THE QUEEN'S
COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2021

Share your ideas, celebrate your story and write for a better world

ABOUT

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition is the world's oldest international writing competition for schools, established in 1883. With thousands of young people taking part every year, it is an important way to recognise achievement, elevate youth voices and develop key skills through creative writing.

THEME

COMMUNITY IN THE COMMONWEALTH

With the global spread of COVID-19, we've seen the lives of many Commonwealth citizens affected.

However through adversity, societies came together and stories of growth, community and hope continue to emerge.

ENTER BY 30 JUNE 2021

AWARDS

One winner and runner-up will be chosen from each category. Winners and runners-up will be brought to London for a week of educational and cultural events, culminating in a special Awards Ceremony.

A number of Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards will be given in both the Senior and Junior categories, rewarding excellence in writing. All successful entries will receive a Certificate of Participation.

ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

MOOMIN

Principal Sponsor 2021

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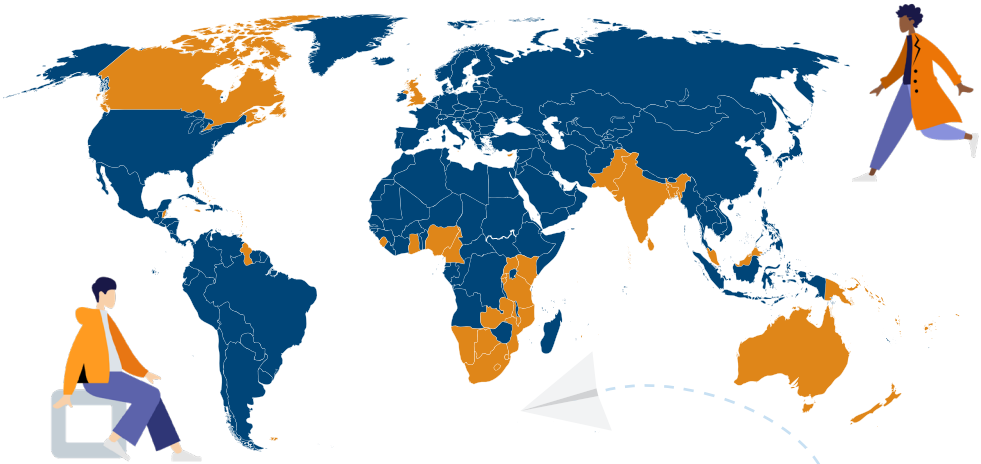
The Commonwealth is a voluntary network of 54 countries, based on a shared English language and the key values of democracy, equality, tolerance, human rights and the rule of law.



CATEGORIES

SENIOR CATEGORY

Born between 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2007 (14-18 years of age)

1. Discuss the following: "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." – Coretta Scott King
2. Keeping connected through COVID-19
3. It's been 30 years since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, what does the world look like?
4. Imagine you are the Head of a Commonwealth nation heavily affected by COVID-19 and giving a national address at the end of the pandemic. What would you say to your community?

JUNIOR CATEGORY

Born on or after 1 July 2007 (under 14 years of age)

1. The year is 2050 and you've been asked to write about the coronavirus pandemic for a museum. What story would you tell?
2. Tell a story of how you, or someone you know, helped others during the pandemic.
3. 'We will be with our friends again. We will be with our families again. We will meet again' – HM Queen Elizabeth II
   After the pandemic, you are seeing a friend for the first time. What new hobbies would you share with them?
4. What did you miss most during the pandemic?

STARTER ACTIVITIES

GIVE ME FIVE!

To help children plan stories and identify key plot points

1. Start with a closed hand. Pick a story the child knows well and explain it to them in 5 key points, open one finger each time you start a new point.
2. Help the child plan their story: What will happen? Who is in the story? How will it end?
3. Ask them to share their own story outline using the same method you did. Each time they start a new point, raise a finger.
4. Encourage them to use words like 'First..', 'Then..' and 'Finally...'to create a clear structure.

SPARK A STORY

To encourage imagination and consider different perspectives

1. Ask the child to think about how their friends and family have been living through the pandemic.
2. Ask the child to imagine what they would do with their family and friends once the pandemic ends. Where would they go?
3. Consider what life might be like in the future. What stories should be told in the future about life right now?
4. Write a story, poem or essay based on these observations.

GUIDELINES

- Nationals and residents of all Commonwealth countries and territories aged 18 and under are eligible to enter the competition, including entrants from Zimbabwe.
- All entries must be written in English.
- Entries are accepted from residents of non-Commonwealth countries who submit through their local RCS branch.
- Entrants can be presented in any form/ method of creative writing. Pictures/ Illustrations are particularly encouraged in the Junior Category.
- Full terms and conditions are available at https://www.royalcwsociety.org/enterthecompetition.

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www.royalcwsociety.org/enterthecompetition
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The Moomins, created by Finnish artist Tove Jansson, are a family of friendly, brave trolls who live an adventurous life in the idyllic and peaceful Moominvalley in harmony with nature. The original Moomin books have been translated into more than 50 languages and are much loved across the Commonwealth and beyond.

ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY