

Write Off Line: Not There But Somewhere

Young NZ Writers 2021 NZ Secondary School (free)
Annual Writing Competition

Conditions of Writing Competition:

- All participants must be in years 9 - 13, and currently enrolled in any NZ school.
- Create an original short story (not published anywhere else) with the theme: *Not There But Somewhere*

Here is what we're looking for:

For *Write Off Line: Not There But Somewhere*, we're looking for short stories and poems. Send us your monster stories, ghostly encounters, and techno-atrocities. We want the unknown, the unexpected, the undiscovered. Give us the uneasy fairy tales and edge-of-your seat space thrillers. Give us stories and poems to read by torchlight under the covers. We're looking for work that makes our breath catch and our knees quake, with well-drawn characters, unexpected plots, and stunning well-crafted prose.

But we don't just want doom and gloom: your work should make us shiver but, most importantly, **it should also give us hope**. New Zealand content is strongly encouraged. To be eligible, **stories must involve a speculative aspect**—science fiction, fantasy, superhero, horror, or supernatural. Submissions which end with “and then I woke up” will be immediately disqualified.

Your work must be:

- **Prose** (up to 1200 words including title)
- **Poetry** (up to 300 words including title)
- typed using **New Times Roman** size **12 point**
- formatted with **2.0 line spacing**
- paragraphed
- written in **English as the main language**
- No colour fonts, images, or borders
- No extra tabs and no extra spacing between paragraphs (see video on YNZW website)
- **accurate for spelling, punctuation, and grammar**

Entry:

- **Entry is free** (BUT only one entry per person)
- received by **midnight on Friday 9th April 2021**
- save your file as 'name, year, school' (eg: Jane Smith Year 10 Tauranga Girls College)
- **submit via google form** –

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1YV26cn0HscYPkGgux-SygfHts5oDVD3CvrhduI1nVs/edit>

If you need more guidance please email youngnzwriters@gmail.com

Judging to be announced on a later date.

- The judge's decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Winners will be notified by email and results posted on the Young NZ Writers' website (www.youngnzwriters.weebly.com)

Publication

- An anthology of the best writing will be published as both print and e-book versions. **Entry into the competition is considered as permission from the author for their piece of writing to be included in this anthology.**
- Work selected for the anthology will be edited prior to publication and **all editors' decisions are final.**
- Copyright remains with the individual authors.

Prizes

- Place winners will receive a selection of books or book tokens

Editors' Advice

Do:

- Use a range of language techniques
- Have a strong sense of personal voice
- Use an interesting structure
- Have a beginning, a middle and an end. (Ask your teacher if you need more advice about this.)
- Make sure your story fits the theme of the competition: Not There But Somewhere (see above for guidelines about what we are looking for).

Don't:

- Use 'Not There But Somewhere' as your title.
- Kill your main character.
- Have your main character fall unconscious.
- End your story as a dream.
- End your story with 'To be continued ...'