

Covering Ground Education

Narrative Writing Competition



Covering Ground Education invites students to enter our **narrative writing competition**, designed to celebrate creativity and strong storytelling. Write an **original story** that incorporates a clear beginning, middle and end while engaging your reader through vivid ideas and thoughtful control of language.

Competition Details

Primary School Category

- **Format:** Narrative writing
- **Word count:** Maximum 300 words
- **Submission deadline:** 5pm, 17th July, 2026
- **Theme prompt:** *"Progress isn't always loud—it's the steady work of **covering ground**, one deliberate step at a time."* Use this quote as a foundation for your narrative. You may interpret it in any way that inspires your story.

High School Category

- **Format:** Narrative writing
- **Word count:** Maximum 750 words
- **Submission deadline:** 5pm, 17th July, 2026
- **Theme prompt:** *"In life, **covering ground** isn't a sprint—it's a series of strategic trade-offs: deciding what to pursue and what to let go, while moving forward through uncertainty with discipline."* Use this quote as a foundation for your narrative. You may interpret it in any way that inspires your story.

How to Enter

1. Write your story, following the theme prompt and word count guidelines. Remember to use the correct prompt for the Primary or High School category.
2. Prepare your submission. Include the story title, student full name, year level, school, mailing address (for prizes) and a parent/guardian contact phone number and email.
3. Check your final draft for clear paragraphs, punctuation and spelling.
4. Submit your entry as a digital file to **marking@cgeducation.com.au**
All submissions will receive a confirmation email within 48 hours. If you are not an existing customer, an entry fee invoice will also be sent. Payment must be received before judging.
5. Pay the entry fee (if applicable) and keep confirmation for your records.

Entry Fee

The entry fee is **\$20 per submission**.

Entry is **FREE for existing Covering Ground Education students**.

Prizes & Recognition

Prizes will be awarded for **each category of entry (primary and secondary)**.

- **1st Place:** \$100 lesson voucher + prize pack + certificate + featured recognition
- **2nd Place:** \$50 lesson voucher + prize pack + certificate + featured recognition
- **3rd Place:** Prize pack + certificate + featured recognition
- **Highly Commended:** Digital certificates awarded to standout entries

Publication opportunity—selected stories may be showcased in a Covering Ground Education collection.

Originality & Academic Integrity

All submissions *must be* the student's **own original work**. Stories must not be generated or written by AI tools, and **AI detection** software may be used to verify authenticity.

Judging Criteria

Entries will be assessed using criteria aligned with the writing skills valued in Australian academic examinations and Covering Ground Education courses. The criteria will be framed around:

- **Ideas & Creativity:** originality of ideas, imaginative interpretation of the prompt and the ability to engage and impact the reader
- **Audience Engagement:** the writer's ability to sustain interest, create emotional connection and communicate ideas clearly and effectively
- **Narrative Structure & Cohesion:** a clear and purposeful beginning, development of tension or progression and logical sequencing of events
- **Character & Setting Development:** believable characters, clear motivations and effective descriptive detail that helps bring the story world to life
- **Language Use & Style:** precise vocabulary choices, varied sentence structures, strong control of tone and writing that is engaging for the intended audience
- **Technical Accuracy & Presentation:** paragraphing, punctuation, spelling, grammar and overall clarity and readability of the final submission

Judges will assess entries holistically, recognising both creativity and strong writing control appropriate to the student's stage of learning. Every great writer starts by taking the first step—now it's your turn to start *covering ground*!