



# Meaning of Home

## National writing contest in support of Habitat for Humanity Canada

This year has been one for the books. It's been filled with major events and uncertainty and while we would like to be optimistic, 2021 is shaping up to be much the same. But one thing that has remained a constant through this unprecedented time is home. We have spent more time in this place we call home, than ever before. Our home has transformed into an office, a school, and for the lucky, a place of refuge. We've had a lot of time to reflect on what home means and there is no doubt your students/children have thought a lot about it too. That's why this year's Meaning of Home Contest is all the more relevant and important.

The Meaning of Home contest, which runs from January 4, 2021 to February 19, 2021, 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 68,000 students have participated in the Meaning of Home contest. Thanks to their inspiring words, and the support of founding sponsor Sagen™ (formerly Genworth Canada)<sup>1</sup> and award sponsors Revera Inc. and Swiffer, the Meaning of Home contest has raised over \$1.7 million to build homes across Canada for families in need of decent and affordable housing.

We want to hear from you! Use our curriculum and activities to discuss with your children/students what home means to them. This year in particular, we are sure to hear more thoughtful responses to this question than ever before. Download our toolkit and register at [meaningofhome.ca](http://meaningofhome.ca) to access resources for online or at-home learning.

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 15, 2020 to January 4, 2021	Teachers can sign up on <a href="http://meaningofhome.ca">meaningofhome.ca</a> to receive regular contest updates
January 4, 2021	Contest opens for submissions
February 19, 2021	Contest closes
February 21 to April 30, 2021	Entries judged
May/June 2021	Winners are announced

<sup>1</sup> Sagen™ is the business name of Genworth Financial Mortgage Insurance Company Canada ("GFMIICC") and is a trademark owned by Genworth MI Canada Inc. Genworth Canada is the former brand name of GFMIICC.



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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 Swiffer, 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 for every contest entry submitted **\$10 will be generously donated** by the contest's founding sponsor, Sagen™, to your local Habitat for Humanity. That means that your classroom participation is helping Canadian families to access safe, decent and affordable homes. For more information on how we work/operate please visit [www.habitat.ca](http://www.habitat.ca).

**What's inside your kit:**

Now that you have signed up, you can download the digital toolkit found on [meaningofhome.ca](http://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 and social studies-aligned information on affordable homeownership.
- A word search to help engage students.
- A poster for display in your classroom, library, cafeteria, or other community spaces, or to share with your network, friends, and family.

We are very grateful for your child's participation in the Meaning of Home contest. Your child can submit their entry online at [meaningofhome.ca](http://meaningofhome.ca), or you can download and print a submission form that can be mailed in. To access submission forms (online and mail), contest rules or to submit your child's entry, visit [meaningofhome.ca](http://meaningofhome.ca)

Many thanks for your support!

[local Habitat contact information]

Founding Sponsor



Judging Sponsors



No purchase necessary. Contest valid from January 4 to February 19, 2021. There are 12 prizes available to be won with a total approximate retail value of \$5,966.91 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/rules](http://meaningofhome.ca/rules).