



2025-2026 Entry Rules for Schools

About entries

1. The competition will be judged in **2** separate sections:
 - **Secondary school** (S3-S6). 1st prize £100, 2nd prize £60, 3rd prize £40. Highly commended and commended awarded at the judges' discretion.
 - **Primary school** (P5-P7). 1st prize £50, 2nd prize £30, 3rd prize £20. Highly commended and commended awarded at the judges' discretion.There are also prizes of £100 each for the primary school and secondary school judged to have submitted the best standard of entries overall and a trophy for the best secondary school.
2. School entrants must be in the named year groups on the competition closing date.
3. The school competition is limited to school or home educated pupils registered with Highland Council.
4. Pupils may submit only one entry.
5. Entry is free.
6. The writing must be previously unpublished and can be in any variety of English or Scots or a combination of both.
7. The writing must be inspired by the theme specified on the entry form. The theme does **not** have to be the title of the piece of writing.
8. The title must be written on both the entry form and the entry itself.
9. The name of the entrant and the name of the school must **not** be on the actual entry itself, but must be on the entry form.
10. The writing can be either prose or poetry
11. The length of entries is limited as follows:
 - Poetry (primary and secondary) up to 40 lines
 - Primary prose up to 500 words; Secondary prose up to 1000 words
12. Copyright will remain with the author. The organisers reserve the right to publish winning and commended entries on the High Life Highland website.

Entrants who use real people *under their real names* as characters in their story or poem are advised that they should ensure they have permission to do so, as winning entries will appear on the High Life Highland website.

About submission of entries

1. Early submission is encouraged. The last date for acceptance of entries is **Friday 06 March 2025**.
2. **Entries by post:** Three copies of each entry must be submitted, typed on A4 paper. **Entrants must NOT put their names or the name of their school on the entry itself** but should attach one single completed entry form to the 3 copies. Schools may send entries collectively in one large envelope, but each pupil's entry must be identified by having the pupil's single entry form pinned to the 3 copies of the entry. Please send entries clearly marked "**Neil Gunn Writing Competition**" to: The Library Support Unit, High Life Highland, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness, IV1 1UA. If an email address is supplied, receipt will be acknowledged by email. For a posted acknowledgement of receipt, enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope marked "Receipt".
3. **Entries by email:** Entries may be sent in pdf format, with entry forms in Word or pdf format to **neilgunnwritingcompetition@gmail.com**. Receipt will be acknowledged by email.

About the judging

1. A panel appointed by High Life Highland and The Neil Gunn Trust will judge the entries.
2. The judges reserve the right to make special awards for schools and commendations for individuals.
3. Those judging the competition or involved with its organisation in any direct way are not eligible to enter.
4. Entries cannot be returned.
5. Judges cannot enter into discussions about individual entries. Comments by the lead judges on winning entries will be available at www.highlifehighland.com/neilgunn.