

# FAQs

## Q: What does MageQuill do?

MageQuill is an online literacy and learning tool, co-developed by the student-and-teacher cohort of the Highland Council. It revolutionises how creativity is added to the classroom and works to make the publishing world more accessible to all. Because it has students and writers from all over the world, users get an international, democratic perspective on knowledge and writing, supported by an encouraging community.

## Q: If the target-group you are reaching out to are under-26s – and are not limited to school-students – why do you use the categories ‘schools’, ‘classrooms’, ‘students’, and ‘teachers’ on the MageQuill platform?

In the MageQuill set-up, these terms have a different and more fluid connotation. Essentially, groups in MageQuill are called “schools”, and the online MageQuill environment is the “classroom”. “Students” are the writers writing on the platform and “teachers” are mentors who guide the writers on their stories, provide critical feedback, chart their progress, and maintain student-records.

## Q: How does MageQuill work as a creative writing tool?

MageQuill is both a creative writing and an educational platform. The **creative writing platform** is targeted at individuals looking to build more visibility for their writing, and to write for potential publication. Writings are identified and selected on the basis of likes and reviews on the platform. These then get to enter the traditional world of print publishing; we don’t charge the authors for publication, but instead present them with generous royalties. We also have good contacts with gaming and film companies, and with established authors – with an aim to encourage writing across diverse forms and avenues.

The **educational platform** is aimed at the teacher-and-student community. Schools can sign up for a small annual subscription charge, and then students can individually enroll on the MageQuill platform using their school license. The platform sets up a classroom structure that allows students to avail various educational toolsets and pursue creative writing as a discipline within a reliable mentoring and teaching framework. This is part of our ongoing agenda to redefine and liberate education from the restraints of rigid marking schemes and rote-learning; it is a system that aims to encourage students to think outside the box, experiment with their interests, and craft their individual creative voices.

Users can write directly on the platform and keep posting chapters or excerpts on the wall for review, critique, and feedback; these can be in any stage of their manuscript development, and at any point in the writing-process. Mentors can read these and post comments and suggestions; fellow writers and peers on the platform can like these posts. Mentors can further suggest assignments and tasks; and maintain student-records and progress-reports. Since MQ is rooted in networking and communication, users can also send each other friend requests and connect through chatrooms.

Peer-reviews, comments, and likes on your writing projects will ensure visibility while helping writers gauge how their work is being received. It is on the basis of these reviews and responses on the platform that we will eventually identify projects for publication.

**Q: Can we only submit completed manuscripts and/or write-ups for peer feedback?**

No, that is not the case. MageQuill is aimed at providing guidance, support, and mentorship throughout the process of writing and not just on the finished product. We are a highly collaborative platform, and actively work towards fostering a community of young writers. The agenda is to help aspiring writers develop and build on their writing through peer-reviews and a nuanced mentorship system; at the same time writers get to maintain control and agency over their own ideas and stories. MQ is primarily structured as a tool to assist writers on their journey towards publication.

**Q: How many submissions are allowed per user for the competition?**

There is no cap on the number of submissions. A user can work on and submit as many ongoing manuscripts and/or stories that they want, and these can be simultaneous too.

**Q: Does MageQuill only have prose submissions?**

No, again, the idea is to write without limits. We facilitate Creative Writing across different forms and genres; prose, poetry, fiction, non-fiction, plays, and/or screenplays. We are also looking at different languages; currently we have English, Gaelic, and Urdu! We assign mentors accordingly.

**Q: What kind of submissions would you be expecting for the lore competition?**

Lore is any text used in the making of a game; something to base your storylines and characters on. Since it is essentially about building a universe and a nuanced social, political, and/or cultural framework to develop your stories in, your submission(s) can take any form – from a list of points to an explanation of a language system you just made up. There is no cap on the number of words or submissions, and no limit on the form and content. We are all about shedding restraints and writing freely.

**Q: How to sign up?**

If you are with one of the schools that have signed up with us, then you can sign up through them. If not, you can sign up independently; and the relevant classroom. Please refer to the checklist in the Lore Competition pdf.

**Q: Who owns the text?**

All authors retain the copyright.