



Express Media John Marsden & Hachette Australia Prize Teachers Resource

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It was, is and always will be, Aboriginal land.





John Marsden & Hachette Australia Prize Teachers Resource

The John Marsden & Hachette Australia Prize for Young Writers awards unforgettable opportunities for students of secondary school age, across the categories of poetry, fiction and nonfiction.

The following resource has been created to provide students with inspiration and a starting point for their writing. For teachers, these dynamic and generative exercises are intended to get students enthused about writing for submission. A range of example activities are included for each category and can be linked to the Australian curriculum.

Please note that submissions to the competition are **not** required to respond directly to the story starters or any of the exercises. They are simply additional resources for students and teachers to spark the creative process.

Prize winners will receive \$500 and a book pack of YA titles, courtesy of Hachette Australia, publication of their work on the Express Media website plus their names and an acknowledgement printed in Voiceworks, Australia's premier youth literary journal. Fifteen shortlisted writers will also be invited to participate in a writing masterclass, and later have the chance to meet and chat with John Marsden himself.

To submit to the prize, or for more information head to www.expressmedia.org.au/jmp

All entries must be received by 11.59pm, Friday June 29, 2018.



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Outline

By participating in the following activities and submitting original work to the competition, students will be able to:

- **Create imaginative**, informative and persuasive texts that present a point of view and advance or illustrate arguments, including texts that integrate visual, print and/or audio features (ACELY1746)
- **Explore and reflect** on personal understanding of the world and significant human experience gained from interpreting various representations of life matters in texts (ACELT1635)
- **Investigate and experiment** with the use and effect of extended metaphor, metonymy, allegory, icons, myths and symbolism in texts, for example poetry, short films, graphic novels, and plays on similar themes (ACELT1637)
- **Review and edit students'** own and others' texts to improve clarity and control over content, organisation, paragraphing, sentence structure, vocabulary and audio/visual features (ACELY1747)



Fiction

Warmup Activity: Story Starter

The only people left behind were those who couldn't be seen...

Taking this opening line, continue the story for 10/15 minutes (as time allows). Students should be encouraged to extend the idea in their own way and take it in whatever direction they like.

Guiding questions (to aid writing and generate ideas)

- Who's being left behind? Why can't they be seen?
- Who's the speaker? What's their relationship with those left behind?
- What's the tone of the story?

Writing: Idea Development

As a class, discuss the stories they started, especially looking out for areas of similarities and differences. Encourage class participation to help develop the original ideas, or think of ways to alter and improve the more similar ones.

Then for the next 10/15 minutes, give students the chance to continue the story - developing it in an original direction. They might consider making the setting unique, or providing character details to enhance believability. John Marsden suggests it's important to be specific, to provide detail. Not "The car went down the street," but "The old green Ford Mustang drove down Nixon Avenue."

Students can draw from their personal lives as much as from their imaginations - good fiction is often a blend between the two.



Fiction

Lastly, in pairs get them to swap stories and do a rapid edit on each other's work listing:

- Three ideas or lines they loved in the story they read.
- An idea they think might need to be reworked or cut.
- A direction of where they think the story is going, or could go.

Encourage students to submit a final draft of their fiction piece to the 2018 John Marsden & Hachette Australia Prize for Young Writers.

Learning Outcomes Possible From These Exercises:

- **Explain** how authors creatively use the structures of sentences and clauses for particular effects (ACELA1557).
- **Review and edit** students' own and others' texts to improve clarity and control over content, organisation, paragraphing, sentence structure, vocabulary and audio/visual features (ACELY1747).



Nonfiction

Writing Activity

Forget everything you've heard, it's wrong and I'm going to tell you why.

Students are to pick an issue in their lives or the media they believe in strongly and present an opposing view against it.

It should be a subject they have some familiarity with as they will already know all the arguments for it - the challenge is now to find and convincingly argue points against it.

Encourage open-mindedness and creative thinking, as well as championing authenticity of voice - they're not producing a parody but rather a compelling counterpoint.

Remind them of John Marsden's advice "every sentence should have entertainment value."

Consider giving some time for research.

Some topic examples might be 'Video Games Cause Violence', 'Text messaging is ruining language', 'Coal is Australia's future.'

Class Exercise: Pitching Their Article To The Class

The teacher can take the position of an editor of a newspaper or a magazine, and the students have to pitch it to them.

Questions students should respond to:

- Why should this story be published?
- Why are they the best person to write it? What makes their viewpoint unique?
- What kind of reaction will it generate?



Nonfiction

Learning Outcomes Possible From These Exercises:

- **Interpret and compare** how representations of people and culture in literary texts are drawn from different historical, social and cultural contexts (ACELT1633).
- **Use interaction skills to present and discuss** an idea and to influence and engage an audience by selecting persuasive language, varying voice tone, pitch, and pace, and using elements such as music and sound effects (ACELY1811).



Poetry

Warmup Activity

Students are to write a poem using a word (or words) that have been made up by them, ideally within the last few years. It can come from memes, jokes, pop culture references - just make it creative, scintillating, frabjous.

The poem doesn't have to be entirely about the word, the word just needs to feature in the poem, ideally in a context that makes it comprehensible even to an outsider.

Writing Activity: Good Bad Advice

*Remember to always swim
after eating, outside the flags,
especially when bleeding.*

Everyone's always giving their loved ones advice on how to stay safe and healthy. But even if it's well-intentioned, it's not always useful. This exercise explores the idea of good bad advice, either accidentally or deliberately misleading, certainly not as helpful as you might expect.

Encourage thoughtful responses rather than something easy (not just "go play in traffic" / "take a long walk off a short pier").

It doesn't have to be malicious. If there's particularly good and interesting advice they've heard or been given and want to do a different spin on it, then they can explore that too.



Poetry

Learning Outcomes Possible From These Exercises:

- **Understand** that Standard Australian English is a living language within which the creation and loss of words and the evolution of usage is ongoing (ACELA1550).
- **Investigate and experiment** with the use and effect of extended metaphor, metonymy, allegory, icons, myths and symbolism in texts, for example poetry, short films, graphic novels, and plays on similar themes (ACELT1637).



Competition guidelines

HOW TO ENTER

1. All entries must be received by 11.59pm, Friday June 29, 2018
2. One entry may be submitted, per category, with a maximum of 2 entries across the 3 categories
3. Each entry must be submitted via the submissions portal, with one entry per submission form. DO NOT put multiple submissions in one word or PDF document
4. Submissions of fiction or nonfiction may be up to 3,000 words in length
5. Submissions of poetry may be up to 100 lines in length
6. All entries must be typed and double-spaced
7. Submittable accounts must be created in the entrant's own name and list the entrant's contact details

PRIZE DETAILS

Shortlisted writers from each prize category receive:

- Feedback on their writing from Hachette Australia and Express Media judges
- An invitation to meet John Marsden over lunch hosted by Hachette Australia and Express Media
- An invitation to take part in an exclusive writing masterclass
- An invitation to attend a premiere event as a guest of the Melbourne Writers Festival

The first place winner of each prize category receives the above, plus:

- \$500 cash prize
- Up to \$500 travel reimbursement to attend the winners' announcement event
- A book pack of selected works from Hachette Australia's young adult publications
- Publication on the Express Media website
- Winner names and an acknowledgement will be printed in *Voiceworks*, Australia's premier youth literary journal

MEMBERSHIP

If you're aged 13 to 30 with an interest in writing, reading, or storytelling, become a member of Express Media and subscribe to Voiceworks to access opportunities to develop, share, and publish your writing. Plus, you'll receive invites to launches, events and workshops and join a community of young writers across the country!

Express Media Membership

\$25 per year includes:

- A subscription to the monthly Express Post newsletter packed full of the latest writing and publication opportunities
- Unlimited submissions to Express Media's publications, prizes and fellowships
- Unlimited access to Express Media's courses, workshops and events
- A PDF version of the latest issue of Voiceworks delivered to your email inbox each quarter

Add a print subscription to Voiceworks for just \$50!

To sign up for an Express Media Membership visit expressmedia.org.au/membership

We offer joint memberships with writers centres across Australia – find the membership suitable to you in your state via our website.



Voiceworks Subscription (4 issues)

\$60 per year

The best way to get involved with Voiceworks is to read it! Each issue is stuffed to the gills with a varied selection of work by remarkable young writers and artists. Over the past year, our pages have been filled with stories about moon-visiting dogs and hidden queer identities; essays about Maltese prickly pears and murderous kookaburras; poems about clones and teenage gorgons; and comics about intimacy and the Dutch Golden Age.

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