

# Kid Lit Short Story Competition Rules

1. The Kid Lit competition is organised by The Courtyard, Hereford.
2. The Courtyard's Code of Conduct in relation to competitions:  
When the public engages with us through interactivity they will be treated with respect, honesty and fairness. We will handle all interactive competitions and votes with rigorous care and integrity.
3. Entry to this competition is open to persons who will be aged between 5 and 12 years on 7 July 2023. Entry will be in two age categories – ages 5 to 8 years (on 7 July 2023) and 9 to 12 years (on 7 July 2023).
4. Entries must be submitted by an adult (parent/guardian or teacher) on behalf of the child; this adult must have parental permission.  
The adult submitting the entrant's story will be required to approve the entry and agree to these Rules (including The Courtyard's use of the story submitted and the fictional nature of the story) on behalf of the entrant, by way of a checkbox in the form. The adult may be the child's parent, guardian, or teacher. The adult must provide their own contact details (not the child's).
5. Entrants must write an original, fictional short story (no more than 500 words in length). All entries must be submitted via the online form available on our website at [courtyard.org.uk/kidlit](http://courtyard.org.uk/kidlit). The responsible adult submitting the story on behalf of the entrant, will be asked to provide the entrant's name, school, and their age and ensure that they have parental permission to do so. The submitter must enter the child's story in the online form provided for submission.
6. All stories should be submitted in English.
7. We can only accept stories which are 500 words or fewer. Any stories exceeding 500 words will not be taken into consideration.

Entries can only be accepted via the form on The Courtyard website ([courtyard.org.uk/kidlit](http://courtyard.org.uk/kidlit)). Any other type of entry is not permitted and will not be read or considered.

8. Entry opens on Monday 8 May at 8am. Entry closes on Friday 7 July at 8pm. Submissions received outside of this time frame will not, under any circumstances be considered. The Courtyard advises those submitting not to wait until the last minute to submit entries.

If entrants have submitted their form and are awaiting a response, the competition deadline still stands. Unless the competition administrators have explicitly instructed otherwise, all users must submit stories before the deadline to be considered in the competition.

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9. 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.
10. Entries must be an original piece of fiction and not an account of real events – either historical or current. However, stories can use real-life experiences as a creative springboard as long as the story is fictional. If entrants are unclear on whether the content of a story contradicts these Rules, they may email the competition administrator at [takepart@courtyard.org.uk](mailto:takepart@courtyard.org.uk). The entrant's parent, guardian, or teacher warrants that they have not used events that actually took place or used the personal details of any living persons in the story. As the winning stories will be put on our website 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.

Entries cannot be returned so please remember to retain a copy. Unsuccessful entrants will not be contacted in respect of their entry and no feedback on any entry can be provided.

11. All entries must be the original work of the entrant and must not infringe the rights of any other party. The Courtyard accepts no responsibility if entrants ignore these Rules and the entrant's parent, guardian or teacher agrees by submitting the story on behalf of a child that all rules are being upheld.
12. Entries must not contain defamatory, obscene, offensive, or any other unsuitable material; The Courtyard reserves the right to disqualify entries containing such matter. Entries must be suitable to be broadcast or used online by The Courtyard for audiences of all ages, but in particular for a child audience.
13. Entrants retain the copyright in their entries but their parent, guardian, or teacher grants to The Courtyard 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 The Courtyard, to fulfil the prizes and to complete the administration of this competition.
14. By submitting a story, the entrant's parent, guardian, or teacher agrees that The Courtyard may at its sole discretion edit, adapt or abridge the entry for the purposes listed in clause 13 above.

Entrants agree that The Courtyard may publish the stories on their website or any other marketing forum of The Courtyard's for the duration of 3 years. In

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the event that the entry is published online at [courtyard.org.uk/kidlit](https://courtyard.org.uk/kidlit) for the avoidance of doubt only the story title, entrant's name and age will be published with an entry.

15. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

Originality  
Plot  
Characterisation  
Language  
Enjoyment

The entries will be judged in the first instance by a team of judges from The Courtyard. All shortlisted stories will then be judged by an experienced and independent writer.

- Each 1<sup>st</sup> place winner will win 2 Tickets to The Courtyard's Pantomime, Dick Whittington (Tickets exclude the following dates 23 – 31 December) and a signed copy of a children's book along with a goody bag of treats!
- A runner up from each category will also win a signed copy of a children's book and a goody bag of treats!
- All winners' stories will be published on The Courtyard's website for everyone to enjoy!

16. The winners and runners up will be announced on Wednesday 12 July 2023. The winner's names will subsequently be published on our social media pages.

17. The Courtyard reserves the right to disqualify any entry which breaches any of these Rules, brings The Courtyard into disrepute or to withhold a prize if in its opinion entries do not reach the required standard.

18. The Courtyard reserves the right to amend these Rules or cancel this competition at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control.

19. The Courtyard 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.