Young scribes in literary lockdown

The finished products will go to the children's library at the North Adelaide hospital.

Loretto Year 8 student Lauren Miller, 13, says this will be the second year she has signed up for the competition.

She says her team of 10 would be given a theme and had 12 hours to write a 4000-word story, draw pictures, print and then bind their masterpiece. "Last year we had to write a story with a forest, magic mirror, flying pig and a jester in it - we immediately thought of fantasy," Lauren said. "It's stressful; you have to keep to a tight schedule."

Loretto College and Marrayatville High will enter three teams each in the competition with students in lockdown tomorrow. The schools will also host the Write Across the Creek Festival today.

Eight writers will speak to midde-school students about different forms of writing.

Marrayatville High student Noah Duldig said he would be judging some of his fellow students' work as part of the festival. "I would say my favourite genre of writing is science fiction and fantasy," 15-year-old Noah said.