

Creative Writing Event 2022-2023

Inspiring a new generation of writers across the Middle East

Amity International School Abu Dhabi is pleased to announce the third annual BSME Secondary School Writing Challenge.

After another incredible edition showcasing the writing talents of our BSME member schools, it is my pleasure to open entries for another round of creativity and storywriting excellence for the academic year 2022-23. Last year's competition wowed our guest judge, Harper Collins author Jamila Gavin, both in the standard of writing and the sheer number of entries from a wide range of countries across the Middle East. I am sure that we can look forward to another bumper year.

The format for this year remains unchanged, and, following positive feedback from teachers, we will maintain the entry and judging dates too. It was a great pleasure to see work from creative writing clubs, individual projects from budding writers and work from English lessons being entered, and our students' passion for story-telling and language shone on every page. I wish you and your students the very best of luck in the competition.

Paul Ferris, Head of English at Amity International School, Abu Dhabi

The theme of the event this year is 'Energy'.

The piece can be either continuous prose in any genre, poetry or a blend of both.

This is a purposefully open-ended task in both theme and form in order that schools can easily integrate the event into their curriculum and to allow students free rein to experiment and express themselves to the fullest extent.

Age Categories

The competition will award winners and two runners up in the following age categories:

KS3 (year 7-9) and KS4 (years 10 and 11)



Code of Conduct:

1. The event is open to students in Years 7-11 who have registered and attend a BSME member school.
2. If schools wish to participate in this event, they must complete the registration form by 3:00pm on or before Friday the 9th of December 2022.
3. The deadline for receiving actual event entries is Friday the 3rd of March 2023. Any entries after this period will not be considered.
4. Each participating school can submit two entries in the following categories:
KS3 – 800 words maximum
KS4 – 1000 words maximum

5. When submitting a student's entry, the school must choose their top two submissions per age category, then email the entries to pferris@amityabudhabi.ae with the subject: (SCHOOL NAME) entry BSME writing competition.
6. The judges will be looking for an entry that:
 - is well written, including the use of appropriate features
 - uses ambitious vocabulary
 - demonstrates creativity, imagination and style
 - engages the reader's attention using original ideas
 - is a true reflection of the student's ability
7. In all cases, all details on the entry form must be completed, including the student's first name and family name, and the school contact details (phone/email/postal address) of the teacher submitting the entry on the child's behalf.
8. Event organisers will not accept any late entries, or entries not successfully emailed.
9. By entering a piece of writing into the writing event, the entrant agrees and accepts: The event guidelines expressed in the Code of Conduct, that BSME and Amity International School Abu Dhabi may publish entered poems or stories both in print and online, including on their websites and social media channels and for PR purposes; in such cases the writer's first name and school will be shown together with the poem or story. To this end, writing must not contain themes which contradict the laws of the host country, for example, writing about suicide, and/or inappropriate references to physical affection. Where staff are concerned about the content or themes in a students' work, it is the responsibility of the school to implement appropriate safeguarding and well-being checks, and we advise that teachers read entries closely before submission
10. Entries must be the original work of the entrant and not copied from any source. Students may collaborate over ideas; however final pieces of work must be composed and edited independently.
11. The judging panel will consist of members of Amity International School's staff and Student Council.
12. The judging panel will select one winning entry for each of the age categories from the entries received by the competition deadline of Friday the 3rd of March 2023.
13. The winners of the event will be announced by Friday the 24th of March 2023.
14. The decision of the judges is final and at the absolute discretion of the panel.
15. All entries submitted will receive a certificate of participation.
16. BSME will provide digital certificates to final and winning participants.
17. Winners will be showcased on the BSME websites and social media.
18. Prizes will be provided for the overall winning entry in each age group.

Event	Date
Registration deadline	Registration deadline Friday 9 th of December 2022

Submission deadline	Submission deadline Friday 3rd of March 2023
Judging period	Judging period Sunday 12th of March – Friday 24th March 2023
Announcement of winners	Announcement of winners Friday 24th of March 2023

Complete the registration form – Registration Form
Submit your work to – pferris@amityabudhabi.ae