



EVESHAM FESTIVAL OF WORDS

Welcome to the first **Evesham Festival of Words 30 Word Mini Saga Competition** - open to all published and unpublished, UK and non-UK based writers. It's fun and free to enter!

Launch date: 1st September 2021

Closing date: Thursday 30th September 2021 (5pm)

Theme: Autumn

Length: Exactly 30 words + title

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

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

Judges: Sue Ablett and Helen Yendall (Readers/Shortlisters), and Rob Hemming (Judge)

Prizes: Book tokens as follows: 1st prize - £25; 2nd prize - £15; 3rd prize - £10.

10 TIPS FOR WRITING A 30 WORD MINI SAGA

Our theme for this 30 word competition is **Autumn**. You might interpret that literally as misty mornings and falling leaves, or you might like to consider a broader interpretation. e.g Autumn Term and back to school? New beginnings? The autumn years of someone's life? Or how about a heroine, or villain, called Autumn?

Please note that any story which does not reflect the subject matter will be eliminated.

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 30 words and then cut, edit and polish your story to the required length. Your story must be 30 words exactly, plus title.

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 30 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!

30 WORD 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 have been 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 30 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 30 word max. Stories that are more or less than 30 words will be disqualified.

Entries must be typed, preferably in 12 font.

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 30th September 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. Name and contact details must be included in the accompanying email.

How to submit your entry:

All entries must be submitted by email to janevedaw@gmail.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 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 two readers/shortlisters: Sue Ablett and Helen Yendall, who will read all submitted mini sagas and select a shortlist of 12. Judge Rob Hemming will select a winner and 2nd and 3rd placed stories from that shortlist.

The Judges' decision is final and no individual correspondence will be entered into.

In the event of any of the named readers/judge being unable to carry out judging, an alternative will be identified.

Prizes:

There will be book tokens of £25, £15 and £10 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

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

About the Judges:

Sue Ablett has been Chair of Evesham Festival of Words since it was launched in 2016. Author of several non-fiction books, an avid reader, and a great story teller via her range of travel talks.

Helen Yendall is a member of the Festival Steering Group. She is a creative writing tutor, coordinates the Festival Book Club, and manages the Festival Twitter account. Also an avid reader.

Rob Hemming rekindled an old love affair with creative writing after twenty five years doing a variety of jobs. He is former Chair of Malvern Writers' Circle and a regular contributor to Cotswold & Vale Magazine. His philosophy is "have pen will travel".

Thank you for supporting our inaugural 30 Word Mini Saga Competition!

If you have any queries about the competition, please email: janevedaw@gmail.com