition is open to all schools who have 2020 VATE organisational membership. To check your member details, please email membership@vate.org.au

Online teaching and learning package

To accompany the short story competition and support remote learning in Term 2, VATE has developed the following online teaching and learning package.

Professional Learning materials

Unit planner

Professional learning videos

- Scaffolding the creative process
- Teaching characterisation
- Teaching world and structure
- Teaching copy (dialogue, action and description)
- Teaching editing

Material for use by students

Competition promo video

Extended author interviews (see overleaf)

Writing activities

Rubrics

Total cost

\$149 for all members of your team to access the full online teaching and learning package. Please complete the application form and include email addresses of all staff you'd like to access the package.

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Maxine Beneba Clarke

Maxine Beneba Clarke is a widely published Australian writer of Afro-Caribbean descent. Maxine's short fiction, non-fiction and poetry have been published in numerous publications including *Overland*, *The Age*, *Meanjin*, *The Saturday Paper* and *The Big Issue*. Her critically acclaimed short fiction collection *Foreign Soil* won the ABIA for Literary Fiction Book of the Year 2015 and the 2015 Indie Book Award for Debut Fiction, and was shortlisted for the Matt Richell Award for New Writing at the 2015 ABIAs and the 2015 Stella Prize. She was also named as one of the *Sydney Morning Herald's* Best Young Novelists for 2015.

Maxine has published three poetry collections including *Carrying the World*, which won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Poetry 2017 and was shortlisted for the Colin Roderick Award. *The Hate Race*, a memoir about growing up black in Australia, won the NSW Premier's Literary Award Multicultural NSW Award 2017 and was shortlisted for an ABIA, an Indie Award, the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards and Stella Prize. *The Patchwork Bike*, Maxine's first picture book with Van T. Rudd was a CBCA Honour Book for 2017.



Will Kostakis

Will Kostakis is a writer of all things, from celebrity news stories that score cease and desist letters, to tweets for professional wrestlers. That said, he's best known for his award-winning YA novels. His first novel, *Loathing Lola*, was released when he was just nineteen. His second, *The First Third*, won the 2014 Gold Inky Award. It was also shortlisted for the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year and Australian Prime Minister's Literary awards, among others. *The Sidekicks* was his third novel for young adults, and his American debut. It went on to win the IBBY Australia Ena Noel Award.

As a high school student, Will won *Sydney Morning Herald* Young Writer of the Year for a collection of short stories. He has since contributed to numerous anthologies, including *Begin, End, Begin: A #LoveOzYA Anthology*. *Monuments* is his fourth novel.



'Write about what you love.' Maxine

'Don't be afraid!' Will