

Meaning of Home



Meaning of Home contest in support of Habitat for Humanity Canada

Welcome!

The Meaning of Home contest, which runs from January 7, 2019 to February 18, 2019, invites Grades 4, 5 and 6 students from across Canada to submit a written poem or essay explaining what *home* means to them for a chance to direct \$25,000 grant to a local Habitat for Humanity build of their choice. Since 2007, over 50,000 students have participated in the Meaning of Home contest. Thanks to their inspiring words, and Genworth Canada's generous support, the Meaning of Home contest has raised over \$1 million to build homes across Canada for families in need of decent and affordable housing.

The Meaning of Home contest offers a unique and meaningful way to get students involved in the creative writing process. The goal is to teach students about the importance of giving back to the community and foster their active participation as world citizens.

It is also a way for you to meet curriculum criteria in the area of Language/Language Arts. Some of the curriculum requirements that can be addressed through the assignment include:

- Producing an original piece of work that encourages independent critical thought
- Organizing ideas and writing for an intended purpose or audience
- Writing to express thinking and communicate personal opinions
- Developing proper grammar, spelling and punctuation
- Fostering proofreading, editing and revision skills

New for 2018, the campaign will extend over the full school year in four phases. We realize how busy you are in September, so we're giving you more time to incorporate the contest into classroom plans. PLUS kids can enter via the website directly (with parental/guardian permission) as well as through your classroom.

Timing:

October 1, 2018 to January 6, 2019	Teacher / classroom sign-up to receive more information and contest updates
January 7, 2019	Contest opens for submissions
February 18, 2019	Contest closes
February 19 – March 28, 2019	Judging of all entries
April 2019	Winners are announced

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Each grade will have a grand prize winner and three runners-up for a total of 12 prizes.

Grand Prize Winner (three total, one per grade) - **\$25,000**

Each grade winner of the Meaning of Home contest will receive a \$25,000 grant to direct to a local Habitat build of their choice. Additional prizes include an iPad and class pizza party.

3 Runner-up Prizes (nine total, three per grade) - **\$5,000**

Three contest runners-up per grade will each receive a \$5,000 grant towards a Habitat build project of their choice. Additional prizes include an electronic tablet and class pizza party.

And **\$10 per essay will be generously donated** by the contest's founding sponsor, Genworth Canada to your local Habitat for Humanity for every contest entry submitted by students in their region!

That means that your classroom participation is helping Canadian families access safe, decent and affordable homes that they pay for with a no down payment, interest-free affordable mortgage.

What's inside your kit:

Now that you have signed up, you can download the digital toolkit found on meaningofhome.ca, or simply click on the links below to download the materials. We've provided everything you need to get your students involved in the Meaning of Home contest. This digital tool kit includes:

- [a classroom module including writing tips, social studies-aligned information on affordable housing;](#)
- [a word search to help engage students;](#)
- [poster for display in your classroom, library or cafeteria.](#)

We are very thankful for your classroom's participation in the Meaning of Home contest. To access submission forms (online and mail), contest rules or to submit your students' entries, visit meaningofhome.ca

Many thanks for your support!

Habitat for Humanity Canada