STEP UP SCHOOL

Subject: CBSE Budding Authors Programme 2025-26

Dear Parents,

The CBSE Budding Authors Programme is designed to inspire students to discover the joy of creative writing and storytelling. The programme aims to nurture writing skills, boost confidence, and inspire a lifelong love for creative expression. It provides a structured platform for students to develop critical thinking, language proficiency, and self-expression through authentic writing experiences. Through this initiative, the students can craft and submit their own short stories, giving wings to their imagination and originality, with a chance to see their work published.

The CBSE Budding Authors Programme 2025–26 shall be conducted on any theme, covering all styles, genres, and types of writing. There is **NO FEE** for this programme.

The students can submit their original, unpublished short story either in Hindi or English under the following three categories:

Category	Classes	Length of Submissions
1	Classes 5-6	500-600 words
2	Classes 7-8	600-900 words
3	Classes 9-10	1000-1500 words

Guidelines for submission of entries by the students:-

- Kindly note that the entries can be submitted in English or Hindi to the respective class teachers by **19 January,2026.**
- **Two entries per class category (a total of 12 entries from each school) will be shortlisted for onward submission to CBSE—one story in Hindi and one in English per class.**
- **Please ensure that all entries are submitted in Word document (.docx) format.**
- Students are expected to submit an original, unpublished short story written in English or Hindi.
- Submissions will be judged on literary merit, originality, and readability. All final decisions rest with CBSE.
- Themes for story writing for all classes are provided in Annexure I. (encl. herewith)

Annexure I

Create a theme-based storyline based on these cues or your own ideas.

- **Classes 5-6 (Word Limit: 500-600 words)**

Theme	Story cues	Hero Story Element
Adventure	An alien ship lands in school during maths period	Plot
	The school garden is being raided by someone who leaves behind square footprints. Investigate.	Characters and Problem
	On a trek, a mysterious sound leads one of you away. What do you do next	Plot and Setting
Love (for pets, for nature, for your school, for yourself)	Monkeys appear in the lockdown in a building society.	Problem
	Someone is regularly bullying animals in school. A gang of kids stand up to them.	Problem, Character
	A baby gets stuck in a locked house. Design a rescue scenario	Problem, Setting
Heroes around us	A quarrelling family meets a Kargil war hero in their building society.	Characters
	A child usually scared of the dark overcomes their fear in a crisis situation.	Characters, Setting, Solution
	A policewoman helps people in a new city who are unable to speak the language.	Problem, Solution
Science	A failed invention suddenly finds new use.	Plot
	Two magnets are sucking up the world's energies. Only one child can save the planet using science.	Character, Problem, Solution
	It's 2025 and the world has no electricity. What will life be like?	Character, Problem, Solution
	Your friend makes a robot that does whatever you need. What do you make him do?	Character, Plot

- **Classes 7-8 (Word Limit: 600-900 words)**

Theme	Story cues	Hero Story Element
When I… (A theme that makes you fantasize or imagine about a certain point in time)	When I found ancient treasure buried in my school playground.	Plot, Problem, Solution
When I… (A theme that makes you fantasize or imagine about a certain point in time)	When I dialed 100 by mistake and the police came rushing to my house	Plot
When I… (A theme that makes you fantasize or imagine about a certain point in time)	When I got to be the Prime Minister of India for a day.	Problem, Solution
When I… (A theme that makes you fantasize or imagine about a certain point in time)	When I had to host a foreign exchange student from Spain at my house.	Characters
Weird and Whacky (All things out of the ordinary)	A strange island forms in your bathroom. What can be done?	Character, Problem, Solution

Weird and Whacky (All things out of the ordinary)	My upside-down day, when I went to work and my mom went to school (in my classroom.)	Plot
Weird and Whacky (All things out of the ordinary)	Zombies take over your school while you are playing a game of zombies.	Character, Plot, Problem, Solution
Weird and Whacky (All things out of the ordinary)	You are in the forest when you come face to face with the snow dragon: an adorable, furry, and surprisingly tiny creature who breathes fire.	Plot
Kindness	A poacher who has a change of heart and devotes their life to helping animals.	Character
Kindness	A friend forgives another who makes a rash mistake, and what happens when the tables are turned.	Characters, Problem, Solution
Kindness	Being kind is hard, but worth it.	Problem, Solution
Self-confidence	Someone who always loses races but participates in them again and again.	Character (traits)
Self-confidence	I was terrified. Butterflies filled my stomach. But I took a deep breath and finally stepped out onto the stage	Character (traits/actions), problem, solution
Self-confidence	When I say it, I do it	Character, Problem, Solution

- **Classes 9-10 (Word Limit: 1000-1500 words)**

Theme	Story cues	Hero Story Element
War and Peace	How a town rebuilds itself after war	Characters, Plot, Problem, Solution
War and Peace	There are two major groups of people who live on a mythical planet, the water people and the land people. Can they learn to co-exist peacefully when the lines start blurring?	Plot, Problem, Solution
War and Peace	Write a story about a child your age, and their contribution to an important event in India's struggle for independence.	Character, Plot
Fantasy(All things out of the ordinary)	You are at a Coin Show when you meet a coin dealer who specialize	Character (appearance, traits, attitudes)
Fantasy(All things out of the ordinary)	Ghostly creatures have taken over a school.	Plot, Character
Fantasy (All things out of the ordinary)	The world has turned upside down, bats are sitting and humans are hanging by their toes. Mice are going to the office and cats are hiding in holes. How would a human being live in this world?	Plot, Problem, Solution
The (not so distant) Future	A typical day in 2030.	Problem, Solution
The (not so distant) Future	You see a cake in a photo, and can suddenly taste it. Is this a dream, or technology?	Plot
The (not so distant) Future	The adventures of my 3D printed car.	Character, Plot

Participation in Budding Authors Programme is compulsory.

Regards,

Step up School