



SPACE FEST Writing contest

For 5th & 6th Class Students in Schools Participating in the Try Five+ Project

WHO CAN ENTER?

This competition is open to **5th and 6th class students** from **schools participating in the Try Five+ Project**.

Students must write their own story, with **one entry per person**. Stories must be original and fictional. No group entries or help from AI tools is allowed.

WHAT TO WRITE

Write a short story (up to 500 words) inspired by one of the three themes below:

WHAT ABOUT?

Option 1: “A Broadcast from the Station”

Prompt:

Imagine that you are a young scientist who has spent your whole life aboard a lonely space station. Earth was abandoned years ago, and you’ve never set foot on it. But today, you decide to send a radio message back to Earth—just in case anyone is listening!

In your message, you can share what you've learned in space, what you've read about the old Earth, and what you wish humans had done differently. You wonder: Could Earth still be saved? What should children growing up now remember to care about?

Reflection sparks to help you:

- What do you think you would miss even though you've never had it? (i.e. trees, oceans, animals, fresh air).
- What mistakes do you think led to Earth being abandoned?
- What lessons could remaining humans on Earth learn from your life?

Option 2: "A radio message from Another Earth"

Prompt:

You've received a mysterious radio message — from a kid scientist in another world that sounds eerily like ours... but a world that was destroyed. This kid has only known life in space and is asking you: What is your Earth like? Do you still have trees? Clean air? Laughter?

Imagine what you would answer in your reply. Would you want to tell them the truth, the good and the bad? You can describe what you love about Earth, but also what scares you. Do you wonder—are we heading down the same path as their world?

Reflection sparks to help you write:

- What do you think we take for granted here?
- What do you think someone from a ruined planet would find amazing about your world?
- What could we change now to protect our Earth's future?

Option 3: "Life on the Base"

Prompt:

Imagine that you are a young scientist living in a Moon base, a Mars base, or an orbiting space station. You're helping with very important research — but some days, you look at the blue orb of our planet and miss Earth... You send diary entries via radio about what life is like on the base so others can remember it/know about it. Think about what you would be communicating... your daily routine, what space is like, and the little things you love, but also the ones you miss—like rain, grass, or your pet dog? You also realize there are things you do love about your life in space - it could be silence, discovery, teamwork, stars that never set...

Reflection sparks to help you write:

- What is your routine like on the base? What is your position? What do you research?

- What do you miss most from Earth? Why are those things important? What do you like the most about being in space?
- What do you learn from being far away from your home planet?

Remember, these are just prompts to get your imagination flowing! Make your story unique and yours!

THE RULES

Your story must be:

- **Written in English**
- **Typed and pasted into a Microsoft Forms submission** (your school will provide the link)

HOW TO ENTER

- Your story must be submitted by a **parent, guardian, or teacher** using the official Microsoft Forms link.
- <https://forms.office.com/e/dHkMjvJ0nz?origin=lprLink>



In the form, the adult will be asked to include:

- Your **first name, age, date of birth, gender, and school name**
- Their **own contact information so we can contact you if you win.**

✅ If a **teacher** submits the story, they must first get **parental or guardian permission** to do so.

DEADLINE & EVENT

-  **Deadline: Friday, 25th May 2025 (midnight)**
-  **Winners** will be invited to attend **Space Fest 2025**, taking place from **4th to 7th June 2025** at TU Dublin.

PRIZES

- 🏆 **Top Prize:** One overall winner will receive a **tablet!**
- ★ **Special recognition prizes** may also be awarded depending on the quality of the submissions.

Selected stories may be:

- **Printed or published**
- **Recorded or read aloud**
- **Displayed at TU Dublin events or online**

PERMISSION & CONSENT

By entering, students and their guardians agree that:

- The **student's name, image, and voice** may be shared in photos or videos to promote the event.
- TU Dublin has permission to **print, publish, or share the story.**
- Personal contact details will be kept private and handled securely.

Teachers submitting stories on behalf of students are responsible for **obtaining consent** from parents or guardians before submitting.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Stories will be judged on:

- **Originality** – Is the idea fresh and imaginative?
- **Plot** – Does it have a beginning, middle, and end?
- **Language** – Is the writing expressive and clear?
- **Enjoyment** – Is the story fun, moving, or powerful? Does it make us want to keep reading?
- **Depth of Thought** – Does it show real reflection or meaning?
- **Clarity & Flow** – Is the story well-structured and easy to follow?

? QUESTIONS?

For questions or more information, contact:

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