



EVESHAM FESTIVAL OF WORDS

SHORT STORY COMPETITION 2019 – 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to the Evesham Festival of Words Short Story Competition - an annual writing competition open to all published and unpublished, UK and non-UK based writers.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 **500 words (juniors aged 8-11)** and **1,000 words (juniors aged 12-15)**, 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 22nd March 2019**. Entries received after the closing date will not be considered. Early entries much appreciated!

Online entries only will be accepted for the adult competition. Hand-written or typed entries will be accepted from junior entrants (see How to Submit Your Entry).

Judges: **Vanessa Gebbie** (adult category), **Ann Evans** (junior category).

Results: Shortlisted entrants will be notified by **Friday 19th April at the latest**. If you have not heard from us by that date, your entry has not made the shortlist for 2019. The winner in each age category will be announced at the Festival Weekend opening night, on the evening of Friday 28th June, 7pm, Northwick Hotel, Evesham.

Prizes: a cash prize of £150 (adults), and £30 (both junior age groups), as well as an engraved trophy for each winner. Prizes will also be awarded to the 2nd and 3rd in each age category. A trophy will be awarded to the school of both of the winning juniors.

Titles of shortlisted entries (up to 10 per age category), including the winning entries, will be posted on the Festival website after the prize-giving ceremony on 28th June. (*Note that we will not be producing an Anthology of winning and short-listed entries in 2019.*)



The following rules apply for the 2019 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- The Short Story Competition is open to all published and unpublished writers, whether they are based in the UK or outside the UK.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 2019 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, Competition Judges, and Readers, will not be eligible to enter the Competition.
- Entries must be received by the **closing date of midnight on Friday 22nd March 2019**. Entries received after this date/time will not be considered. Early entries much appreciated!
- 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 adult 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.
- Any junior entrant who is unable to submit their entry online, may send in a handwritten or typed copy, and should be sent to: Evesham Festival of Words, 20 Allardene, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 1EA.
- Junior entrants should include the name of their school with their entry.

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: Vanessa Gebbie** is author of three short story collections, a novel, an illustrated flash fiction collection and two poetry publications, as well as a text book on the art of the short story which is recommended reading on many creative writing courses in the UK and beyond. She teaches widely. (www.vanessagebbie.com).
- Formation of a long list of 15 entries for the adult category will be carried out by two experienced readers (Helen Yendall, short story writer and member of the Festival Steering Group, and Elizabeth Spencer, former head of St Richard's School, Evesham).
- 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.annevansbooks.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.

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.
- There will also be 2nd and 3rd prizes for each of the age categories, and a trophy for the schools of the two winning junior entrants.
- Prizes will be presented following the opening talk of the main Festival weekend, which takes place at The Northwick Hotel, 7pm on the evening of Friday 28th June 2019.
- Following the prize-giving ceremony, the winning and shortlisted entries will be announced on the Festival website.
- Note that, unlike previous years, we will not be producing a Short Story Anthology in 2019. The winner, and those placed 2nd and 3rd in each age category, will, however, be invited to have their stories published on the Festival website or, if they prefer, to provide a brief synopsis for inclusion.



Advice from the Judges:

Vanessa Gebbie: “For me, a great story needs a character or characters I care about, caught at a pivotal moment in their lives. Let me share that moment. Take me out of my world into theirs, and make me forget I’m reading.”

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 believable characters and scenes, try and paint a picture with your words so that the reader can see what you see. And remember to 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.