

Bridgetown Writers Fest Short Story Competition 2027 Rules and Submission Process

The basics

- Competition closes 31 January 2027
- Stories of any fiction genre
- Maximum of 2,500 words
- Entrants must be 18 and over, as of closing date
- Entrants must be a resident of Western Australia
- Humans only
- Entry costs \$5 per submission, payment link here: <https://square.link/u/eAyLR7EW>
- Shortlist announced 31 March 2027
- Winner announced June 2027 (at the Bridgetown Writers Fest)
- Prize is \$50 for first prize, \$20 for second prize, \$10 for third prize.

Rules

Open submission: there is no theme/prompt.

Entry is open to all residents of Western Australia aged 18 and over as of 31 January 2027.

The work must be original and unpublished. Posting online/social media/anywhere public counts as published.

The work can be of any fiction genre, but depictions of graphic physical/sexual violence are not welcome.

There is no minimum length. Maximum length is 2500 words. Stories must be written in or translated to English.

Entries close **11.59pm 31 January 2027**. Shortlist will be announced on the website on 31 March 2027. Shortlisted entries will be notified by email.

The final three winners will be announced by email, on the website, and at the BWF in June.

No AI

Must be 100% human authored. We're interested in **your** voice and **your** creativity.

Submission process

All entries must be submitted digitally by emailing submissions@bridgetownwritersfest.au with an attached Word document. Each entry requires a separate email.

Format: Serif font (such as Times New Roman), at least 12 pt, double-spaced. Title and page numbers must be included in the footer. Your name must **not** appear on any page.

The email address you use to submit your story should be the same as that used to make payment – if this is not possible, include a screenshot or payment receipt/id with your submission to confirm entry fee payment.

Also include your Western Australia residential address in the body of the email.

If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 48 hours, please email it again.

All submissions are final. If you wish to resubmit an edited story, you will need to make a new submission.

Prizes

First prize: \$50

Second prize: \$20

Third prize: \$10

Rights

By entering, you assert that the work is original and you own all rights. **You retain all rights.**

We will not share your work with any outside party. All names, addresses, and email addresses (unless you have indicated you would like to join the BWF email mailing list), will be deleted upon announcement of the shortlist and winner.

Entry fee

Entry is **\$5 per submission**. Non-refundable payment via <https://square.link/u/eAyLR7EW>

This is a non-profit enterprise. The small fee supplies the prize money and covers the cost of administering the competition. It also dissuades AI bots from spamming the entries and overwhelming our volunteer admin. Funds raised in excess, if any, will go towards running BWF.

Judging process

A panel of three avid readers will read all entries, anonymised. Criteria for progressing to the shortlist are: excellent writing; original storytelling; character and world depth. See attached rubric.

The final shortlist will be professionally judged by two experienced editors. All decisions are final and no editorial commentary will be provided, except for the winning entries.

SHORT STORY RUBRIC

CRITERIA	ELEMENTS	NOTES
Creativity and Originality 25 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Story has an imaginative and unique concept.• Characters are original and not cliché.• Plot is unpredictable and engaging.	
World Building 25 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The setting and atmosphere is well-developed.• The characters and their motivations are well integrated into the world.• Rules and laws of the world are clearly established.	
Character Development 25 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Characters are well-developed and multi-dimensional.• Characters display realistic growth and change throughout the story.• Dialogue feels natural and authentic.	
Writing Style 25 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing is clear, engaging, and concise.• Word choice is varied and appropriate for the genre.• Grammar and spelling are accurate.	