



EVESHAM FESTIVAL OF WORDS

SHORT STORY COMPETITION 2018 – RULES (Adults and Juniors)

Welcome to the Evesham Festival of Words Short Story Competition - an annual writing competition open to all published and unpublished, UK and non-UK based writers.

Summary:

Two categories:

- **Adult** (must be over 16 years of age at the closing date)
- **Junior** (under 16 years of age at the closing date). (*In the Junior category, entries from those aged 8-11 at the closing date will be judged separately from those aged over 12.*)

Word count: a maximum of **2,500 words** (adults) and a maximum of **1,000 words** (juniors), excluding the title.

Entry fee: **£5** (adults) and **free** for juniors.

The work submitted must not have been previously published. There is no particular theme, and entries may be any genre or subject.

Closing date for submission is midnight on **Friday 23rd March 2018**. Entries received after the closing date will not be considered.

Online entries only will be accepted.

Judges: **Lynne Hackles** (adult category), **Ann Evans** (junior category).

Results: Shortlisted entrants will be notified by **Friday 20th April at the latest**. If you have not heard from us by that date, your entry has not made the shortlist for 2018. The winner in each age category will be announced at the Festival Highlight event, on the evening of Friday 29th June, 7pm, Evesham Town Hall.

Prizes: a cash prize of £150 (adults), and £30 (each of the junior age groups), as well as an engraved trophy for each winner.

Shortlisted entries (up to 10 per age category), including the winning entries, will be published in the Evesham Festival of Words 2018 Anthology, available at the awards on 29th June, and subsequently.



The following rules apply for the 2018 Evesham Festival of Words Short Story Competition.
Please read carefully before entering.

Entries:

- The Short Story Competition is open to all published and unpublished writers, whether they are based in the UK or outside the UK. All entries should be in English.
- There is no specific theme for the 2018 Competition and entries may be any genre or subject.
- Entries must be entirely the work of the entrant and must never have been previously published, in print or online (including self-published, magazines, journals, websites, blogs, social network sites), or broadcast or won a prize in another writing competition. Any entry found to have been plagiarised will be disqualified.
- Simultaneous submissions are welcome – but please let us know as soon as possible if a story is to be published elsewhere or wins a prize in another writing competition.
- Authors may enter as many stories as they like. For adults there will be a fee per entry.
- Members of the Festival Steering Group and Competition Judges will not be eligible to enter the Competition.
- Entries must be received by the **closing date of midnight on Friday 23rd March 2018**. Entries received after this date/time will not be considered.
- Entries will be judged anonymously so please follow the more detailed instructions below in order to keep your personal details separate from your story during judging.
- Stories should be free of spelling and grammatical errors.
- Entry to the Competition implies an acceptance of the Evesham Festival of Words Short Story Competition Rules. Entries that fail to comply with the Rules may be disqualified.

How to submit your entry:

- All entries must be submitted electronically. Paper entries will not be accepted. Note that entries that do not comply with the Rules may be disqualified.
- Stories should be typed in either Times New Roman or Arial 12pt, with double line spacing.
- Include the title of your story as a header on each page submitted.
- Entries should be submitted as doc, doc.x, rtf or pdf format by email to: info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org. Please include your name, address, contact telephone number, and date of birth (if aged under 16 at closing date).
- Online payment of the entry fee (adults only) should be made via Paypal from the Festival website – www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org/Competition. Your payment will



be processed securely by PayPal. They do not pass your card or other details to the Festival organisers.

- After you have made your payment, you will receive a confirmation email from Paypal. That email will quote a Transaction ID number. Please ensure you quote that number in your email with your entry.
- Please use the title of your story as the file name (.doc, .docx, rtf or pdf files only).
- An acknowledgement email will be sent on receipt of your entry.
- If you are unable, or do not wish, to make payment online, please send a cheque for the value of the entry fee(s), payable to 'Evesham Festival of Words' to 20 Allardene, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 1EA. Please include your name and the title of your short story/stories with your cheque.
- Entries will only be accepted for judging when payment has been received.
- Entries will not be returned. Please keep a copy. No corrections or alterations can be made after receipt of an entry.
- Please contact us by email (info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org) at any time if you wish to withdraw your entry. No refund will be given for any withdrawn entries.

Judging:

- Entries will be read and judged anonymously: entrants' names and contact details should only appear in the accompanying email and not anywhere on their stories/manuscripts.
- The stories/manuscripts must be free of all personal information about the author. This includes age and address.
- There will be one judge for the adult category. **Adult category judge: Lynne Hackles** is a full-time writer and tutor. Her regular columns, My Writing Day and Novel Ideas appear in Writing Magazine. Lynne's stories have appeared in nearly all of the women's weekly magazines in the UK, Australia and Scandinavia. She has had a children's novel published, three how-to-write books, and been a ghostwriter. Lynne is a speaker, workshop leader and tutor for Writing Magazine and the London School of Journalism. (www.lynnhackles.com)
- Formation of a long list of 15 entries for the adult category will be carried out by two experienced readers (Chris Hill, published author and former winner of the prestigious Bridport Prize; and Cathy Evans, former County Librarian and member of the Festival Steering Group).
- In the Junior category, entries from those aged 8-11 at the closing date will be judged separately from those aged 12 and over. **Junior category judge: Ann Evans** – writes for children, young adults, reluctant readers and adults and has around 30 books published in these genres. She also writes non-fiction for magazines and runs creative writing courses. (www.annevanbooks.co.uk)



- No competitor may win more than one prize.
- Judges or readers will not comment on individual stories or give feedback on individual stories.
- The judges' decision is final and no individual correspondence will be entered into.
- In the event of either of the named judges being unable to carry out judging, an alternative will be identified and their name(s) published on the Festival website.

The Evesham Festival of Words 2018 Anthology:

- The winner and shortlisted entries (up to 10 per age category) will be published in the printed Evesham Festival of Words 2018 Anthology.
- By entering the Competition you grant permission, if your story is shortlisted, for it to be included in the printed Anthology and ebook format. Worldwide copyright on each entry remains with its author but Evesham Festival of Words has first publication rights to publish the shortlisted stories in the Short Story Competition Anthology 2018 (publication date 29th June 2018).
- In the event that your story is shortlisted, you will be given the opportunity to specify a pen name for public use.
- If you are shortlisted you will be asked to provide a brief (max 100 word) biography for inclusion in the Anthology.
- Each of the shortlisted authors, the judges and readers, will receive one free copy of the paperback version of the Evesham Festival of Words 2018 Anthology.

Prizes:

- There will be a cash prize (£150 – adults, and £30 for each of the junior age groups) as well as engraved trophies for the winners of both the adult and junior categories.
- Prizes will be presented following the opening talk at the Festival in Evesham Town Hall, at 7pm on the evening of Friday 29th June 2018.
- Following the prize-giving ceremony, the winning entries will be announced on the Festival website.



Advice from the Judges:

Lynne Hackles: “Make sure you stick to the Rules. Avoid writing about topics that are currently in the news. Too many writers tend to do this and competition judges receive a glut of stories about floods, child abduction or acts of terrorism. Be different.

Don't send in first drafts. Work on your story until it's as good as you can make it. Punctuation matters. It really does. An invitation can turn into an act of cannibalism for the want of a comma. ‘Let's eat Grandma.’”

Ann Evans: “Writing a good story is all about re-writing and polishing. Never be satisfied with the first draft. Cut out unnecessary words, re-phrase to make your work sharper and clearer. Take your time to create scenes, characters and action that the reader can visualise in their mind's eye. And of course check the basics such as spelling, punctuation and presentation before sending your story off.”

Thank you for supporting Evesham Festival of Words Short Story Competition!

If you have any queries about the competition, please email:
info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org.