

# PENS *Against* POVERTY



# WHAT IS PENS AGAINST POVERTY?

## THE POWER OF THE PEN TO CHANGE THE WORLD!



Pens Against Poverty is a unique writing competition created for young writers here in Canberra. The competition has now been extended to include schools in Southern NSW.

The Pens Against Poverty competition is founded on the belief that:

- **Young people want to make a difference**
- **Young people have a unique voice**
- **Creative writing powers the imagination**

The competition was initiated by Canberra teacher, Kate Halcrow with Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT. We are actively supported by other Canberra-based community service organisations including ACTCOSS, Marymead, Red Cross, Uniting,

Vinnies, Woden Community Service and the YWCA. The event is an official activity of Anti-Poverty Week, ACT.

The competition was conceived with the belief that students write more purposefully when given a genuine purpose and real audience. The competition began in 2015 and each year renowned Australian author, Jackie French has been competition judge.

Pens Against Poverty demonstrates the power of poetry and fiction to heighten empathy among readers and writers, through the imagination and shared experience. The writing of young people is often raw, honest and thoroughly fresh which is the most exciting part of the competition.

## ABOUT ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

Anti-Poverty Week is a week where all Australians are encouraged to organise or take part in an activity aiming to highlight or overcome issues of poverty and hardship here in Australia or overseas. It was established in Australia as an expansion of the UN's annual International Anti-Poverty Day in October. In 2019, Anti-Poverty Week will be held from the 13th to the 19th of October.

Some activities are organised by welfare and health organisations, religious groups, community organisations, schools and youth groups. Many other types of organisation also arrange activities, including government departments, local councils, business organisations, universities and sporting and cultural groups.





# HOW TO ENTER



## Criteria:

The judges will determine the winners based on the following criteria:

- Empathy with subject
- Creative interpretation of theme
- Innovation and control of language
- Authentic and original author's tone
- An awareness of audience (appeals to the reader in some way)
- Care with editing and revision

It is **FREE** to enter. Entries close Friday September 6th



## Send to:

**Anglicare Pens Against Poverty Team**  
**PO Box 360**  
**Canberra ACT 2601**

If sent by mail, must be **TYPED** font in Arial or Times New Roman size 10-14 font (must not be handwritten, **NO** images or colour to be included).



## All entries:

To be valid, entries need to be received by (TBC). Must be an original **POEM** or **STORY** and no more than 500 words.

The theme should be the focus of the story or poem in some way, however the theme does not need to be overdone. Imagination, lateral thinking and creativity are encouraged!

No more than **THREE** entries per student.



## To Enter Online:

All online submissions must be entered by a teacher. It is strongly advised that teachers seek parent permission first.

Students need teachers to endorse their online submission. Teachers can submit entries at:  
**[pensagainstpoverty.org.au](https://pensagainstpoverty.org.au)**

Enter each student separately.  
No more than 3 entries per student.

# EXAMPLE SUBMISSION:

**Year 3/4 – Poetry  
WINNER**

**Name: Tim Minogue  
School: St Bede's Primary Red Hill**

On the Edge

As I saw the wolf on the edge of the  
mountain,  
His loud howl burst out of his mouth like  
water coming out of a fountain.

The wolf was standing there blocking the  
sun,  
I thought to myself, "Should I run?"

The wolf was looking at me as if I were  
prey,  
I was getting ready to sprint away.

The wolf looked sad and alone.  
It looked like it was injured as he began  
to moan.

I started to get intrigued and wandered  
up the hill,  
The sun began to set, and it gave me a  
chill.

There was loose gravel and dead trees  
everywhere,  
The wolf glared at me, eyes like a bear.

I felt like a detective inspecting the beast.  
As I inspected his body there were no  
injuries I could see, at least.

I knew the wolf wasn't injured. So why  
would he be up here?

He didn't look sad, but he didn't look like  
he wanted to cheer.

His eyes never shifted from where he was  
facing,  
And that's when I realised I never turned  
around, to see what he was embracing.

Maybe the wolf came up here to look at  
the beautiful city,  
That was probably right ,because it was  
so pretty.

Being on the edge brought a great sight,  
Whether it was dark or light, morning or  
night.

I could see all the buildings, big or small,  
Right now looking on the edge, nothing  
mattered at all.

I felt lucky because people that are  
homeless might  
Not, be able to see such a beautiful sight,

They must be sad because they might  
Not, have enough strength to see the  
view at night.

The wolf is like the lucky person who's  
poor, and able to see this view  
The boy hears the man talking about the  
view, realizing it might be a clue..