



A Story in Miniature: 2026 VATE Writing Competition

Entry guidelines

- Open to Years 7–12 students and teachers from schools with 2026 VATE membership.
- One entry per person and a maximum of five entries per category per school.
- Only one category per entrant. Multiple entries will result in disqualification.
- Stories that are currently entered in other competitions are **not** eligible to be entered.
- Entries must be original and created without help from others or generated by AI.
- Submit entries as .docx or .doc files (no PDFs or cloud links).
- Use 12pt Arial font, double-spaced.
- Entries will be deidentified for judging.
- Submission period: **13 July 2025 to 18 September 2026 4pm** (late entries will not be accepted).
- Entries must include a completed entry form confirming agreement to terms and conditions of the competition.
- Email entries and forms to: writingcompetition@vate.org.au

Terms and conditions of entry

- Judges' decisions will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You will be automatically disqualified from the competition if any plagiarised work is submitted.
- Entries generated using AI are prohibited. Entries found to be generated using AI will be disqualified. Minor use of AI for checking grammar and spelling is permitted.
- Entries must not include material that infringes on the copyright of anyone else.
- Winners will be announced via VATE member eBulletin.
- Entrants may be asked to assist in media publicity in the form of comments, online interviews and/or photographs.
- All entrants agree to their stories being published on the VATE website, in *Idiom*, and to VATE using them in teaching and learning material.
- Copyright remains with the author, however, VATE reserves the right to have any entry published, reproduced or publicised for promotion purposes.