



Bury St. Edmunds *Literature Festival* 8th - 11th OCTOBER 2026



RULES OF THE COMPETITION

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 the first page and all pages should be numbered. Entrants' names will be removed and a random code applied for identification before entries are submitted to judges.

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 £7.99 payable on entry. All monies collected from competition fees will be used directly to provide books to the three local schools of the Winners of the children's Creative Writing Competition.

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 26th July 2026. Any entries received outside this specified time and date, and any entries that do not meet the requirements of these rules, will not be accepted for entry into the competition.

An entrant may submit multiple entries, as long as the relevant entry fee is paid for each entry.

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 or use AI. If a third party's material is used – such as lyrics of a song – this must be made clear and 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 hello@burylitfest.co.uk for more information or visit our **SCHOOLS ENTRIES** page on burylitfest.co.uk**

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 leaving the box ticked under your email address' 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 in 2026 only and cannot be exchanged for their monetary value.

The Children's category winning prize of 100+ books will be administered directly with the winner's school. The parent, guardian or teacher who submits the winning entry will be responsible for introducing BLF to the relevant school staff member to assist with this.

Entrants under 18 must be in attendance at a school within a 15 mile radius of Bury St Edmunds town centre.

The 100+ books pledged will be to a value of a maximum of £7.99 each and cannot be exchanged for their monetary value.

Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival reserves the right to not select any winner if no suitable entry meets all the criteria set out above.

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, the [Code of Conduct of Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival](#) and [Terms and Conditions](#) of this website.

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 CIO
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