

# ISA Handwriting Competition



**DEADLINE**  
**WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 2025**

YR 1-YR 6: CURSIVE OR NON-CURSIVE

YR 7-YR 13: CURSIVE, NON-CURSIVE OR ARTISTIC WRITING

**OPEN TO ALL AGES.**

**COMPETITION OPEN TO ISA  
MEMBERS' SCHOOLS ONLY**

**VISIT THE ISA WEBSITE  
FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

**SUPPORTED BY**



**ISA**

**ARTS**

[www.isaschools.org.uk](http://www.isaschools.org.uk) | [isaarts@isaschools.org.uk](mailto:isaarts@isaschools.org.uk) | [@ISAartsUK](https://www.instagram.com/ISAartsUK)

### Eligibility

This competition is open to ISA Members' schools only. Schools can submit a maximum of two entries per age category. We encourage schools to run a competition in house and put through their best projects.

*At ISA, we are committed to making our opportunities accessible, we welcome applications from all pupils, including those with learning difficulties or disabilities. Alternative formats of these guidelines are available on request. Please notify us at the earliest opportunity so we can provide the document accordingly, if required.*

### Age group categories

- Year 1 (Cursive or non-cursive)
- Year 2 (Cursive or non-cursive)
- Year 3-4 (Cursive or non-cursive)
- Year 5-6 (Cursive or non-cursive)
- Year 7-9 (Cursive, non-cursive or artistic writing)
- Year 10-13 (Cursive or non-cursive or artistic writing)

### How to enter

Please see below the set poems for each age category. Individual entries only, no groups.

Entries must be submitted via the online entry form [here](#) on the ISA website as JPEG or PDF format by **Wednesday 12 March 2025** at the latest.

We strongly encourage students to use the templates provided on our website. However, if they wish to use a different paper it's important for each entries must be titled in the following format: school name followed by the pupil name e.g. SchoolName\_JohnSmith and their year group.

### Judging criteria

- Legibility – how easily the writing can be read and the formatting of the letters making them legible.
- Fluency – smoothness and flow of the writing. For the older years, has the writing style been defined and flow naturally
- Competence – Spacing between letters and words, consistency of letter size, is it along a straight line
- Accuracy and neatness -
- Correct punctuation – Capital letters and punctuation in the right place
- For the older years, has the writing style been defined and flow naturally

### Rules

- Please ensure entries are complete with the name of the pupil, school name and their category clearly written in the bottom right of the page they are submitting.
- Entries should be on one single sheet of plain white A4 paper, with a suitable margin. Line guides can be accessed on our website, if desired, but spacing should be planned to suit the individual pupil's handwriting.
- Handwriting can be in pencil or black or blue ink.
- Entries must include all the text from the sample, including the title and the name of the author/poet.

- Artistic writing should explore different font types in creative ways such as calligraphy. Embellishments (e.g. illustrations) are not allowed.
- While we recognise the potential benefit of AI, we kindly request that participants are using it for inspiration and support and in line with their schools policies on its use, rather than using it to generate their writing. Please include details about the process of using AI under “any special circumstances” box if applicable, so judges are aware.

### Set poems for ISA Handwriting Competition 2025

Year 1	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Popcorn</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stop! Stop! That pot is hot! Grab a lid. Put it on top! There is a lot of pop-pop-pop hopping popcorn in that pot!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">By Lil Pluta</p>
Year 2	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Little Things</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Little drops of water Little grains of sand, Make the might ocean, And the pleasant land</p> <p style="text-align: center;">by Julia A. Fletcher Carney</p>
Year 3-4	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Excerpt of There's A Dragon In The Classroom</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">There's a dragon in the classroom: its body is a box, its head's a plastic waste-bin, its eyes are broken clocks,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘Oh, what a lovely dragon,’ our teacher smiled and said ‘You are a pretty dragon,’ she laughed and stroked its head.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">By Charles Thomson</p>

Year 5-6	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Rose That Grew from Concrete</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete? Proving nature's law is wrong it learned to walk without having feet. Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams, it learned to breathe fresh air. Long live the rose that grew from concrete when no one else ever cared.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">By Tupac Shakur</p>
Year 7-9	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Excerpt of I wandered Lonely as a Cloud</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">I wandered lonely as a cloud That floats on high o'er vales and hills, When all at once I saw a crowd, A host, of golden daffodils; Beside the lake, beneath the trees, Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Continuous as the stars that shine And twinkle on the milky way, They stretched in never-ending line Along the margin of a bay: Ten thousand saw I at a glance, Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">By William Wordsworth</p>

Year 10-13

A Portable Paradise

And if I speak of Paradise,  
then I'm speaking of my grandmother  
who told me to carry it always  
on my person, concealed, so  
no one else would know but me.  
That way they can't steal it, she'd say.  
And if life puts you under pressure,  
trace its ridges in your pocket,  
smell its piney scent on your handkerchief,  
hum its anthem under your breath.  
And if your stresses are sustained and daily,  
get yourself to an empty room - be it hotel,  
hostel or hovel - find a lamp  
and empty your paradise onto a desk:  
your white sands, green hills and fresh fish.  
Shine the lamp on it like the fresh hope  
of morning, and keep staring at it till you sleep.

By Roger Robinson

If you have any questions, please contact [isaarts@isaschools.org.uk](mailto:isaarts@isaschools.org.uk)

We look forward to receiving your entries