



# THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2020



Share your ideas,  
celebrate your story and  
write for a better world

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition is the world's oldest international writing competition for schools, established in 1883. With thousands of young people taking part every year, it is an important way to recognise achievement, elevate youth voices and develop key skills through creative writing.

## THEME

### CLIMATE ACTION AND THE COMMONWEALTH

Drawing on the urgency of the ongoing climate crisis and increasing youth activism across the Commonwealth; young people are called upon to consider their position and power in bringing about change and how the Commonwealth can be used as a tool for positive action.

ENTER BY 30 JUNE 2020

## AWARDS

One Winner and Runner-up will be chosen from each category. Winners and Runners-up will be brought to London for a week of educational and cultural events, culminating in a special Awards Ceremony. A number of Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards will be given in both the Senior and Junior categories, rewarding excellence in writing. All entrants will receive a Certificate of Participation.



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

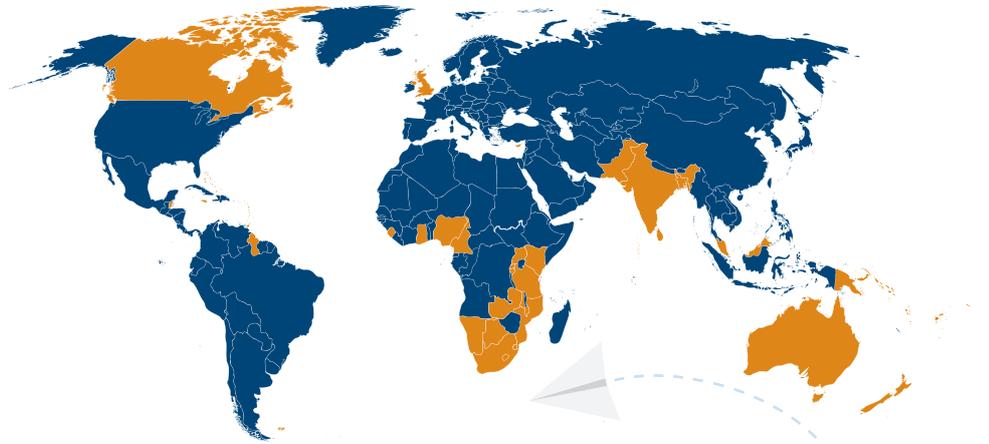
# MOOMIN

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The Commonwealth is a voluntary network of 53 countries, based on a shared English language and the key values of democracy, equality, tolerance, human rights and the rule of law.



## CATEGORIES

### SENIOR CATEGORY

Born between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2006 (14-18 years of age)

1. Imagine you are President of one of the Commonwealth's 31 Small States and you have been invited to give a speech on climate change to other Commonwealth leaders, what will you say?
2. There is no Planet B: How will climate change affect you and your community?
3. 'We will never stop fighting for this planet' - Greta Thunberg. How can young people make change happen?
4. The destruction of the oceans is everyone's concern.

### JUNIOR CATEGORY

Born on or after 1 July 2006 (under 14 years of age)

1. Imagine you are Planet Earth, what would you say to humans?
2. A Blue Commonwealth: it is not too late to save our oceans. True or false?
3. In 2019, students in more than 100 countries walked out of school to protest climate change. How can young people get their voices heard and make a difference?
4. My planet, my place.

## STARTER ACTIVITIES

### GIVE ME FIVE!

To help children plan stories and identify key plot points

1. Start with a closed hand. Pick a story the child knows well and explain it to them in 5 key points, open one finger each time you start a new point.
2. Help the child plan their story: What will happen? Who is in the story? How will it end?
3. Ask them to share their own story outline using the same method you did. Each time they start a new point, raise a finger.
4. Encourage them to use words like 'First..', 'Then..' and 'Finally...' to create a clear structure.

### SPARK A STORY

To encourage imagination and consider different perspectives

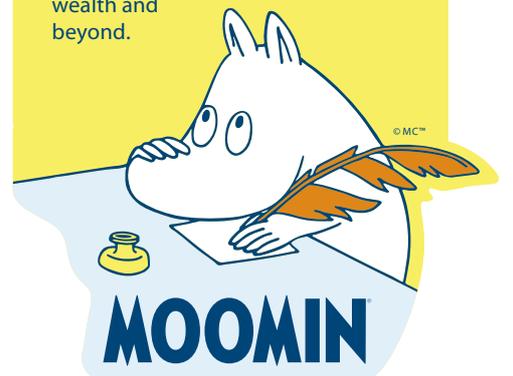
1. Show the child before and after pictures of oceans/forests affected by climate change.
2. Ask the child to imagine they live in those places. What changes would they wish to see? How could children help?
3. Consider what future life might be like in that city and in your city – how will they both be affected by climate change?
4. Write a story based on these observations. It could be from both perspectives, maybe as witnessed by a bird flying over both countries...

## GUIDELINES

- Nationals and residents of all Commonwealth countries and territories aged 18 and under are eligible to enter the competition, including entrants from the Maldives and Zimbabwe.
- All entries must be written in English
- Entries are accepted from residents of non-Commonwealth countries who submit through their local RCS branch.
- Entrants can be presented in any form/method of creative writing. Pictures/ Illustrations are particularly encouraged in the Junior Category.
- Full terms and conditions are available at <https://www.thercs.org/competition>.

- ✉ [competitions@thercs.org](mailto:competitions@thercs.org)
- @ [www.thercs.org/competition](http://www.thercs.org/competition)
- 📺 [RoyalCommonwealthSociety](https://www.thercs.org/competition)
- 📌 [CWEssayComp](https://www.thercs.org/competition)

The Moomins, created by Finnish artist Tove Jansson, are a family of friendly, brave trolls who live an adventurous life in the idyllic and peaceful Moominvalley in harmony with nature. The original Moomin books have been translated into more than 50 languages and are much loved across the Commonwealth and beyond.



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