

THE Elsie Locke Writing Prize 2015



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 the *School Journal*.

Theme for 2015

A story set in New Zealand around the time of the First World War.

Events can be real or imagined, but the story should capture what it was like for people in New Zealand while others were serving overseas as soldiers, nurses, ambulance staff, or volunteers.

The story could be about what happened in schools or your local area at the time. It could be about a conscientious objector, attending a peace rally, farewelling troops, or creating a war memorial. Or it could be about anything else that happened in New Zealand because of the war.

For stories and articles in the *School Journal* that might help with the theme, see last year's two war-themed journals (SJ Level 3 June 2014 and SJ Level 4 June 2014).

Judging

Entries will be judged on the quality of the writing. The judges will 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), "Past, Present, and Future" (SJ Level 4 October 2012), and "Close to the Edge" (SJ Level 4 November 2014).

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 6 July 2015 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**. The winner will be announced on Monday 3 August on the Elsie Locke website and Lift Education's website.

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: _____