

## **Creative writing – intermediate**

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The overall standard of Intermediate Creative Writing entries was very pleasing in 2009, and nearly all entries were able to gain a Merit Certificate, if they did not achieve a Major or Minor Bursary. Major Bursary winning entries were exceptionally good. They were outstanding in their high level of originality and creativity, and their authors successfully worked science information into their storyline. Two Major Bursaries of \$85 and seventeen Minor Bursaries of \$65 were awarded. Lauren Shearman's Major Bursary winning entry – *I am an astronomer* was an imaginative and well written story about the discoveries of Maria Mitchell. Trushna Trivedi integrated relevant scientific ideas into her intriguing storyline to gain the second Major Bursary for her entry – *Seeing the outer limits of space*.

This year forty-two entries were received from students at twenty schools across Victoria, and a judging panel of six teachers assessed the entries. The most popular of the four topics were *I am an astronomer* and *Seeing the outer limits of space*. *Space school 2100* wasn't far behind in student choice. The least popular topic was *We are made of stars*; however, it was this topic that produced some of the most original and creative writing, and highest level of relevant science content.

The judging criteria for Bibliography format was generally met better than in 2008. However, there were still a number of entries that did not completely list web resources. Most entrants listed the name of the article/source, the URL address and the date accessed, but not all entrants listed the time they accessed the particular web site. It's important that entrants are familiar with the 'How to cite References and write a Bibliography' page in the STS Handbook, as well as the Creative Writing student guidelines.

Most entries were well presented, with careful attention to spelling, grammar and word length, and the listing of five key science ideas or terms in an appendix. I would encourage all future entrants to go through the process of checking their entry by ticking off the boxes on the guidelines page, in preparation for ticking the box on their entry cover sheet, which states that their entry fulfils all conditions of the handbook. Several entries had cover sheets that were not signed by the student's teacher. Entries gaining an Acknowledgement Certificate and No Bursary or Credit Certificate commonly did not provide appropriate scientific content, an appendix with five key scientific ideas and/or a bibliography.

The judges enjoyed fascinating and enthralling reads and their judging task was not an easy one, amidst so much inventive writing and accurately presented science content. Thank you to all the entrants and the judges in the Creative Writing – Intermediate section for your time and effort – well done all!