# Finalist 'Best Teaching with ICT'

**Name:** Sarah Burnett
**School:** Upper Harbour Primary School, Auckland
**Name of ICT activity**: Writing with the 100 Word Challenge

**1. What is the Teaching with ICT activity that you want to be considered for the award?**
I have been using the 100WC as a motivator for writing for two years now. Each week we use the prompt on the 100WC website to engage my students in their writing. In Term 1, we entered the Night Zookeepers Creative Writing Month challenge. This website hooked my class in and they weren't only using it in class for writing, but at home too! We came 14th overall (http://www.uhpsroom172015.blogspot.co.nz/2015/04/we-love-night-zookeeper.html) ! We were pretty excited when we found out the 100WC and Night Zookeeper had joined forces and now we can write our 100WC directly on the Night Zookeeper website.

**2. Why did you choose to use this activity?**
I started using the 5 Sentence Challenge with my Year 2/3 class last year as a way to increase writing mileage in my students. It was very successful and it was great to see the progress of my class - from maybe 10 students who could write their five sentences in the timeframe the first time we did it, to the whole class completing five sentences by the end of the year. It also improved the quality of writing. The fact there was an audience and purpose for their writing was a huge motivator. I have a Year 3/4 class this year so we moved on the 100WC and it is having the same results.

**3. How did you implement and use this activity?**
We discuss the prompt, look at previous weeks winners (and analyse what made their writing stand out from the rest) I set them a challenge that if they write the 100 words in the time given, they can read their writing to the class and then we vote for our favourite two to be entered into the competition. The first few times we did it, they wrote in pairs. They have now graduated to writing independently and some students write in their books, and others write directly on the Night Zookeeper website. I also signed up to be a commenter for the entered pieces of writing and I get my students to help me give feedback back and feedforward on the writing of other students from around the world. This has helped improve our peer feedback skills.

**4. What learning outcomes has it achieved for you and your class?**
As mentioned above, I have seen a visible improvement in not only the quantity and quality of writing but also the motivation and engagement. The students like the competitive nature (they want to be picked to enter the competition as well as the possibility of being picked for the Showcase) as well as the 'open' nature of the writing - other than the rules of the prompt, I let them write whatever they want (and in any style) One of my students was picked for the Showcase - http://www.uhpsroom172015.blogspot.co.nz/2015/05/showcase-winner.html
Here's what we have done so far using the new Night Zookeeper/100WC co-operative - https://edu.nightzookeeper.com/night-news/55f732f7322a210300c83a72