

the Elsie Locke Writing Prize 2014



for original writing by students in years 7 and 8

Since 2009, thousands of students have participated in the Elsie Locke Writing Prize. Support your students to take part, too.

The **Elsie Locke Writing Prize** commemorates Elsie Locke's life, both as a writer and as a person who was concerned about peace, the environment, women's issues, and community. The winner receives \$250 together with a commemorative bookplate and certificate, and their story is published in a *School Journal*.

Theme for 2014 – Water

Water is a crucial resource. It matters to people, to countries, to the planet. So who does water belong to? How should it be used and controlled?

Students should write a piece of fiction in which water plays a key role. The story could be about people finding water, using water, needing water, or fighting over water. It could be set in the past, present, or future – but it needs to show that water matters.

For stories and articles in the *School Journal* that might help with the theme, see "Water Worries" by Rachael McMillan (SJ Level 3 April 2012) and "Kahawai" by Paul Mason (SJ Level 3 October 2013).

Judging

Entries will be judged on the quality of the writing. The judges look for the following:

- An effective, original response to the theme
- The ability to engage the reader
- A sense of time, place, and character
- Clarity and coherence
- A flair with language (in particular, the effective use of figurative language).

To read the winning stories from previous years, see "War Games" (SJ 4.3.09), "The Half-crown" (SJ 4.3.10), "Too Close to the Wind" (SJ Level 4 October 2011), and "Past, Present, and Future" (SJ Level 4 October 2012).

These stories can also be read on the Elsie Locke website (www.elsielocketrust.org.nz).

Competition Rules

The Competition is open to students in years 7 and 8. Entries should be around 500–600 words (maximum). They may be handwritten. All work must be the writer's own, and the winner must be willing for their story to become Crown copyright. Entries need to arrive by Monday, 4 August 2014 and should be sent to:

Susan Paris, Lift Education, PO Box 19088,
Wellington 6149

Please photocopy the form below so it can be **stapled to each entry**.

Name: _____

School: _____

Year level: _____

I certify that the work is my own and I give my permission for it to be published in the *School Journal* under Crown copyright.

Signed: _____