

NET Section
‘Stories on Stage’ Drama Competition 2020/21

Conditions and Regulations

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1. Organiser

The ‘Stories on Stage’ Drama Competition 2020/21 is organised by the Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) Section, Curriculum Development Institute (CDI), Education Bureau.

2. Aims

The aims of the ‘Stories on Stage’ Drama Competition are to:

- provide students with an opportunity to collaborate on writing a drama script based on a published short story and to perform it on stage; and
- provide teachers with teaching strategies and classroom activities suitable for teaching short stories, script writing and drama as part of the English Language Curriculum at the junior secondary (KS3) or senior secondary (KS4) level.

3. Description of the Competition

3.1 The ‘Stories on Stage’ Drama Competition is open to secondary schools in Hong Kong adopting the CDC English Language Education Key Learning Area Curriculum Guide (Primary 1 – Secondary 6)(2017).

The competition has two parts:

- script writing (adapted from a short story)
- drama (performed on stage)

3.2 The short stories selected for the competition cover a range of genres and themes. Schools may opt for a short story in the school-based curriculum on the condition that it meets the requirements for the competition, e.g. the short story must be fictional, age-appropriate, adaptable for a staged performance, and should have at least three characters.

3.3 Schools may enter up to two teams in the competition. Each team must have three to eight students and must submit a separate entry form. The two teams can adapt the same short story or different short stories.

3.4 If face-to-face classes are suspended due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the ‘Stories on Stage’ Drama Competition will be relaunched as the ‘Stories on Stage’ Script Writing & Dramatic Reading Competition. Only schools that have entered the ‘Stories on Stage’ Drama Competition will be eligible to participate in the relaunched competition. The revised Conditions and Regulations document will be sent out at least 1 month in advance to ensure sufficient time for preparation.

4. Student roles

4.1 Each team must have writers and actors. The numbers of writers and actors and their roles are defined as follows:

- Writers: Two to four students in the team will collaborate on writing a drama script based on the short story selected for the competition.
- Actors: Three to eight students will perform the story on stage on the day of the competition. (Writers may also be actors.)

4.2 The total number of team members must not exceed eight.

5. Schedule of Events and Submission Deadlines

Date	Event or Deadline	Related Documents
24 September 2020 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.	Online briefing session	EDB Training Calendar System (TCS) notification/online application (Course Code: CDI020210866)
End of October 2020	Invitation to take part in ‘Stories on Stage’ Drama Competition	Email/fax from the NET Section informing schools about link to competition details on the NET Scheme e-Platform
30 November 2020	Initial deadline for submission of entry forms	Entry form
8 January 2021 9:30 a.m – 5 p.m.	Professional development workshop: <i>Adapting Short Stories for the Stage</i> , NET Section, Room 1120, 11/F, Tsuen Wan Multi-storey Carpark Building, 174-208 Castle Peak Rd, Tsuen Wan, N.T.	EDB Training Calendar System (TCS) notification/on-line application (around one month before the event)
15 January 2021	Final deadline for submission of entry forms (depending upon availability)	Entry form
16 April 2021	Deadline for submission of drama script with the pledge form	Pledge and Team Name List form
3 - 14 May 2021 Date and time for each session to be confirmed	Competition sessions: Venue for each session to be confirmed	Permission for the Use of Images form
17 – 31 May 2021	Collection of certificates of award, merit and participation	Email with link to team name list (Google Form)

6. Conditions of Entry

- 6.1 The 'Stories on Stage' Drama Competition is open to secondary schools in Hong Kong adopting the CDC English Language Education Key Learning Area Curriculum Guide (Primary 1 – Secondary 6)(2017).
- 6.2 Eligible schools interested in participating in the competition are strongly encouraged to send at least one teacher to the NET Section Competitions online briefing session (see details in Section 5).
- 6.3 The 'Stories on Stage' entry form must be submitted via email on or before the initial entry deadline to secure a place in the competition.
- 6.4 Schools may enter up to two teams. Each team must have three to eight students and submit a separate entry form. The two teams can adapt the same short story or different short stories.
- 6.5 If a school enters two teams, one team will be designated team 'A' and the other team 'B'. If the competition is oversubscribed, priority will be given to the 'A' teams.
- 6.6 Students in each team may come from the same year level or different year levels.
- 6.7 If there are still places available in the competition after the initial entry deadline, schools will be invited to submit entries on or before the final entry deadline.
- 6.8 Students must select a short story from the list provided on the entry form or a short story from the school-based curriculum that meets the requirements for the competition, e.g. the short story must be fictional, age-appropriate, adaptable for a staged performance, and should have at least three characters.
- 6.9 As the NET Section competitions adopt a 'train the trainer' model, schools that are new to the competition must send at least one teacher to the Adapting Short Stories for the Stage professional development workshop (see details in Section 5).
- 6.10 Teams must submit the pledge and drama script by the submission deadline in order to be eligible to perform in the competition.

7. Regulations

- 7.1 Two to four students in the team must collaborate on writing a drama script based on the short story selected for the competition.
- 7.2 The drama script must be typed with a standard 12 pt font, 1.0 line spacing and normal 1" (2.54 cm) margins. The name of the school should appear in the header and all pages should be numbered.
- 7.3 The drama script must be submitted with the pledge on or before the submission deadline.
- 7.4 Three to eight students in the team must perform the story on stage on the day of the competition. Script writers may also be actors.
- 7.5 The total number of team members must not exceed eight students.
- 7.6 Students must deliver their lines in English.
- 7.7 Students must wear numbers according to their numbers in the pledge form so that the judges can easily identify them.

- 7.8 Simple costumes and small props are permitted. Students are encouraged to wear comfortable black clothing and/or simple costumes to indicate their roles. Small props like a baseball cap for a child, an apron and a duster for a maid, or a cane for an elderly man are considered appropriate.
- 7.9 No stage sets or large props are permitted. One square folding table, four folding chairs and four durable storage crates (13" x 13" x 11") will be made available at the venues for use in the drama performances.
- 7.10 In the interest of safety, students are not permitted to stand on the table or chairs. However, they may stand on the storage crates as long as the crates are not stacked. Students may also use the crates as props.
- 7.11 There are no special prizes for costumes and props. The judges will focus primarily on use of language, use of dramatic technique and adaptation of the story.
- 7.12 Sound effects are permitted. Sound files must be sent to the NET Section via email at least one day before the event. On the day of the competition, one student or teacher will control the sound on a laptop provided. Schools that would like to use their own laptop for sound effects must contact the organiser at least one week before the event.
- 7.13 There will be no special lighting effects at the venue. However, student writers are encouraged to describe the stage lighting and other special effects in the stage directions of the drama script. Judges will read the drama scripts and take note of the stage directions.
- 7.14 The drama performances must be completed within 5–8 minutes. A warning bell will be rung at 7 minutes and a final bell at 8 minutes. When the final bell is rung, the student speaking must finish their sentence and the team will then leave the stage. Performances that are less than 5 minutes or more than 8 minutes (by more than one sentence) will not be eligible for first prize.
- 7.15 Teams must arrive before registration begins. Starting and ending times will be confirmed later.
- 7.16 The audience (teachers and students) will remain silent during the performances. Mobile phones must be switched off or set to silent mode. Marks will be deducted after one warning if teams in the audience cause a disturbance.

8. Adjudication

The judging panel may include representatives from the EDB, creative writing or drama instructors, and front-line English teachers with a background in creative writing or drama.

Student scripts and performances will be assessed on the following criteria:

A. Use of oral language	accuracy, fluency, stress, intonation, expression
B. Use of dramatic technique	voice projection, facial expression, body movement, interaction, teamwork, use of space
C. Adaptation of the story	adaptation of characters and setting and/or story events
D. Drama script	adherence to the conventions of script writing, use of written language, style

Note: The decision of the judging panel will be considered final. No correspondence will be entered into after the results are announced.

9. Awards and Certificates

The 'Stories on Stage' Drama Competition may have more than one session depending on the number of teams that apply. The following prizes will be awarded to teams and students in each session.

Prizes	Awards
Team prizes:	
1 st Prize	Trophy + certificates + book coupons
2 nd Prize	Trophy + certificates + book coupons
3 rd Prize	Trophy + certificates + book coupons
Best Script	Certificate + book coupons
Popular Vote	Certificate + book coupons
Individual prizes:	
Outstanding Actor (x5)	Trophy + certificate + book coupons

Note: All participants will receive a certificate of award or participation

10. Submission of Entry Forms

Please email entry forms to Mr Stephen COOLEY at cooley@edb.gov.hk.

For enquiries, please contact Mr Stephen COOLEY at 3549 8361 or at the email address above.