



Moorabool Young Writers' Awards 2024

“The Key”- Creative Writing Awards

Primary School Brief

Early Years Primary Awards: Must be in Prep, Grades 1 or 2

Theme: The Key

Task: Imagine you have found a key. What does your key open? and what do you find inside/behind? Draw a picture or write a short description.

Prizes: Four winners (selected at random by Library staff) will win a book pack for themselves and a book pack for their classroom.

Including x1 Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) 2024 Book Week Nominee book. Packs valued at approximately \$50 each

Discussion points:

- **What is a key?** Keys are things that help you open or close something. There are different kinds of keys. Some keys are made of metal. Some keys are cards that you swipe. Some keys are buttons that you press. *Can you think of other kinds of keys?*
- **What do you use a key for?** Keys can open many things. You can use a key to open a door, a car, a locker, or a treasure chest. You can also use a key to open a book, a music box, or a computer. *What are some things that you can open with a key?*

Remember:

- Your drawing / sentence is only limited by your imagination.
- Show creativity in your picture/ sentence.
- Use capital letters for names.
- Use full stops at the ends of your sentences.

Entries Open: 11 March 2024 Entries Close: 28 April 2024



Moorabool Young Writers' Awards 2024

“The Key” – Creative Writing Awards

Primary School Brief

Middle Years Primary Awards: Must be Grades 3 & 4:

Upper Primary Awards: Grades 5 & 6

Theme: The Key

Task: Students must write a short story and mention a “key/s” somewhere in their story.

Word Limit: Up to 1000 words.

Prizes: Both a winner and a runner-up will be awarded in this category.

Winner - \$100

Runner Up - \$50

Discussion points:

- **What is a key?** Keys are things that help you open or close something. There are different kinds of keys. Some keys are made of metal. Some keys are cards that you swipe. Some keys are buttons that you press. *Can you think of other kinds of keys?*
- **What do you use a key for?** Keys can open many things. You can use a key to open a door, a car, a locker, or a treasure chest. You can also use a key to open a book, a music box, or a computer. *What are some things that you can open or close with a key?*
- **What kinds of things go with a key?** Some things that go with a key are a lock, a padlock, a keychain, a keyring, or a keyhole. E.g. A keychain is a small object that holds several keys together. A keyring is a metal ring that connects a key to a keychain or another object. A keyhole is a small opening in a lock where you insert a key.
- **What types of characters might use a key?** Some types of characters that might use a key are a detective, a spy, a thief, a pirate, or a wizard. E.g. A detective might use a key to solve a mystery or find a clue. A spy might use a key to infiltrate a secret base or escape from a trap. A thief might use a key to steal something valuable or avoid getting caught. A pirate might use a key to open a treasure chest or release a prisoner. A wizard might use a key to cast a spell or unlock a portal.
- **Where might you find/hide a key?** Some places where you might hide or find a key are under a mat, in a flower pot, in a book, in a pocket, or in a puzzle. E.g. You might hide a key under a mat or in a flower pot to keep it safe from strangers. You might



find a key in a book or in a pocket to discover a secret or a surprise. You might hide or find a key in a puzzle to challenge yourself or someone else.

Ideas on how to use the theme “The Key”:

- **Use a sentence starter:**
 - As I turned the **key** the car began to rumble ...
 - I lost my **keys** as I ran through the jungle on my escape...
 - The **key** unlocked the handcuffs ...
 - I swiped the **key** and opened the room
 - I entered the **key** code into the safe
 - My hands trembled as I turned the **key** in the rusty lock...
 - The mysterious **key** appeared on my doorstep ...
 - In the attic I discovered a golden **key** ...
 - I took a closer look through the **keyhole**
 - I stumbled upon an old diary, its pages guarded by a silver **key**...
 - The **keychain** jingled in my pocket...
 - I pulled the ivy back and found a diamond-studded **keyhole** ...
 - Legend spoke of a magical **key** that could unlock time itself...

- **Use a visual prompt:** Use the MYWA promotional poster as a visual prompt – have students select one of the images on the poster to write about in their story.

Remember:

- Plan your story with a beginning, middle and an end.
- Organise your ideas into paragraphs.
- Choose your words carefully to entertain the reader.
- Write in full sentences.
- Pay close attention to your spelling and punctuation.
- Check and edit your work during the draft process.

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