

FINCO Reads Outstanding Student Competition 2026

Theme: Villain Origin Story

FINCO Reads: Outstanding Student Competition 2026 with the theme of ‘Villain Origin Story’ encourages students to use their creativity and empathy to consider the good side of a villain. No one is born bad. Something must have happened in the course of their life that made them walk the path of “villainhood”.

Students are required to choose a fictional book and create a backstory of the villain before they became one. They will then present their version through video presentations.

The competition promotes reading with purpose, nurtures creative expression, and develops essential 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, digital literacy, and effective communication.

Categories

Category A	Category B	Category C
Years 1 to 6 Primary Government School Students	Forms 1 to 3 Lower Secondary Government School Students	Forms 4 to 5 Upper Secondary Government School Students

Guidelines

In the **2-minute** video, you can talk about your villain’s backstory. Use the following steps as a guide;

1. **Introduce** yourself - Share your name and the name of your school.
2. **Name** of the story - Mention the book title and author.
3. Give a **short summary** of the book - Tell us what the book is about in 1-2 sentences.
Example: Oliver is a poor orphan who has a very hard life. After escaping that difficult life, Oliver must choose between a gang of thieves and being a good person.
4. **Identify** the villain - Tell us who the villain from the book is and why you identified them as the villain.
Example: The villain I’ve identified in this book is Fagin. He traps young boys like Oliver into a life of crime and teaches them to steal just so he can stay rich and safe.
5. Tell us the **villain’s backstory** (keep it short and sweet!)
6. **Reflect** on your journey by answering this question:
“How do you deal with challenges or unfair situations in your life?”
7. Add **digital visuals** - Your video must include simple visuals related to the book. You can use simple apps to add visuals:

 CapCut, InShot, iMovie, Canva Video, PowerPoint, or Google Slides (with screen recording).

Note: You may submit your entry **online** via Google Form [here](#) or **download and email** this entry form to contact@finco.my

Save your video. Name your file like this: Name_Category_School Name

(eg: Farah Khadijah_Category B_ SK FINCO)

Please select your category:

- Category A: Primary Government School Students (Years 1 to 6)
 Category B: Lower Secondary Government School Students (Forms 1 to 3)
 Category C: Upper Secondary Government School Students (Forms 4 to 5)

REMEMBER TO ATTACH YOUR VIDEO TOGETHER WITH YOUR COMPLETED ENTRY IN THE EMAIL!

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Student's Full Name
(The name that you would like us to use on your certificate)

Year/Form:

School Name:

State:

Name of *Teacher/Parent/Guardian:

Contact number of *Teacher/Parent/Guardian:

***Email address of Teacher/Parent/Guardian:**

Date of submission:

*please circle one

Acknowledgement:

1. Only primary or secondary students from government schools in Malaysia are eligible to participate in this competition. Students who do not meet these criteria will be disqualified.
2. Entries must be submitted in English and must be the original work of the student.
3. Incomplete or unsigned submissions will automatically be disqualified.
4. The presenter must be clearly visible and present throughout the video. Voice-overs are not allowed.
5. Explicit content is strictly prohibited in the submission.
6. Parental/Guardian Consent: If you are a student under the age of 18 or submitting on their behalf and are not their parent or guardian, before submitting an entry please ensure you have a parent or guardian's permission to participate and their agreement to the following terms:

7. By entering this competition, you agree to give FINCO your permission to publish any materials for promotional or educational purposes on their online platforms.
8. The publication will take place on the FINCO website, on Facebook and Instagram and it can be used for public relations purposes. In addition, you assure us that you own the rights to the text, photos and videos that you grant us the right to use them. We assume no responsibility for the contents of the individual contributions.
9. Use and Disclosure of Personal Data and Purpose Specification: FINCO will keep confidential all personal information collected through this competition. We may however disclose such information to the following parties in the course of using the information for the reason it was collected:
10. A person or company acting on behalf of FINCO;
11. Any other person or company who has undertaken to keep such information confidential, provided they have a right to such information.
12. Data Retention: We will keep any personal information you give us as long as there is a reason to do so, for instance to satisfy the law or regulations, or to protect our interests. If not, then we will destroy it by purging it from our electronic, manual, and other filing systems according to our internal procedures and schedules

I agree

Book Details

Please complete the following questions for your entry. Ensure that **ALL** sections are answered. Use the provided space to write your answers.

1. Title of the story

2. Synopsis of the story
*(Provide a brief summary of the book's original plot in **no more than 80 words.**)*

3. What did the character do that made you identify them as the villain?

Describe the way the villain behaved, spoke, or acted **in no more than 80 words**.

4. Talk about what the villain's childhood could have been like. How different would the villain be if they were treated differently? What did the villain really want? How would the story end if the villain was a good guy? Tell the villain's backstory **in no more than 80 words.**