



EVESHAM FESTIVAL OF WORDS

SHORT STORY COMPETITION 2020 – 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to the Evesham Festival of Words Short Story Competition - an annual writing competition open to all published and unpublished, UK and non-UK based writers.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 20th March 2020**. Entries received after the closing date will not be considered. Early entries much appreciated!

Online entries only will be accepted. Bulk submissions may be made from schools.

Judges: Chris Hill (adult category), **Ann Evans** (juniors 12-15), **Elizabeth Spencer** (juniors, 8-11). (For more information about judges, see page 5).

Results: Shortlisted entrants will be notified by **Friday 17th April at the latest**. The winner, 2nd and 3rd in each age category will be announced at the Festival Weekend opening night, on the evening of Friday 26th June, 7pm, Northwick Hotel, Evesham. All shortlisted entrants will be invited to the event.

Prizes: cash prizes of £150, £50 and £30 (1st, 2nd, 3rd, adults), and book tokens for £30, £20 and £10 (1st, 2nd, 3rd, both junior age groups), as well as an engraved trophy for each winner. Shortlisted juniors will all receive a certificate.

Titles of shortlisted entries (up to 10 per age category), will be posted on the Festival website once all entrants have been notified. Names of the winners will be posted on the Festival website after the prize-giving ceremony on 26th June. The winning short stories will, with the author's permission, also be added to the website.



The following rules apply for the 2020 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- The Short Story Competition is open to all published and unpublished writers, whether they are based in the UK or outside the UK.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 2020 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 20th March 2020**. 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 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.
- Include the word count at the end of your story.
- Entries should be submitted as doc, doc.x, rtf or pdf format by email to: info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org. Please include in the email your name, address and contact telephone number. Junior entrants should include date of birth and name of school). (Any problems with Festival email, please resend to: sueablett1@btinternet.com).



- 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). Do not include your name in the title of the story.
- An acknowledgement email will be sent by the Competition coordinator 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.
- **For schools wishing to send in a number of entries**, this can be done in a single email from class teacher with stories attached. Please include a numbered list of stories, with title and name and date of birth of pupil. Pupils' names should not appear on the stories.

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: Chris Hill.**
- 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, tutor, and member of the Festival Steering Group, and Yvonne Draper, retired secondary teacher).
- 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 (12-15) judge: Ann Evans**
Junior judge (8-11 judge): Elizabeth Spencer.
- For the junior entries, two readers for each age group will select 50% of the entries to go on to the judge. (Readers in the 12-15 category are: Noelle Chambers, retired school librarian and member of the Festival Steering Group and Lynn Lucchese,



retired teacher; and in the 8-11 age group Marisa Knight, children's author and Cheryl Mayo, author and Chair of Dean Writers' Circle.

- The judges will select a shortlist of 10, and from those a winner, 2nd and 3rd for each age category.
- 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 any of the named judges being unable to carry out judging, an alternative will be identified and their name(s) published on the Festival website.
- Shortlisted entrants will be notified by Friday 17th April at the latest.
- Entrants who have not been shortlisted will also be notified by 17th April at the latest.
- Shortlisted entrants will be listed on the Festival website once all entrants have been notified.

Prizes:

- There will be cash prizes (£150, £50 and £30 – adults, 1st, 2nd and 3rd) and book tokens for £30, £20 and £10 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each of the junior age groups) as well as engraved trophies for the winners of both the adult and junior categories. Shortlisted juniors will also receive a certificate. Prizes in the junior categories are kindly sponsored by the Rotary Club of Evesham.
- The winners, 2nd and 3rd, will be announced and prizes presented, following the opening talk of the main Festival weekend, which takes place at The Northwick Hotel, Evesham, 7pm on the evening of Friday 26th June 2020.
- Following the prize-giving ceremony, the winning entries will be announced on the Festival website.
- The winner, and those placed 2nd and 3rd in each age category, will be invited to have their stories published on the Festival website or, if they prefer, to provide a brief synopsis for inclusion.



About the Judges:

Chris Hill is a Gloucester author with two published novels on the shelves. As a short story writer he has won a number of awards including the Bridport Prize. His first book *Song of the Sea God*, published by Skylight Press, is a literary novel which was short listed for the Daily Telegraph Novel in a Year prize among other accolades. More recently *The Pick-Up Artist*, a rom com published by Magic Oxygen, won a prize in the Legend Press writers' bursary. Chris has been a judge on a number of short story competitions and has twice acted as Head Reader for the Evesham Festival short story competition. Chris works as a PR officer for children's charity WellChild and was previously News Editor and Editor of newspapers in Gloucestershire. You can find him on Twitter @ChilledCh

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)

Elizabeth Spencer worked in education for 42 years, 35 as a headteacher. A love of reading and creative writing were always subjects she felt passionately about. Elizabeth was reader for the adult competition in 2019.

Advice from the Judges:

Chris Hill: It's very useful if you can turn in a piece of writing with a distinctive voice which is consistent throughout the story. I know from experience judging many entries, that a writer who can turn in a story which is going to make the judges sit up and listen is half way home. Write something which only you could have written, which sounds like itself, not like the story before or the story after. That's how you pick your work out from the pile.

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.

Elizabeth Spencer: My advice to budding young authors is to hook the readers' engagement in the opening paragraph! Good luck!

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

If you have any queries about the competition, please email:

info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org

Any problems with the Festival email please resend to sueablett1@btinternet.com.