

# Nature Stories

Schools Competition



**Explore your  
neighbourhood  
through nature's lens!**

Turn over to view the  
Competition Pack.



# Competition Pack

**How do our everyday actions shape the future of trees, wildlife and water? Understanding nature and what it truly needs to thrive starts by seeing the world from its perspective.**

As part of the Strategic Community Plan major review, the Nature Stories Schools Competition invites primary and secondary school classes to explore how nature and humans coexist in their own homes and neighbourhoods.

This competition pack offers students the opportunity to step into the shoes (or wings!) of four nature-based personas – Quincy the Quenda, Taylor the Tuart Tree, Buzzby the Bee, and Wyatt the Water Drop – or create a unique persona of their own.

By embodying their chosen character, students can craft imaginative and powerful stories – told through written narratives, illustrations, or a combination of both – that inspire new ways of thinking about our shared environment and future.



## Categories

Each student contributes a story as part of a class-wide entry, showcasing a collective voice from your school community.

- Two awards for primary school classes
- Two awards for secondary school classes

## Prizes

Winning classes will receive an unforgettable nature experience for their school.

## How to enter

Please find the full terms and conditions at the end of this document.

For any questions about the competition, please email [getinvolved@stirling.wa.gov.au](mailto:getinvolved@stirling.wa.gov.au)

**Your future,  
our focus**

# Primary School Classes

## Brief

Thank you for your curiosity and eagerness to explore how you and nature exist together in your neighbourhood – and what the future may hold!

Start by selecting a character or creating your own, then choose one of the following activities to tell your story. You can express your ideas through writing, illustrations, or a combination of both:

**A Day in the Life:** Step into your character's world and share insights into a typical day from their point of view, capturing interactions with people, nature, and the challenges they face.

**Resilience Challenge:** Create an adventure where your character must navigate obstacles – such as pollution or habitat loss – to find food, shelter, or safety, and ultimately, survive.

**Conversation with Nature:** Craft a conversation or interaction between your character and a human, where they teach the person about their needs and the importance of environmental care.

## Word limit

500 words

## Judging Criteria

Criteria focuses on creativity, engagement, and understanding of environmental themes in an age-appropriate way.

- **Creativity and Imagination**  
How well do the stories bring the characters to life? Do they demonstrate original thinking and creative storytelling?
- **Character Perspective**  
Do students effectively express their chosen persona's point of view, capturing its experiences and challenges?
- **Environmental Awareness**  
How well do the stories reflect an understanding of nature's needs and the relationship between humans and the environment?
- **Story Structure and Clarity**  
Are the narratives clear and well-organised, with a beginning, middle, and end?
- **Emotional & Engagement Factor**  
Do the stories make the audience think or feel something? Are they engaging and impactful?
- **Use of Descriptive Language or Visuals**  
Are sensory details used to bring the character's world to life, helping the audience visualise and connect with nature?



# Secondary School Classes

## Brief

Congratulations on taking a deeper drive into sustainability, urban ecology, and conservation within your own neighbourhood – exploring how we can shape a better future for all!

Choose a nature-based persona or create your own, then select one of the following activities to tell your story. You can express your ideas through writing, illustrations, or a combination of both:

**Environmental Resilience Story:** Craft a story where your persona experiences an ecological crisis – whether caused by nature, humans, or both – and must find a solution.

**Futuristic Environmental Tale:** Imagine your neighbourhood 50 years into the future and share the story from your persona's perspective – are they thriving in a well-preserved environment or struggling in a damaged one?

**Nature's Protest:** Develop a powerful monologue, letter or visual message from your persona, addressed to Council, urging action to protect them and their environment.

## Word limit

1000 words

## Judging Criteria

Criteria focuses on a deeper level of critical thinking, storytelling complexity, and environmental awareness.

- **Depth of Environmental Insight**  
Do the stories demonstrate a well-researched understanding of real-world ecological issues such as climate change, habitat destruction, or conservation efforts?
- **Creative and Original Storytelling**  
Are the ideas engaging and imaginative?  
Do they offer fresh perspectives on sustainability and human-nature interactions?
- **Character Development and Perspective**  
How well do the students embody their chosen persona? Does the character's voice and experiences feel authentic?
- **Complexity and Structure**  
Is there a compelling plot with strong narrative flow, conflict, and resolution?
- **Impact and Thought-Provoking Themes**  
Do the stories challenge readers to think critically about environmental sustainability and inspire action?
- **Use of Language or Visual Communication**  
Are descriptive language and/or artistic elements used to enhance meaning and emotional impact?







## Quincy the Quenda

I am a small, cute marsupial navigating neighbourhoods – often unseen by people.

Like an ecosystem engineer, my burrowing spreads beneficial bacteria and fungi that help plants and trees grow. Luckily my pouch faces backwards, keeping my babies safe from dirt while I dig.

But I face many dangers. Off-lead dogs, cats, foxes, and invasive species all threaten my survival.

I'm an example of the adaptability of native wildlife but advocate for conservation efforts to protect our bushland habitats.



## Buzzby the Bee


I hum through gardens and parks, tirelessly pollinating the plants that feed both bees and humans. With every journey, I help to grow backyard veggie patches and over 75% of the plants people rely on for food.

But life isn't as easy as it used to be. Expanding neighbourhoods are pushing out native flowers and safe spaces where I thrive. Pesticides poison my food, and changing weather patterns disrupt the delicate timing of flower blooms.

Fewer bees mean less food for everyone.

That's why I champion biodiversity, reminding people that a world with me is a world that flourishes.





## Taylor the Tuart Tree

I'm a native tree, standing tall and proud above houses and streets. I provide shade and fresh air – enough oxygen each year to keep 120 people breathing for a whole day!

But some say I'm too big for suburbs. I'm often removed to make way for human homes, destroying animal homes in the process – like the nesting hollows of the endangered Carnaby's Cockatoo. Less rainfall is also causing groundwater levels to drop, making it harder for my roots to reach the water I need.

I advocate for the protection of trees, which are vital for healthy, cool neighbourhoods.



## Wyatt the Water Drop

I flow through homes, gardens, parks and wetlands helping everyone stay healthy. But a drying climate and growing demand are putting pressure on my supply, especially when people take extra long showers!

Careless habits, like overwatering gardens or ignoring leaks, takes water away from where it's needed most. As stormwater, I rush off dirty roads and footpaths, carrying pollution straight into wetlands, rivers and oceans. This harms ecosystems and wildlife, including the declining Southwestern Snake-necked Turtle.

But it's not my fault. I serve as a reminder to humans that every drop matters, and protecting water sources and wetlands starts with the choices people make every day.

## Nature Stories Schools Competition 2025: Terms and Conditions

### Details

1. Promotion: Nature Stories Schools Competition 2025.
2. City: City of Stirling, 25 Cedric Street Stirling WA 6021.
3. Promotional period: 23 July 2025 – 26 September 2025.

### General Conditions of Entry

1. This document and the instructions on how to enter the “Nature Stories Schools Competition 2025” form part of these terms and conditions.
2. Employees of the City of Stirling and their immediate families are not eligible to enter the competition.
3. If for any reason any aspect of this Promotion is not capable of running as planned, the City may in its sole discretion cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Promotion and invalidate any affected entries, or suspend or modify a prize.
4. The City reserves the right, at any time, to validate and check the authenticity of entries and entrant’s details (including an entrant’s identity, age and place of residence). In the event that a winner cannot provide suitable proof as required by the City to validate their entry, the winner will forfeit the prize in whole and no substitute will be offered. Incomprehensible, indecipherable, inaudible, incorrect and illegible entries, as applicable, will be at the City’s discretion be deemed invalid and not eligible to win. Entries containing offensive or defamatory comments, or which breach any law or infringe any third-party rights, including intellectual property rights, are not eligible to win. The use of any automated entry software or any other mechanical or electronic means that allows an individual to automatically enter repeatedly is prohibited and may render all entries submitted by that individual invalid.
5. The City reserves the right to disqualify entries and entrants in the event of non-compliance with these Conditions of Entry or where the City has reason to believe that the entrant has engaged in unlawful or other improper conduct calculated to jeopardise the fair and proper conduct of the Promotion. If there is a dispute concerning the conduct of the Promotion, the decision of the City is final and binding on each entrant and no correspondence will be entered into.
6. The City of Stirling will not be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever or personal injury suffered or sustained, in connection with the promotion, the use of the prize or any act or omission of the City, their respective agents, employees and contractors.
7. No part of a prize is exchangeable, redeemable for cash or any other prize or transferable, unless otherwise specified in writing by the City.
8. Participants agree to make themselves available for publicity purposes.

9. The parent or legal guardian of the entrant(s) agrees and acknowledges that they have read these Conditions of Entry and that entry into the Promotion is deemed to be acceptance of these Conditions of Entry.
10. If any winner chooses not to take their prize (or is unable to) or does not take or claim a prize by the time specified by the Promoter, or is unavailable, they forfeit the prize, and the City is not obliged to substitute the prize.

### Competition Eligibility Criteria

1. Registration period is from 23 July 2025. Entries must be mailed or delivered to the City’s Administration Centre at 25 Cedric Street, Stirling WA 6021 prior to close of business 26 September 2025.
2. To participate and be eligible for prizes, schools must submit a signed consent form for each student entry, completed by a parent or legal guardian.
3. Entrants will craft original stories that examine how nature and humans coexist in their own neighbourhoods now and into the future, based on instructions provided in this pack.
4. Entry is open to City of Stirling primary and secondary school classes during the competition period.
5. Entrants younger than 18 years of age must have parent or legal guardian approval to enter.
6. A panel of judges nominated by the City of Stirling will choose up to four (4) classes as winners, as per the judging matrix and announce the winners after 26 September 2025.
7. The judges will be looking for entries that demonstrate age-appropriate creativity, imagination, critical thinking, storytelling complexity, and environmental awareness, as outlined in this pack.
8. The judges shall at their sole discretion select the four winners based on the judging matrix.
9. Only one group entry per class is allowed, made up of individual stories from the students.
10. Each eligible class entry must be unique.
11. The City of Stirling reserves the right to not approve or exclude any entrant for any reason it sees fit in its absolute discretion.
12. The entries may be displayed across City of Stirling facilities, its website, digital platforms and in print publications.
13. The 4 prizes are for the winner/s, and each include an exciting nature experience for their school.
14. If entries are not collected from the City within a month of the close of the competition, the City may recycle the documents and is under no obligation to return an entry to its owner.



To find out more about Future Stirling initiatives scan the QR code, visit [www.stirling.wa.gov.au/FutureStirling](http://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/FutureStirling) or call the City on (08) 9205 8555.



**Administration Centre** 25 Cedric Street Stirling WA 6021

**Telephone** (08) 9205 8555

**Enquiries** [www.stirling.wa.gov.au/enquiries](http://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/enquiries)

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This information is available in alternative formats on request. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre on (08) 9205 8555.