



SGCNZ

Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand

SGCNZ/Ida Gaskin Shakespeare Essay Competition 2026

SGCNZ/ IDA GASKIN SHAKESPEARE ESSAY COMPETITION 2026

Chances to win money and be published in SGCNZ Accent on Shakespeare Magazine

Your work can count towards NCEA if applicable.

1 Choose ONE of the following categories:

1

Write an essay on the importance of setting in one of Shakespeare's plays of your choice.

Length 750-1250 words.

2

Write an essay on "Many of Shakespeare's plays achieve their drama from a tension between the desire of the individual and aims of the state, family, or other grouping."

Length 750-1250 words.

3

Option a) Write a short story incorporating at least 20 phrases from Shakespeare's plays, poems or sonnets

Option b) Write and illustrate a short graphic novel, creating a new story by drawing together Shakespearean characters from at least two Shakespeare plays

Length 750-1250 words.

2 Tick appropriate box on Entry Form

3 Send with the attached entry form by 27th March 2026

To:

sarah.ross@vuw.ac.nz

Email

cc to: sam@vuw.ac.nz

CRITERIA

Categories 1 and 2 are directed to Year 13 students in 2025 and Year 11-13 students in 2026 (younger ones may enter); Option 3 is for only Year 7-10s.

Readers will be looking for well-written essays which show evidence of independent thought and originality

Spelling must be accurate.

Essays will be read "blind"; please do not identify your name or your school/homeschool group/community group on the essay itself

Ensure that you scan and email your attached form with your entry

Entrants must be a Friend of SGCNZ either through their school/ home school cluster/community group or individually.

PRIZES

Analytical Category 1 and Analytical Category 2



Creative Category 3



NB: The value of the prizes may vary depending on the entries and the judges' decisions.

Prizes donated by VUW, Mary-Annette Hay Bequest, Michelle Linterman, the Gaskin Family and NZSA.

Prize winners will be announced at SGCNZ's VUW National Shakespeare Festival Award Ceremony at 7.00pm, 31 May 2026 at the St James Theatre in Wellington.

The finalists will have a chance to attend workshops at SGCNZ VUW National Shakespeare Festival free of charge on 29 May 2026 in Wellington.

For further information please contact
Dawn Sanders ONZM, QSM, SGCNZ Chief Executive
P: 04 384 1300 / 027 283 6016 E: dawn@sgcnz.org.nz sgcnz.org.nz/competitions

The Judges' decisions shall be final and no correspondence entered into.

SGCNZ reserves the right to retain and discuss with the designer, future use of the winning designs.

SGCNZ/ IDA GASKIN SHAKESPEARE ESSAY COMPETITION 2026

Due 27 March 2026

Name: _____

Postal address: _____
Postcode: _____

School: _____

Home School Cluster/Community Group: _____

Student in Year: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Mobile: _____ Ethnicity: _____

Email: _____ Male Female Diverse

Essay Category: Category 1 Category 2 Category 3 a or b

Entrants may enter under their school's/home school cluster/community group's Friend's Membership or personal Membership. Please tick applicable box:

- My School/Home School Cluster Group is a financial Friend of SGCNZ
- Enclosed please find my School's Friend's Fee \$225/Home School Cluster/Community Group Friend's Fee \$120 (please circle one)*
- I am a Student Friend of SGCNZ
- Enclosed please find my Student Friend Fee \$50
- I enclosed a prepaid envelope or courier sticker for the return of my designs

All amounts include GST. This must be paid electronically via the Membership Form on our website. *If necessary, please discuss reductions to the Friends' Membership Fees with the Chief Executive.

I agree to my essay being sent to Shakespeare's Globe Archive & Research Department and extracts of my essay being reproduced in SGCNZ's Accent on Shakespeare-SGCNZ News, and media releases, on our website and in educational material. For other use, separate permission will be sought from the author.

Student's signature

Date

I verify that this work is that of the student named above.

Teacher's name(if applicable): _____

Mobile/landline: _____

Teacher's signature (if applicable)

Email: _____

Parent's/Caregiver's name(if applicable): _____

Mobile/landline: _____

Parent's/Caregiver's signature

Email: _____