



The Bury Lit Fest annual writing competition returns for 2024, with a new look - no longer are our writers restricted by producing a short story - this year all we ask is that your writing be *creative*!

For our new and improved creative writing competition we will welcome all forms of creative writing be it short story, micro fiction, play, haiku, poem, tv script or radio play.

Entries must be 800 words or less and inspired by the phrase '*Beyond My Front Door*'. Other than that, they are limited only by the author's imagination - check out our blog for more inspiration surrounding this year's prompt.

### **Categories for entry**

Children 5-10 (free entry)

Children 11-13 (free entry)

Young People 14-17 (free entry)

Adults 18+ (£5 entry fee)

## Prizes

### Children Categories

The *winner & runner-up* from each children's category will win:

- A free ticket for themselves and an accompanying adult to our children's events/events during the festival (value £15)
- A goody bag full of bookish treats (value £40)
- The opportunity for winning work to be published in the Bury Free Press, displayed during the festival and published on the Bury Lit Fest's website [www.burylitfest.co.uk](http://www.burylitfest.co.uk) and social media.

In addition the *overall winner of each category* will win:

An author event for their school from our super-star visiting authors (TBA) on Friday 11th October 2024. (value £400+)

### Young People & Adult Category

The *winner & runner-up* from each Young People's and Adult's category will win:

- A pair of GOLDEN TICKETs to this year's Bury Lit Fest - free attendance to all events at Bury Lit Fest 2024 (value £260)

- A year's FRIEND membership of Bury Lit Fest allowing early-booking for our 2025 season and invites to all VIP events (value £30)

*In addition the overall winners from the Young People's & Adults categories will win their choice of:*

A face-to-face mentoring session with regard to developing their writing for fun, what next steps could be taken professionally or feed back on 10,000 words of any work in progress.

*OR*

An author visit to your bookclub

*OR*

An author visit or writing workshop for your or college school

*with*

*Kate Sawyer, author of The Stranding (Costa Shortlisted) & This Family (Waterstones Book Of The Month) - Date TBMA (value £200+)*

## **Rules**

### **Entry**

- Creative writing entries must not exceed 800 words. Please show word count.
- The title of the story & entrants' name must appear as a header on each page and pages should be numbered.
- Entrants to the competition must be resident in East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex), UK.
- Entries must be in English and must be double spaced where appropriate.
- Entry to the competition is free for those under 18.
- Entry to the competition for those over the age of 18 is £5 payable on entry.
- All entries must be submitted via the BLF website <https://www.burylitfest.co.uk> with the online entry form and fee (if applicable) paid at the time of application.
- Entries will be judged on the creativity of the writing not on the standard of grammar or accuracy of spelling. Judges will not be looking for a perfectly polished piece but for something that shows imagination and writing skill.
- Entries must be received by midnight on 28th July 2024. Any entries received outside these specified times and dates, and any entries that do not meet the requirements of the competition rules and will not be eligible for entry to the competition.
- An entrant may only submit one entry. Further entries will be disqualified.
- By submitting their work entrants undertake and warrant that their entry will consist of their own original work and will not infringe the intellectual property rights of anyone. If a third party's material is used – such as lyrics of a song – the entrant will secure the necessary permission and will provide it on request. The entrant further warrants that the work will not contain any material which is defamatory, private or confidential or which is unlawful in any way. Any entry in breach of this clause will be disqualified by the Judges.
- Entries will not be accepted via agents, third parties or in bulk - except in the case of schools by pre-arrangement.

**Teachers/schools please email [burylitfest1@gmail.com](mailto:burylitfest1@gmail.com) for more information.**



- Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival is not responsible for contacting or responding to entrants who provide unclear or incomplete information or for entries that are lost, misdirected, delayed or destroyed.

## **Rights & Data**

- Though copyright in the stories will remain with their authors, the Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival (“BLF”) reserves the right to use all or any part of the stories for publicity purposes and authors must agree to their stories being published in the Bury Free Press and/or any other newspaper or magazine nominated by BLF.
- The names and email addresses of entrants will be collected by Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival and will be used in accordance with GDPR rules. Information will not be shared with anyone outside of the organisation.
- By ticking the 'I want to subscribe to the BLF Newsletter' you are agreeing to be added to the Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival mailing list to receive timely emails with updates on the activities of the BLF.

## **Judging and Prizes**

- The Judges’ decision is final.
- There will be one winner and one runner-up in each age category.
- All prizes are for the prize-winners use only and are non-transferable to another individual or year and cannot be exchanged for their monetary value.
- The Children's category winning prizes of author events at the winners school will only be available on 11th October 2024 at a school within a 20 mile radius of Bury St Edmunds, or at an agreed location within Bury St Edmunds- time and details TBMA with the school and are non-transferable to another date and cannot be exchanged for their monetary value.

- Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival will not provide transport or stewarding for any event that does not take place on school grounds.
- The Adult's category author visit/mentorship are TBMA with the author and the winner. They must be taken within four months from the announced win and cannot be exchanged for their monetary value.
- No cash alternative or other alternatives to any prize will be provided.
- Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival reserve the right to not select any winner if a suitable entry that meets all the criteria set out above cannot be found.
- Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival reserves the right to cancel the competition and to alter the details of the Prizes or judging panels without notice.
- By entering the competition, each entrant agrees to be bound by these Rules of The Competition
- Any disputes or claims (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of these Rules of the Competition shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of England, whose courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction.
- This competition is being organised by Bury St Edmunds

Literature Festival CIC, 15 Northgate Avenue Bury St Edmunds  
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