



## 2021 VATE Writing Competition and Teaching and Learning Package

### Writing competition

Building on the runaway success of **Stories for Strange Times**, we are expanding our short story competition. Entry remains **free** for students and staff at all schools with **2021 VATE membership**. Stories should be no more than **1000** words in length, this time addressing the theme **Stories That Change**.

In 2021, schools may submit up to **five** entries in each of the following **four** categories:

Years 7-8 students | Years 9-10 students | Years 11-12 students | Teachers

- Entries open **Friday 5 February 2021**
- Competition closes **5pm Friday 25 June 2021**
- All entries must be accompanied by an **application form** available from the VATE website.
- Entries should be emailed to [writingcompetition@vate.org.au](mailto:writingcompetition@vate.org.au)

### Teaching and learning package

This year our teaching and learning package features interviews with three Australian authors who speak directly to students about their craft. Throughout the series, **Cath Moore**, author of *Metal Fish*, *Falling Snow*, **Vivian Pham**, author of *The Coconut Children*, and **Ellen Van Neerven**, author of *Throat* and *Heat and Light*, will provide advice to students and share their knowledge and experience with the stages of the writing process. The teaching and learning package features **four video episodes**, each with extensive advice from all three writers.

- **Episode One** focuses on **finding inspiration**
- **Episode Two** centres around **building a world**
- **Episode Three** helps students to develop **character**
- **Episode Four** addresses the importance of **editing**

The interviews are also linked to a five lesson sequence complete with writing activities to take students through the process of creating their own story with help from the authors. The teaching and learning package also includes written and visual stimulus addressing the **Stories That Change** theme, as well as a list of suggested reading for students and teachers.

### Cost and registration

Total cost is **\$149** for all members of your English team to access the full online **Stories That Change** teaching and learning package. Please [register online here](#) on the VATE website.



## Cath Moore

Born in Guyana, Cath Moore is of Irish/Afro-Caribbean heritage. Raised in Australia she has also lived in Scotland and Belgium. Cath is also an award-winning screenwriter, teacher and filmmaker. She holds an MA in screenwriting and a PhD in Danish screenwriting practices. *Metal Fish, Falling Snow* is Cath's first novel and winner of the 2021 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Young Adult Writing.



**'Just be curious.'** Cath

## Vivian Pham

Vivian Pham is a Vietnamese-Australian fiction writer, closet poet, amateur screenwriter, and university student currently completing a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Philosophy. In 2018 and 2019, Vivian attended the International Congress of Youth Voices and shared a stage with incongruously successful writers and activists like Dave Eggers, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Rep. John Lewis and Khaled Hosseini. It is her greatest hope to have an impact on political issues through her creative work.



**'I feel like a lot of that book was me trying to... bridge the distance between me and my parents and me and my culture...'** Vivian

## Ellen Van Neerven

Ellen van Neerven is an award-winning author, editor and educator of Mununjali (Yugambah language group) and Dutch heritage. They write fiction, poetry, and non-fiction, and play football on unceded Turrbal and Yuggera land. Ellen's latest book is *Throat*.



**'I think it's just about letting yourself be free.'** Ellen