

Step into Stories Short Story and Poetry Competition Terms and Conditions

1. This competition is being run by Step into Stories with Bewdley Festival.
2. Entry to the competition is open to children aged 5 to 16 as of April 13th 2024 who live in or go to school in the Wyre Forest district, excluding those who are a close relative of the Judges. Proof of age, identity and eligibility may be requested. Entry will be in three age categories - 5-7, 8-11 and 12-16.
3. Entrants must write a fictional short story (no more than 500 words in length) or a poem (no longer than 20 lines). Entry is via online form on our website www.stepintostories.org.uk or via email to competition@stepintostories.org.uk. Entrants will be asked to provide their name and their age. Please put the word STORY or POEM along with the Child's name and age in the subject line of the email (**teachers** entering a class please put the age range of the class and the teacher's name in the subject - a separate entry form for each child must be included as an attachment along with their entry) They must enter the story or poem in word file or pdf format (scans/photographs of legible handwritten work will be accepted). An Entry Form must be submitted for each entrant. All stories and poems should be submitted in English. An adult will be required to approve the entry and agree to these Terms and Conditions on behalf of the entrant, by filling in the details on the form provided. The adult may be the child's parent, guardian or teacher. The adult must provide their own contact details (not the child's) and the region in which the child lives. For the winning entries, if permission to enter was given by a teacher, Bewdley Festival will contact the teacher and ask for confirmation of permission from the entrant's parent or guardian. The personal data provided will be used for the purposes of administering the competition and in accordance with Bewdley Festival Cookies Policy. By providing us with your details, you are agreeing to be

contacted by Bewdley Festival and Step into Stories with Bewdley Festival about future events.

4. Entry opens on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 08:00. Entry closes on Friday 1st March 2024 at 19:00. Submissions received outside of this timeframe will not be considered, so please do not wait until the last minute to send your entry.
5. Entrants can only enter individually. Only one entry per person is permitted and the story must be wholly written by the entrant only; stories cannot be written by more than one person. If more than one entry is submitted, only the entrant's first submission will be considered.
6. Entries must be an original piece of fiction and not an account of real events – either historical or current. The entrant warrants that they have not used material or depicted events that actually took place or used the personal details of any living persons in the story. As the stories will be published online it is important that entrants do not include any personal details about themselves. The entrant must not include their name in the title or body of the story; entries which do contain this information may be removed from the competition.
7. Entries cannot be returned so please remember to retain a copy. Unsuccessful entrants will be contacted in respect of their entry but no feedback on any entry will be provided.
8. All entries must be the original work of the entrant and must not infringe the rights of any other party. Bewdley Festival accepts no responsibility if entrants ignore these Terms and Conditions and entrants agree to indemnify Bewdley Festival against any claim by any third party from any breach of these Terms and Conditions.
9. Entries must not contain defamatory, obscene, offensive, or any other unsuitable material. Entries must be suitable to be broadcast, published or used online by Bewdley Festival for audiences of all ages, but in particular for a child audience. If the story has

troubling content Bewdley Festival may if required take advice from the NSPCC, and may refer the Troubling Content to the relevant authorities

10. Entrants retain the copyright in their entries but grant to Bewdley Festival a perpetual non-exclusive royalty-free licence to publish, broadcast (across all media) and post the entry online and on any other platforms yet to be envisaged. This licence will be deemed to include all the necessary rights and permissions to enable such use by Bewdley Festival, to fulfil the prizes and to complete the administration of this competition.
11. By submitting a story the entrant agrees that Bewdley Festival may at its sole discretion edit, adapt, abridge or translate the entry for the purposes listed in clause 11 above.
12. In the event that the entry is published online, for the avoidance of doubt, this will not be part of, or influence in any way, the judging process. Only the story title, entrant's name and age will be published with an entry.
13. Entries will be judged on the following criteria: - Originality - Plot - Characterisation - Language - Enjoyment
14. The entries will be judged by a panel made from Bewdley Festival Volunteers and Organisers.
15. The winner of each age category in each competition will receive two tickets to an event of their choosing. Bewdley Festival cannot help pay for travel to the event or accommodation. If you have purchased tickets already, the amount will be refunded in the event of you winning.
16. Winning entries will be contacted via email in the last week of March and their names and stories/poems will be announced online on April 1st. We would ask that you do not share your news online until the official announcement on April 1st.
17. Bewdley Festival reserves the right to disqualify any entry which breaches any of these Terms and Conditions, or to withhold a prize if in its opinion entries do not reach the required standard.

18. Bewdley Festival reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions or cancel this competition at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control.
19. Bewdley Festival, its sub-contractors, subsidiaries, agencies and/or any other organisation associated with this competition cannot accept any responsibility whatsoever for any technical failure or malfunction or any other problem with any server, Internet access, system or otherwise which may result in any entry being lost or not properly registered or recorded. Proof of sending is not proof of receipt.
20. These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of England and Wales.