

# NIAA



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
OF ALLIED ARTS**

**BUILDING THE ARTS**

**EST. 1913**

Together with

# Deloitte.

presents

# Literary Festival 2021 Syllabus

<b>ENTRIES CLOSE:</b>	Wednesday 28 July (Office will remain open until 4pm on this day)
<b>AWARDS CEREMONY:</b>	Date and venue to be advised
<b>ENTRY FEES:</b>	USD 5
<b>PAYMENTS:</b>	National Institute of Allied Arts CABS 1002617219 (ARUNDEL BRANCH) Ecocash Merchant Number - 314843 (Send POP; state school name as reference/depositor) Swipe available at NIAA office

**NIAA Office: Flat A5 Northern Heights, 5 J Tongogara Avenue, Harare**

Office Hours: 9am - 12:30pm Mon - Fri (during term time)

Phone: 024-2702989; 024-2250921

Cell/whatsapp: 0778 457 773 Email: [niaa@yoafrica.com](mailto:niaa@yoafrica.com)

Website: [www.niaazim.co.zw](http://www.niaazim.co.zw); Facebook: National Institute of Allied Arts Zimbabwe (NIAA)

MARCH 2021

Dear Colleagues

## **LITERARY FESTIVAL 2021**

Welcome to the 2021 Literary Festival!

What a year of change it has been! Once again, we find ourselves under the covid pandemic, working in challenging and novel ways. The return to face-to-face schooling is a relief, but the way forward is still unclear. Once again we will be holding a VIRTUAL festival.

With this in mind, I have made changes to this 2021 syllabus. I hope it is more “user friendly”, particularly for the student who may be working remotely. Topics are reduced from 3 to 2, and are less prescriptive and more creative and open to interpretation. I have retained a common topic, that runs through all grades and forms, and added a second option which is a writing prompt. This option is better suited to the student with a creative imagination and mastery of writing. If you have any queries on the topics, please send an email to [abrabev@gmail.com](mailto:abrabev@gmail.com).

Please pay particular attention to entry regulations and procedures.

The deadline for entries is the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021 but we encourage early entries with a stipulation that we are unable to accept any entries or payments BEFORE the 21<sup>ST</sup> July.

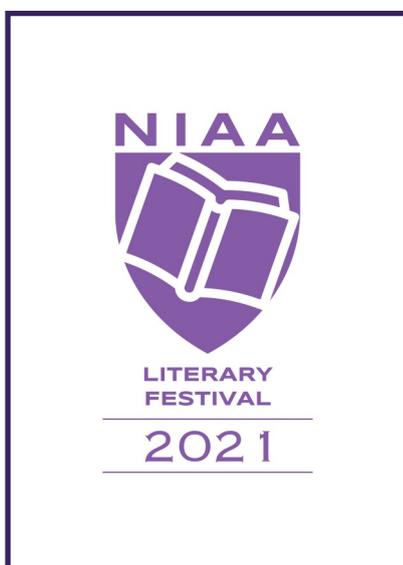
As always; we are looking for teachers who would like to adjudicate scripts in Prose and Poetry for this year’s festival. Adjudicating scripts is a good means of evaluating the standard of creative writing in English in your school, and other schools as a whole, and can be a source of inspiration for your own teaching.

If you would like to volunteer your time to assist in any other way, that is, helping during the Literary festival with administrative duties, or assisting with any of the other festivals, please contact Kathy Norman at the NIAA office, or myself.

**Beverley Abrahams**  
**Literary Festival Director**

*\*\*Generally, only **five** entries per grade/form per school are permitted. However, if your school has multiple classes per grade/form, you may send per class.*

## **ENTRY FEE PER SCRIPT - \$ 5.00 USD**



CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES

**WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021**

**Please note the NIAA office will be open from 9:00  
a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

*The closing date is the date on which all entries, together with fees, must be in the offices of the National Institute of Allied Arts.*

***Under no circumstances will late entries be accepted.***

# Primary Schools

## Section A: Prose

## Grades: Two to Seven

Write on one of the following topics

### Grade Two & Three

Option 1 “Dear universe, let me tell you an amazing story...” Tell your story

Option 2 Family

### Grade Four & Five

Option 1 WRITNG PROMPT:  
Perched on my window sill was a crow, looking at me with eyes that said ‘follow me’

Option 2 Family

### Grade Six & Seven

Option 1 WRITING PROMPT:  
“it wasn’t like any city he’d ever seen. It had harsh edges, rusted metal, spikes and looming towers”  
From PROMPTUARIUM

Option 2 Family

PROSE TITLE CODES	TITLE OPTIONS	
	Option 1	Option 2
Grade 2	121	122
Grade 3	131	132
Grade 4	141	142
Grade 5	151	152
Grade 6	161	162
Grade 7	171	172

## Section B: Poetry

## Grades: Four to Seven

Write on one of the following titles:

### Grade Four to Seven

Option 1 WRITING PROMPT:  
‘Since when do heroes care about villains?’

Option 2 Thunderstorms

POETRY TITLE CODES	TITLE OPTIONS	
	Option 1	Option 2
Grade 4	143	144
Grade 5	153	154
Grade 6	163	164
Grade 7	173	174

### What is a writing prompt?

*A writing prompt is a seed to start you thinking, the inspiration to generate your own amazing ideas! The prompts on this syllabus are designed to help the student to think creatively about many ideas. There are no restrictions on how you use the prompt: you may use it as a story starter, you may incorporate it into your story, or you may use the ideas it creates to write an entirely different story. In poetry, the prompt will create the idea and the feelings that you should explore in your own piece.*

# Secondary Schools

## Section A: Prose

## Forms: One to Four

Write on one of the following topics

### Form One & Two

**Option 1** WRITING PROMPT:  
 "the sun sank slowly, bathing the valley in blood red light,  
 making even the desolation appear almost beautiful"  
 From PROMPTUARIUM

**Option 2** Thunderstorms

### Form Three & Four

**Option 1** WRITING PROMPT:  
 " I am sorry they abandoned you when you needed them  
 the most and that it has made you believe that love is an  
 awful thing that hurts"  
 Nikita Gill

**Option 2** Thunderstorms

TITLE CODES	TITLE OPTIONS	
	Option 1	Option 2
Form One	211	212
Form Two	221	222
Form Three	231	232
Form Four	241	242

## Section B: Poetry

## Forms: One to Four

Write on one of the following titles:

**Option 1** WRITING PROMPT:  
 Its okay  
 To begin your story today  
 Those mistakes you've made along the way  
 Are lessons, not failures.  
 You were meant to get up and find a way that resonates  
 with you.  
 There is no expiration date to reinventing yourself  
 TIFFANYMOULE.COM  
 FROM PROMPTUARIUM

**Option 2** Thunderstorms

TITLE CODES	TITLE OPTIONS	
	Option 1	Option 2
Form One	213	214
Form Two	223	224
Form Three	233	234
Form Four	243	244

## Section C: Prose, Poetry or Dramatic Excerpt

## Form 6 & Open/Adults

Submit an unpublished entry of not more than 1,500 words on **one** of the following titles.

**Option 1** WRITING PROMPT:  
 MAMA  
 Mama, I hope you're proud of me.  
 I took all the awful things they did,  
 And turned them into empathy.  
  
 Mama, I hope you're proud of me,  
 I may have let their poison under my skin,  
 But I let it drip out my fingers as poetry.  
 Nikita Gill

**Option 2** For the Love of Life

TITLE CODES	TITLE OPTIONS	
	Option 1	Option 2
Prose	261	262
Poetry	263	264
Dramatic Excerpt	265	266

# Entry Rules & Regulations

## PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

**It is the responsibility of Heads of Schools to ensure that they and their teachers have read and complied with the Literary festival regulations.**

- Only **five** entries per grade/form per school are permitted.
- If your school has multiple classes per grade/form, you may send per class, with a maximum of 15 entries being acceptable, but please indicate this on email when you submit your entry form. **Please do not exceed the maximum number of permitted entries.**
- **All entries should have been written under teacher supervision in the classroom to ensure originality. This rule applies to all grades/forms except in the open category.**
- Teachers should not mark pupils' work but may give them guidance by pointing out spelling and punctuation mistakes, encouraging the use of dictionaries, and getting them to re-write and improve **on their own**, work which the teacher considers of Festival standard.
- The numbers of entries permitted are clearly stated on the Excel entry form.
- **NO candidate may enter more than ONE PROSE and ONE POETRY piece.**  
A second entry, in either prose or poetry, will not be graded.
- All entries must be accompanied by an our excel entry form emailed to [niaa@yoafrica.com](mailto:niaa@yoafrica.com) **PLEASE ONLY** use current excel entry forms. No other entry forms will be accepted.
- Schools' and pupils' names must **NOT** appear on the actual entries, only grades/forms and pen names – pen names **MUST** be used (not exceeding 12 characters, - Put the following information in the top left hand corner of each script (not on a separate page):

PROSE/POETRY (whichever is applicable)
GRADE/FORM
TITLE CODE
TITLE
PEN NAME

- Pen names should be no more than 12 characters. *Choose simple pen names*
- Please do not use the same pen names for different pupils.
- Please ensure that the Title code is entered on the entry form in the designated column.

Many poetry entries are being sent back to schools ungraded because, in the markers' opinion, they are not poetry. Heads and teachers are therefore asked to take note of the following:

*Poetry, particularly at a Junior school level, should have a strong lyrical quality. When read aloud, poetry should sound different from prose. Intensity of feeling, thoughtful selection of words, use of imagery, and rhythm and rhyme will all be rewarded. Where rhyme is used, it should be unforced and relevant. Prose which is written down in short lines as if it were poetry will not*

Please remember that your stories and poetry must be ORIGINAL, they must not be copied from any one or anywhere else.

*Awards will be made to the following standards*

<i>Honours</i>	<i>90% or more</i>
<i>1st Grade Plus</i>	<i>85% - 90%</i>
<i>1st Grade</i>	<i>80% - 84%</i>
<i>2nd Grade Plus</i>	<i>75% - 79%</i>
<i>2nd Grade</i>	<i>70% - 74%</i>
<i>3rd Grade Plus</i>	<i>65% - 69%</i>
<i>3rd Grade</i>	<i>60% - 64%</i>
<i>Ungraded</i>	<i>Less than 60%</i>

*Please state when submitting entries if the return of certificates and markers' reports are required by a specific date.*

*We will try and accommodate such requests where possible*

*If you require the office to send to you by courier, please supply name of courier, account name and number for "carriage forward option"*

# Submission of Scripts

## Entry Forms

- We have replaced the entry forms with a single excel document – one “sheet” for prose and one for poetry on which entries should be listed per Grade/Form starting with the youngest.
- Please leave a line between each Grade/Form
- No other entry forms will be accepted
- Submit on email to **niaa@yoafrica.com**

## Script Submission

- Scripts should also be submitted on email to **niaa@yoafrica.com**
- Please make sure that student’s name and school name DO NOT appear on typed or scanned scripts otherwise they will have to be resubmitted.
- Scripts may be typed and emailed in word format – showing Prose/Poetry, Grade, Title code and Pen Name.
- Scripts may be hand-written and scanned prior to email but entries MUST be in PDF format only NOT JPEG SCANS. They should also show whether Prose or Poetry, Grade, Title Code and Pen Name. In this case only one-side of the page should be written on.
- Multiple entries may be combined in one scan (**max size 1MB/file.**) BUT please do not combine prose and poetry in one file.
- Do not enter more than one grade per scan.
- It is the responsibility of the teacher to ensure that hand-written entries are legible. If the copy is illegible it will be returned to the school i.e. it will not be marked.
- Discuss with us if you plan to enter hard copies so that we can be prepared before the final entry date

Script Label:

PROSE/POETRY (whichever is applicable)
GRADE/FORM
TITLE CODE
TITLE
PEN NAME

## Entry Fee Payments

- Please note that all entries and payments must come through the school. We are unable to accept individual payments.
- Fee per entry will be USD \$5.00 – please call the office cell on the day of payment for the rate.
- We will only be accepting payments from 21st July 2021

## Indemnity and Disclaimer

- All entries and submissions that are accepted may be uploaded to the NIAA Facebook page
- Teachers should get permission/acceptance from parents and their school head that they are aware of this exposure on social media
- NIAA will presume that this has been received for all candidates which they receive entries/submissions for.

Please feel free to email us with any concerns you may have.