The Word Warrior Competition 2020 is all about writing engaging, fresh and authentic dialogue – for a play, for a movie or to use in a story.

Once again Detective Inkomba will take centre stage. He will be your main character trying to solve another mystery that is baffling the world. This time around he can be involved in world affairs, inter-planetary travel, covert affairs, local affairs or even a love affair!

We need you to tell us what the story / movie / play is about, give us some dialogue withoomph! and then let us know how it all ended or concluded.

**NOTES!**

We want you to be creative, brave and free, so say what you want to say and describe what you want to describe. The only thing we don’t want is any swearing.

Remember that your words can create pictures in the reader’s mind, so make sure to describe what you see in your mind in your introductory and final paragraph.

Have fun, and remember, its ok to be dramatic and funny.

**Requirements:**

- A short paragraph of two to give us an idea of what the story is about. (summary)
- A page and a half of dialogue.
- A final paragraph to give us a satisfactory ending to your story. (conclusion)

The competition is open to learners between the ages of 9 – 16 years. The description and dialogue must not be longer than two A4 pages of 4 A5 pages. Write your name, your age, your contact details, your school’s name, followed by the contact number of the school and your teacher’s name at the end of the letter.

**Example of a short scene and a bit of dialogue**

**Setting the scene**

Detective Inkomba has had a hard year. But he now has a week’s holiday and he is spending it at home, where he is resting on a lounger next to the pool, reading a novel and nibbling on some sweet things. He has been on holiday for a full day. And he still must find some rest. His young son and a group of his friends have been playing cops and robbers the whole morning, running in and out of the house, shouting and shouting and causing havoc. Detective Inkomba is longing for his office. While thinking that he will never find peace, a loud scream, followed by equally loud crying rips through the air. Detective Inkomba almost falls into the pool from shock. Then he literally falls into the pool as a horde of running young boys, bumps into his lounger and up-ends him.

What on earth! It turns out that the big chocolate cake everyone was waiting to eat a bit later has gone missing leaving an empty plate and a huge mess in the kitchen.

**SCENE 1**

The scene opens with the small son of Detective Inkomba standing looking up at Inkomba. Detective Inkomba has his hands on his hips, and his small son has chocolate all over his face. They are in a kitchen. On a counter near the two is a plate with a very small leftover amount of chocolate cake on it.

**Dialogue extract**

Detective Inkomba: So, no-one ate the cake.

Mini Inkomba: Yes, he ate it all up and he made a mess!

Detective Inkomba: Yes, I can see the mess he made.

Mini Inkomba: But there is no cake left!

Detective Inkomba: Perhaps we should follow the cake crumbs and the chocolate smears on the walls to find this invisible bird?

Mini Inkomba: I think the bird planted the evidence on my face.

Detective Inkomba: That is possible. Shall we ask some of the witnesses to the cake tragedy to tell us what they saw?

**Conclusion**

After talking to a group of very excited little boys, getting descriptions of the invisible bird that did not match any known bird on earth, Detective Inkomba concluded that the Invisible Bird, also known as an HLB (Hungry Little Boy) must have swooped down on the cake in a feeding frenzy that left the poor HLB without any memory of what had happened. Therefore, the mystery of the missing chocolate cake remains a mystery to this day.

**WIN:**

R5000 worth of books for the winning school and R1 000 for the individual winner

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