

ARMADALE WRITERS' AWARD

Celebrating
West Australian
Adult Writers



Hints & Tips

What are the judges looking for in competition entries?

1. Originality of the premise and how the story is executed.
2. A clear beginning, middle, and ending.
3. Stories which get off to a fast start and stick to the point.
4. A clear resolution that makes sense and is fitting with the tone of the story.
5. A strong, authentic, and distinct voice.
6. Using only the necessary details for understanding the situation.
7. Focus on one idea or problem.
8. Only one or two main characters.
9. A balance of light and shade.
10. Clarity of ideas. It should be clear what is happening throughout the story.
11. The author writes with a sense of authority or confidence.
12. Stories that have been well edited without errors or inconsistencies or repetition of certain words such as dark, or putting in unnecessary and repeated adverbs, such as little and soft.
13. Stories that show, rather than tell.
14. Factual or unfamiliar information that has been thoroughly researched, and not just made up.
15. A setting that is established and maintained throughout the story with a few brushstrokes, or which is implied through dialogue and action.
16. A good balance of dialogue and description of the action and setting.
17. Include fresh and evocative sensory details as a means of increasing reader immersion.
18. A story that has been set out according to competition guidelines – please read the How to Enter section of the Terms & Conditions for details about this.

Explore uncommon genres and settings.

Remember - there's no such thing as bad writing, only unfinished writing.