

Meaning of Home



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National writing contest in support of Habitat for Humanity Canada

Welcome!

The Meaning of Home contest, which runs from January 6, 2020 to February 21, 2020, invites Grades 4, 5 and 6 students from across Canada to submit a written poem or essay (in English or French) explaining what *home* means to them for a chance to direct a \$30,000 grant to a local Habitat for Humanity build. There is no cost to enter. Since 2007, over 58,000 students have participated in the Meaning of Home contest. Thanks to their inspiring words, and the support of founding sponsor Genworth Canada and award sponsors Revera Inc. and The Silver Hotel Group, the Meaning of Home contest has raised over \$1.5 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.

Key dates:

October 9, 2019 to January 5, 2020	Teachers can sign up on meaningofhome.ca to receive regular contest updates
January 6, 2020	Contest opens for submissions
February 21, 2020	Contest closes
February 22 to April 30, 2020	Entries judged
May 2020	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) - **\$30,000**

Each grade winner of the Meaning of Home contest will receive a \$30,000 grant generously donated by the contest's award sponsors Revera Inc. and The Silver Hotel Group, to direct to a local Habitat build of their choice. Additional prizes include an iPad and class pizza party.

Three Runner-up prizes (nine total, three per grade) - **\$10,000**

Three contest runners-up per grade will each receive a \$10,000 grant, generously donated by the contest sponsors 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. 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.
- A word search to help engage students.
- A poster for display in your classroom, library or cafeteria.

We are very thankful for your classroom's participation in the Meaning of Home contest. You and your students can submit their entries online at meaningofhome.ca, or you can download and print a submission form that can be mailed in. To submit entries online, download the submission form for mail entries, or access contest rules, please visit meaningofhome.ca

Many thanks for your support!

Habitat for Humanity Canada

No purchase necessary. Contest valid from January 6 to February 21, 2020. There are 12 prizes available to be won with a total approximate retail value of \$8,280.97 CAD. Odds of winning a prize depend upon the number and score of eligible entries received. Correctly answering a time-limited, mathematical skill-testing question required. Open to all legal residents of Canada who are grade 4, 5, and 6 students. Limit one entry per entry person. For complete contest rules see meaningofhome.ca.