

Writing Hints and Tips



Check out these writing hints and tips from our competition judges to help you write your best story!



Plan your story. Does your story follow the **correct structure of a short story**? There are lots of websites you can look up to help with this.



Have you used **paragraphs** properly?



Have you **edited, drafted and redrafted** your story so it is the best example of what you are capable of writing? Editing and drafting is an important way to pick up errors and make your writing tighter.



Choose your **font** and font size carefully. Is it readable? We prefer Times New Roman, size 12.



Use **Word Count** to make sure you keep within 2000 words.



Use **Spellcheck**. Look at any red squiggly lines underneath words in your story – is the spelling correct? Grammar and punctuation are also important – those wiggly red, green and blue lines are there for a reason!



Read your story aloud – does it make sense?



Make sure your story is original.

Other things you can do

Visit library.armadale.wa.gov.au/armadale-young-writers-awards to read great tips from author Mark Greenwood, and view his online workshops when they are available.

Good writers are readers – **read** the type of stories you like to write, see how authors build tension, create atmosphere and develop real **characters** with motivations.

You can read previous finalists' stories on our website or visit a City of Armadale Library (Armadale, Kelmscott, Seville Grove) to borrow hard copies.

Use **dialogue** (the exchange of spoken words between two or more characters) to tell the story rather than explicitly spelling out every plot detail. These qualities were displayed by many previous winning entries.

Research is important when writing about places/historical periods – extensive research turns into authentic writing and the ability to create a strong sense of place and real characters.

Parents – our judges recommend your child reads their story aloud to you to make sure it makes sense. Remember you can help with spelling and punctuation but the story must be entirely their own work and an original idea.

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