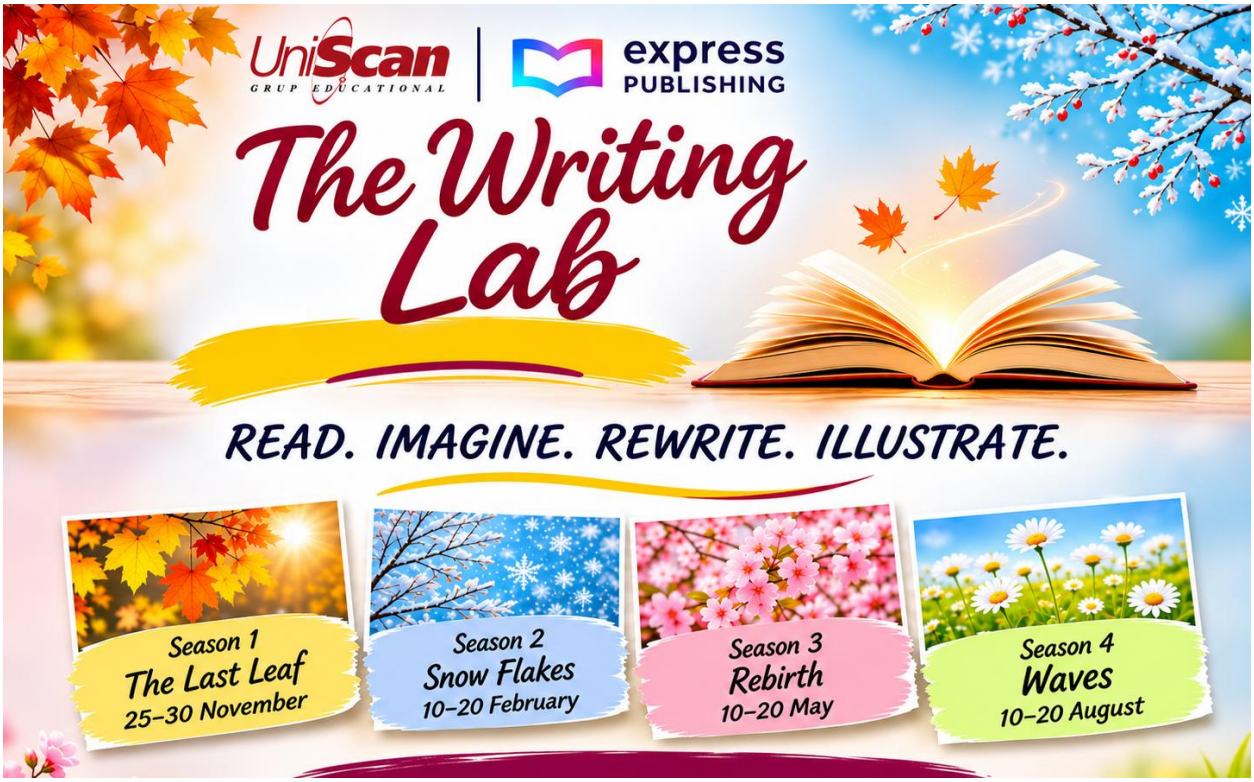


THE WRITING LAB

SEASON 1 – THE LAST LEAF

Official Competition Guidelines

A creative writing competition for Lower and Upper Secondary School Students

Submission Deadline–30 November

1. Who can participate?

The competition is open to students in:

- **Lower Secondary Education** – Grades 5–8.
- **Upper Secondary Education** – Grades 9–12.

Students participate individually, with the support and coordination of their English teacher.

There are two separate competition categories: Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary.

2. The Challenge

Teachers, choose an Express Publishing reader from your library and read it with your class!

Based on the book, each student chooses a character and puts themselves in their shoes, imagining how they would have wished that character's life to unfold. They then write a **one-page letter** to the author, expressing the character's hopes, dreams and wishes, explaining what they would have liked to be different in the character's life and suggesting how their journey, relationships and destiny could have taken a different direction.

Students can:

- Be creative.
- Use their imagination to the fullest.
- Change the characters' decisions or destinies how they like.

3. What should your entry include?

Each submission must contain:

1. **The original reader:** the title and author of the Express Publishing book.
2. **Your letter:** an original letter imagined by the student who puts him/herself in the character's shoes and writes to the author of the reader in English.
3. **An AI-generated illustration**: a separate illustration on a dedicated page, inspired by the events, characters or atmosphere described in the letter.

AI tools may be used to create the illustration, but the story itself should reflect the student's imagination and writing skills.

4. How to enter

- Students prepare their entries individually.
- English teachers collect and review the submissions.
- Teachers submit their students' entries to the competition organizers through email: bookshop@uniscan.ro.

- Each entry must clearly identify the student's name, school, grade and competition category.

Submission deadline 30th November.

5. Awards and Recognition

The prizes will be awarded through a random draw on December 4th.

There will be 30 prizes.

The winning students will be announced to their coordinating teachers and will receive certificates of participation, which they can add to their digital portfolios together with their work.

The coordinating teachers of the winning students will receive a certificate and a T-shirt.

6. Important Information

- Each student must submit their own original written work.
- The letter must be written in English.
- The AI illustration must relate directly to the student's writing.
- The chosen reader must be an Express Publishing publication.
- Entries must be submitted by the teacher within the announced competition period.
- Participation implies acceptance of the competition guidelines.

READ. IMAGINE. REWRITE. ILLUSTRATE.