



## **EVESHAM FESTIVAL OF WORDS**

Welcome to the first **Evesham Festival of Words MINI SAGA COMPETITION** - open to all published and unpublished, UK and non-UK based writers. It's fun and free to enter!

Launch date: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

Closing date: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (5pm)

Theme: Open

Length: **Exactly 50 words plus title (entries more/less than 50 will be disqualified)**

Fee: Free to enter. Limit of one entry per person.

Entrants: The Competition is open to anyone over the age of 16.

Judges: Noelle Chambers/Jan Dawson (shortlisting), Lynne Powell (judging final 3).

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> prize - £25; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - £15; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize - £10, all book tokens.

### **10 TIPS FOR WRITING A MINI SAGA**

Mini sagas are also known as 'flash fiction', 'micro fiction' and 'short short stories.'

A mini saga should tell a story. It's not merely a description of something.

Don't go with your first thought. Be creative, go wild, have fun!

Try writing long and then go short. So, write more than 50 words and then cut, edit and polish your story to the required length.

Your title should work hard for you. Think about it carefully.

You don't have time to set the scene in a mini saga. Start in the middle of the action.

You only have 50 words to play with, so every word has to earn its place.

Be specific with your language. 'Marched' rather than 'walked quickly', 'maroon' rather than 'dark red'.

Read your story aloud.

Put it away in a drawer for a week or longer, then take it out, read it and edit it again.

**Good luck!**

## MINI SAGA COMPETITION 2021 – RULES

**Please note that any entries that do not comply with the Rules will be disqualified.**

Mini sagas must be the original work of the entrant and should not be previously published (including self-published or published on-line), broadcast, or won a prize in another competition.

Simultaneous submissions are allowed but please let us know as soon as possible if your mini saga is to be published elsewhere or wins a prize in another competition.

Mini sagas can be any style or genre and **must be exactly 50 words** (+ title). Contractions (eg: 'I've' or 'couldn't') and hyphenated words will count as one word. We will check word count using 'Word Counter'. <https://wordcounter.net/>

The title is not included in the 50 words.

Entries must be typed, preferably in 12 font.

The name of the author and any other identifying information must not appear on the mini saga but in the accompanying email.

Once submitted, entries cannot be amended.

Copyright will remain with the author but the organisers reserve the right to publish any of the prizewinning mini sagas as they deem appropriate (eg: on the Festival website and on social media).

Members of the Festival Steering Group, or the Judges, will not be eligible to enter the Competition.

Entries must be received by the deadline of 5pm on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2021. Entries received after this date/time will not be considered.

Entries will be judged anonymously, so please ensure that your mini saga does not contain any identifying information.

### **How to submit your entry:**

All entries must be submitted by email to the main Festival email address: [info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org](mailto:info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org) (or, if there are any issues with that email address, to: [sueablett1@btinternet.com](mailto:sueablett1@btinternet.com)).

Do not send your entry in the body of an email but as an attachment in doc, doc.x or PDF format. Your name or any other identifying information must not appear on the attachment.

In the body of the email, please include your name, address and contact telephone number.

An acknowledgement will be sent by the Competition Coordinator on receipt of your entry.

Please contact us by email ([info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org](mailto:info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org)) at any time up to the closing date if you wish to withdraw your entry.

## **Judging:**

Entries will be read and judged anonymously: entrant's name and contact details must not appear on the mini sagas.

There will be three judges, all members of the Festival Steering Group: **Noelle Chambers** and **Jan Dawson** will read all submitted mini sagas and select a shortlist of 10. **Judge, Lynne Powell** will select a winner and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed stories from that shortlist.

Judges will not comment or give feedback on individual mini sagas.

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.

## **Prizes:**

There will be book tokens of £20, £15 and £10 for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

All entrants will be notified by email within one week of the closing date. The 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3rd mini sagas will be posted on the Festival website.

## **About the Judges:**

**Noelle Chambers** – is a retired chartered librarian. She has worked in schools, colleges and public libraries and has been a school governor, and a reader for the Talking Newspapers for the Blind. She is an avid reader and crossword solver.

**Jan Dawson** – is a retired ex-librarian, and has been involved in the West Midland's poetry scene for a number of years. She has organised poetry slams and open mics, informal poetry readings with numerous poets, and poetry book launches. She has been a judge for Poetry on Loan competitions, and is a member of their steering group.

**Lynne Powell** - is the Editor of Cotswold and Vale Magazine and runs her own PR company. She has been the inspiration behind a number of Evesham Festival of Words Competitions: What Makes Evesham Special; Plant a New Word, and Six Word Story. She is a lover of words in all shapes and forms.

Thank you for supporting Evesham Festival of Words inaugural Mini Saga Competition!

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

[info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org](mailto:info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org)

Any problems with the Festival email please resend to [sueablett1@btinternet.com](mailto:sueablett1@btinternet.com)