Contest Rules - “If I Had a Magic Wand”

1. Organizer

The Alliance Française of Calgary, in partnership with the Alliances Françaises of Edmonton, Moncton, Toronto et Ottawa, is organizing a free contest for short stories, comic strips, or manga, open to children and teenagers enrolled in the Alliances Françaises across Canada, on the theme “*If I Had a Magic Wand*”.

2. Summary

The contest aims to encourage creativity, a love of reading, and written expression among children and teenagers.

The theme for this edition is “*If I Had a Magic Wand*”. Any entry that does not adhere to the theme may be disqualified by the jury.

3. Contest Categories

Participants compete in one of the following categories, based on their age:

- Category 1 = Ages 6–8
- Category 2 = Ages 9–11
- Category 3 = Ages 12–15
- Category 4 = Ages 16–18

Any entry submitted by a minor requires the prior consent of their legal guardian, as evidenced by the authorization form included with the registration package. Entries submitted without a signed authorization form will be disqualified.

Members of the judging panel, employees of the organizer, and their immediate family members are not eligible to enter the contest.

4. Type of Submissions

The submission must be an original work of fiction, written in French, and entirely authored by the child.

Only one entry per participant. If multiple entries are submitted, only the first one received will be considered.

The entry must never have been published, won an award in another contest, or been publicly shared online.

The following are prohibited: texts generated by artificial intelligence, plagiarized works, translations, and stories featuring characters protected by copyright.

Content that is violent, hateful, discriminatory, sexual in nature, or that promotes products or brands is excluded.

5. Format and Presentation

Entries must be scanned and sent as a PDF by following the instructions on the Alliance Française website where the child or teenager is currently taking classes or has taken classes during a session in the past two years.

For typed texts: A4 format, 12-point font, 1.5-line spacing, in PDF format.

6. Participant Registration

The entry package consists of two items:

- a signed parental consent form
- the story

The entry package must be submitted by January 30, 2027, at 11:59 p.m. (Calgary time).

Incomplete submissions, those received after the deadline, or those exceeding the maximum length will be disqualified without appeal.

7. Judging Panel and Evaluation Criteria

The judging panel consists of at least 2 members for the first round of selection to determine the winner in each category and for each Alliance Française.

Entries are evaluated based on the following criteria:

Imagination and originality of the story, 10 points

Adherence to and treatment of the theme, 4 points

Story structure (beginning, middle, end), 4 points

Quality of language, appropriate for the author's age and level, 2 points

The jury's decisions are final, require no justification, and are not subject to appeal. The jury reserves the right not to award a prize if the quality of the entries received in a category does not warrant it.

8. Prizes

One prize is awarded in each category to a single winner. A second prize is awarded to the overall grand prize winner (selected from among all categories).

Prizes may not be exchanged, transferred, or converted into cash. Any prize not claimed within 3 months after the announcement of the results is considered forfeited.

9. Calendar

Stage	Date
Registration Opens	December 1st 2026
Deadline for Submission of Entries	January 30th 2027
Jury Deliberations	February 1st - 28th 2027
Announcement of Results	March – final winner March 16th 2027

Winners will be notified individually by email or phone. The results will then be published on the websites of the participating Alliances Françaises.

10. Rights to the Texts

Each child retains full ownership of their story. By participating, the legal guardian authorizes the organizer to reproduce and distribute the winning entry free of charge for non-commercial purposes to promote the contest (website, social media, exhibitions).

The author's name—first name and initial of the last name, unless otherwise requested—will always be credited.

This authorization does not deprive the author of any of their rights: they remain free to publish their text elsewhere.

11. Liability

The organizer shall not be held liable for any loss, delay, or alteration of an electronic submission, nor for any technical malfunction beyond its control.

The organizer reserves the right to shorten, postpone, modify, or cancel the contest in the event of force majeure, without incurring any liability. Any fraud, including substantial assistance from an adult or plagiarism, will result in the participant's immediate disqualification and, if applicable, the revocation of any award granted.

12. Acceptance of the Rules

Participation in the contest implies the participant's and their legal representative's full and unconditional acceptance of these rules. The rules are available on every page dedicated to the contest on the websites of the participating Alliances Françaises and will be provided upon written request.

13. Contact

For any questions: Sarah DEHEZ – sarah@afcalgary.ca