

Creative writing picture story book

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I had some reservations on this year's theme *Astronomy: Science Without Limits* as it seemed a philosophically complex topic for primary school students. However, I was delighted with the genre range and knowledge depth students used in their picture story books.

While two topics *Starry, Starry Night* and *We Have Left Our Solar System Behind*, obviously appealed to many students, the other topics, 'The Colours of Space' and 'How Different Life Would be if we had no Moon' prompted some fascinating stories and illustrations from the young writers.

Students used a wide variety of artistic techniques to enhance their stories. There were collages, computer generated drawings and a wide range of drawings utilising chalks, pastels and paint. A few students are still infringing on the thickness criteria by producing books with laminated pages or thick cardboard pages. While these strategies produce stronger books, they are really outside the thickness criteria and pose a considerable problem for posting to the judges.

Unfortunately, there are still some students who do not read the criteria carefully and write too many words or forget to include the scientific statements and references, or choose to write on their own topic. It is important to follow the guidelines.

There were many outstanding stories from both Lower Primary and Primary sections which were widely researched, scientifically complex and beautifully presented and I hope these young writers will enter in 2010.

The majority of the judges did a wonderful job, marking and returning books promptly and many wrote how wonderful the stories were and how impressively students integrated the science into illustrations and how much they enjoyed reading the entries.