



About the competition

A Sense of Place: Embracing Diversity, Inspiring Unity, is a writing competition open to all NSW school students across Stages 2-6, including home-schooled students. This competition offers young individuals the opportunity to become published authors and highlight their creativity. It is designed to support English education for students and teachers may refer to the [NSW English Syllabus](#). Teachers can **use their booked visit** to the Nan Tien Temple as a stimulus material for discussions across key learning areas. We would like to thank the teachers who have supported previous excursions to the Temple and made valuable contributions to the planning of this creative writing competition.

Nan Tien Temple will publish 40 selected entries, in ***A Sense of Place: Embracing Diversity, Inspiring Unity Anthology*** and distribute to the schools who entered the competition.

This is an opportunity to immerse your students in a world of firsthand experiences, sensory exploration, and newfound knowledge acquired during their temple visit. Encourage them to craft narratives that not only capture the unique essence of the place but also celebrate cultural diversity, promoting unity through the art of storytelling.

Dates

Open: 1st February. Close: 5th July 2024. Winners notified by 19th July 2024. Announced publicly in early August 2024. The names of the Awarded Students and their schools will be published in the Anthology, posted on the website, and sent out in our Education Newsletter.



Prizes and Awards

Stage	1 st Prize	Highly Commended
Stage 2	\$100 + Gift Pack	\$50 X 5
Stage 3	\$150 + Gift Pack	\$100 X 5
Stage 4	\$150 + Gift Pack	\$100 X 5
Stage 5	\$200 + Gift Pack	\$100 X 5
Stage 6	\$200 + Gift Pack	\$100 X 5

All students will receive a Participation Certificate.

Awards and prizes will be sent to the individual students at their schools. Nan Tien Temple monastics may be available to visit during School Assembly to present the Prize and award to the winning recipients, subject to travel distances.

Competition Guidelines

- Entries should be typed and up to 700 words in length.
- Only **individual student entries** can be submitted. No group entries.
- All aspects of the writing process must be the student's own work.
- Schools can only submit one entry per participating student.
- Schools need to acquire Parent/Guardian permission to submit the student work.
- Students as individuals can revisit the temple to further support their writing.

How to enter

Schools book their visit to Nan Tien Temple. On the day, students join the 90-minute guided tour, and teachers select the various workshops (e.g. Tai Chi, Calligraphy, Dharma Talk, Origami, etc.). Students will have time during the day to record their ideas and inspirations. Schools submit the works to the competition on behalf of their students after the visit. Teachers can undertake preparation for the excursion by familiarising the students with the Nan Tien Temple pre-visit booklet and creative writing techniques.

Visit our website <https://www.nantien.org.au/en/visit-us/tours-school-excursions>

Submit students' works

Before completing this form, please ensure the entries are:

- Typed (size 12 font, double-spaced) or neatly handwritten on one side of the A4 page only.
- Under the 700-word limit.
- Have the title of the written work at the top of the page.
- Include the student's full name, name of school and Stage at the bottom of the page, below the written work.
- Have the student sign the lower section of the page, showing consent to submit
- Name the document and place individual students' word.doc entries e.g. Bill.Murray.doc and into a folder named, [School Name_writerscomp] e.g. BulliHS-writerscomp.
- Email to **community@nantien.org.au**



Alternatively, teachers can post the online application and with the entries to: **A Sense of Place**, Nan Tien temple, 180 Berkeley Road Berkeley NSW 2506. Click for the application form [here](#) or scan the QR code below.

Judging

A panel of experienced primary and secondary school teachers, staff from the South Coast Writers Centre and resident Monastics will judge the entries. The decision of the judging panel is final.

Assessment Criteria

When assessing the entries, the judges use the following criteria:

- It makes connection to the Nan Tien temple.
- Makes the theme '**A Sense of Place: Embracing diversity and inspiring unity**' central to the writing.
- Engages the reader in imaginative, interpretative, and emotive or creative ways.
- Maintains a consistent structure appropriate for the types of text selected (e.g. poem, script, story).
- Uses a range of strategies to engage the intended audience.
- Uses a variety of language forms and features, vocabulary, and punctuation.
- Considers the content, purpose, and audience.
- Includes age-appropriate content.
- Stay within the 700-word limit.

Helpful hints:

- Have a suitable title for your written work.
- Writing coherently to develop a clear storyline.
- Use the Temple to convey a particular perspective in a setting that is relevant and interesting way.
- Use language creatively and purposefully.
- Build tension and create an atmosphere or mood through well-crafted descriptions.
- Select a form of writing that allows for your creative expression.
- Have a clear personal voice.
- Write appropriate descriptive settings.
- Use techniques such as repetition of words and ideas to build text cohesion.
- Create believable characters.
- Experiment with text structures such as a plot twist or a circular plot.
- Use well-structured sentences and paragraphs to organise the text.
- Engage the reader with original ideas and take them on a journey.
- Use affective language creatively.
- Use sensory description to add detail to the writing.

- Selecting language that is appropriate to the context and setting.
- Use original and creative figurative devices such as similes and metaphors.
- Create an interesting title relevant to the writing.
- Draw on background knowledge or make connections to other learning.
- Use Stage-appropriate grammar, spelling, and punctuation to enhance meaning
- Adhere to the word limit.

Students should:

- Make the temple and the theme central to the writing.
- Ensure the storyline is consistent and easy for the reader to follow.
- Experiment with sentence structure, grammatical features, and punctuation conventions to enhance the text.
- Use a range of sentence structures and lengths, such as shortening for effect or to drive the plot.
- Develop a storyline appropriate to the maturity or age group of the writer.
- Ensure the writing suits the context, purpose, and audience.
- Use precise verbs to describe the emotions and feelings of the characters.
- Purposefully use descriptive language.
- Edit their writing carefully, for example, to ensure there is consistency of tense.

Contact

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Book Visit to the Temple



Submit Students' Work