

NOTES FOR ENTRANTS

1. Cultural appropriation, and cultural diversity, authenticity and sensitivity
2. Originality of material: plagiarism and use of AI software

Cultural appropriation, and cultural diversity, authenticity and sensitivity

In recent times, the matters of cultural appropriation, and cultural diversity, authenticity and sensitivity have been prominent in public debate. While much has been written and discussed, these matters remain complex – they are not easily explained or understood.

Writers need to consider whether their work meets community expectations around issues such as race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and religious and spiritual beliefs. This is especially true for exploitation of minority groups. To help you think about these matters, these definitions might be useful.

“Cultural appropriation takes place when members of a majority group adopt cultural elements of a minority group in an exploitative, disrespectful, or stereotypical way.”

<https://www.britannica.com/story/what-is-cultural-appropriation>

“Broadly, ‘cultural appropriation’ can refer to any case of borrowing or adopting aspects of another culture. This is not always problematic, but it becomes so when people use elements of another culture in a disrespectful way, or when it erases the culture something is borrowed from.”

getproofed.com.au; [click here](#) for further information.

This definition is found in the psychology website VeryWellMind:

“Cultural appropriation refers to the use of objects or elements of a non-dominant culture in a way that reinforces stereotypes or contributes to oppression and doesn’t respect their original meaning or give credit to their source. It also includes the unauthorized use of parts of their culture (their dress, dance, etc.) without permission.”

VeryWellMind expands on the definition:

“... cultural appropriation is a layered and nuanced

phenomenon that many people may have trouble understanding and may not realize when they are doing it themselves.

“It can be natural to merge and blend cultures as people from different backgrounds come together and interact. In fact, many wonderful inventions and creations have been born from the merging of such cultures (such as country music).

“However, the line is drawn when a dominant cultural group makes use of elements of a non-dominant group in a way that the non-dominant group views as exploitative.”

<https://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-cultural-appropriation-5070458>

Originality of material: plagiarism and use of AI software

Since the release of ChatGPT in November 2022, attention has focused on the ability of AI software to write in natural language.

While some writers might be tempted to submit stories composed by ChatGPT or similar software, entrants are reminded that all shortlisted stories will be checked by plagiarism-testing software to verify their originality.

If your entry could raise any issues related to these matters, please provide a description with your author declaration.

PUBLICITY AND PUBLICATION

All stories submitted to the Roly Sussex Short Story Competition will be considered for publication by the ESU and may be used for marketing and publicity in conjunction with the ESU. In submitting their stories for publication authors indicate their consent to these initiatives.

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