

Picture Story Books (Creative Writing) – Lower Primary, Middle Primary and Upper Primary divisions

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I am always amazed at the inventiveness of primary students' Science Talent Search entries in the creative writing section. This year's topic of DRONES, DROIDS AND ROBOTS had a certain childish appeal but I had thought that implanting the science into a picture story book may be challenging. However, the students again surprised me with their entries. "The Best Robot Ever" proved the most popular of the four topics and this was the most noticeable choice for the Lower Primary students. "Help Me", favoured by the Upper Primary students, was a close second. The number of students entering this section was slightly down on previous years. Students generally followed the criteria but there is an increasing number of students laminating their entries and using thick paper or cardboard for their stories. The use of spiral bound booklets and thick, cardboard folders has made for weighty and awkward packing problems, creating a costly postage bill. The entries are mailed to judges across the city and country Victoria and this is made easier when students follow the guidelines and meet the set criteria. Certainly, many students who have been awarded Major and Minor Bursaries by the judges met these criteria. This brings me to the wonderful team of judges who receive entries in mid July with a note to complete judging within the next 14 days. Well done, judges, for a magnificent job and for always commenting positively on the creativity of the stories and the enjoyment of reading students' entries. Finally, I encourage students to keep writing and illustrating. While I have not personally met most students, I feel I know some students who have entered many times throughout their primary years and I have enjoyed observing their writing and science maturation.