

Roly Sussex Short Story Competition 2024

NOTES FOR ENTRANTS AND AUTHOR DECLARATION

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>

... 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.

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

Psychology website VeryWellMind expands on their 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.

Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property

This Competition supports Creative Australia's protocols in relation to Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP): <https://creative.gov.au/investment-and-development/protocols-and-resources/protocols-for-using-first-nations-cultural-and-intellectual-property-in-the-arts/>. Writing with First Nations themes, content and characters that do not meet Creative Australia's protocols regarding Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property are not eligible for entry.

Please contact rolysussexstory@esu.org.au if you are concerned your entry may raise any issues relating to the matters discussed here.

Awards and publication

Entry fee Open Division \$50, Secondary School Division \$30

ESU (Queensland) will pay up to \$500 for first-place winners from outside South-East Queensland to attend the awards ceremony (towards travel and accommodation). Winners should discuss travel by email to rolysussexstory@esu.org.au.

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.

Authors retain copyright of their work.

Declaration by author

On the online entry form, authors are required to make the following declaration:

- I agree to the Conditions of Entry:
- I am an Australian resident or citizen.
- The work submitted is my original work, and all sources are indicated as such.
- I understand that the Roly Sussex Short Story Competition respects and values diversity and cultural identity. Should my work express creative liberty by harnessing cultural themes, I have detailed the inspiration for this to the ESU (Qld).
- The work is free from any plagiarism, and has not been generated by AI software or similar products.
- No part has been copied from any other source or published elsewhere.
- I agree that the ESU may select my story for publication, on the understanding that I retain copyright.

Format and submission

Length: Maximum 3000 words

Text format: Microsoft Word, .doc or .docx, double-spaced, A4

Entrants should follow the instructions on the ESU website: esu.org.au