

Writing competition

Step into a symphony of stories!

Imagine a world where books burst open and amazing characters from every kind of story leap out!

Write a short story about a wonderful world filled with colourful characters. (Limit of 3 pages per entry.)

Borderland

Choo! Choo! The sound of the train echoed through the station. Kuina got up from the bench which she had been sitting on and boarded the train. It was packed and filled with people chatting, reading and staring out the foggy windows waiting for the next stop. She took a seat at the back of the train, watching the view from outside ready to go to sleep. As the train continued to go to different stations and stops, many passengers left one by one until they were all gone. Kuina woke up with a shocked expression on her face. Even though the train had already passed the last stop, the train kept going. She walked all around the train and there was no one controlling it. The train was controlling itself!

Kuina banged loudly on the door, wanting to get out. She wanted to scream for help, but she knew that no one would hear her, so she sat there with all her hope lost and started wondering if she would see her parents, friends or even anyone again. She panicked and her heart began to beat faster but then suddenly, the train stopped at an unknown station called Borderland.

Kuina's eyes were wide open, shocked and she was flabbergasted. The doors of the train began to open slowly and out of curiosity, she stepped onto the unknown and empty station platform. Bang! The doors shut behind her, and the train began to fade into a dark fog. As the fog started to clear, Kuina was in disbelief as she saw vibrant colourful flowers fill the grassy green hills, crystal clear rivers sparkled underneath the hot sun and different birds began to fly through the air. Kuina was amazed.

As she began to explore even further, she was crowded by a bunch of friendly creatures who looked like frogs and welcomed her with a warm smile. "Oh look, a being from Earth!" said one of the weird looking creatures. Kuina screamed. "What are you guys!?" Kuina asked. "We are called petalings," said the creatures. Kuina introduced herself. "My name is Kuina and I come from Earth." The colourful frog like creatures were amazed and asked Kuina about Earth and began showing her around. They were very kind and pure hearted. They showed Kuina sparkling waterfalls, beautiful views, sights and fields where flowers could change colour whenever the calming breeze blew.

"Would you like to join us for lunch, friend?" asked one of the creatures. Kuina hesitated for a moment before smiling and agreeing. The creatures led Kuina to a picnic beneath a rainbow tree filled with all different kinds of leaves. The table was filled with various foods, colourful fresh fruits, sweet pastries, warm breads, sparkling fruit juice and clean water. As they ate, Kuina and the creatures laughed, shared stories and welcomed Kuina as if she had always belonged there. Kuina



SYMPHONY OF STORIES

had a bright smile on her face, until she remembered that her parents and friends are probably worrying about her.

Kuina's smile began to fade. She realised that she might never return home and live her life. She took a deep breath and tried to forget about it for a bit. The moon was rising and night was about to come. The creatures welcomed Kuina to their village and led her along a well-lit path until they reached the middle of the village. Every cottage glowed with colourful bright lights and villagers gathered with warm bright smiles. "Welcome to our homes!" they all yelled out loud. Music filled the air as they started celebrating and dancing around a campfire. They laughed, sang songs and invited Kuina over to join them.

Soon, Kuina was dancing too, feeling happy. "I wish I could stay here forever. Maybe I can but I have a life to live on Earth," Kuina thought to herself. Suddenly, the music stopped playing and all the creatures stopped dancing and singing. "Kuina listen carefully. If you want to go back home and to your life you must catch the train back to Earth tomorrow morning" said one of the petalings. Kuina didn't want to leave so early just yet but thought for a bit. One by one, each petaling began to move into the bright neon cottages and Kuina followed. She was greeted with walls covered in glowing flowers and colourful vines, furniture carved from wood with comfy cushions in bright colours, a fireplace that had rainbow flames and even more. Kuina was astonished. She quietly slept on the comfy colourful couch until it was morning.

The next morning, Kuina woke up and saw the petalings already awake and rushed over to them and asked when the train was coming. They replied, "The train is coming in thirty minutes, you must hurry." They insisted that they drop her off at the station. Kuina nodded and headed over to the dining table to eat breakfast. The smell of freshly baked bread greeted her as she walked in. There was also a set of fruit, warm bread, fluffy pancakes drizzled with honey, tea and even more. Kuina thanked the petalings for the food and ate very quickly.

With fifteen minutes left before the train arrived, the petalings took her to the train station. Kuina tried her best not to cry. They led her along a long path, through glowing flowers, the sparkling streams, the oceans and the rainbow trees in the picnic area. Although the peaceful walk was long, Kuina wished it would never end. Before long, they arrived at the train station and sighted the sign called Borderland. The same train waited at the platform.

"I'll miss all of you guys" said Kuina. All the petalings were gathered around her saying goodbye. The train whistle blew as Kuina was about to enter the train. The oldest petaling stepped forward and said, "Wait, friend. Before you go, you must promise not to tell anyone about this land and that you came here." Kuina nodded in and said, "I promise." All the petalings smiled brightly and Kuina stepped onto the train. She looked back and waved as the door closed. A tear fell down Kuina's cheek as she sat down. She fell sound asleep.

When Kuina opened her eyes, the train had stopped and she was finally home. She looked out of the window excited. She was back at the very same station where her journey started. Kuina stepped onto the platform as the train faded away into a fog. Kuina looked around and everything was back to normal. People were chatting, laughing and reading. She had a bright smile on her face as she skipped home.

When she entered her house, Kuina felt like crying as if she had never been there before. She greeted her parents with a smile on her face. Although she could not tell anyone about her adventure to the Colourful World, she was grateful that she experienced it and created lots of memories with the petalings.