



Royston Arts Festival 2019

Creative Writing Competition

We are looking for original writing in two categories, fiction and non-fiction, and three age groups, 5-9, 10-17 and 18+, that capture the Royston Arts Festival 2019 theme: 'Our Planet'.

Creative Royston, who manage the festival, are calling on anyone from Royston and the surrounding villages to create something original and inspiring on any subject, with the theme "Our Planet" at its core in 500 words or fewer. There will be a winning entry in each category and age group, and these will be announced during the festival and made available to read.

There will be three age groupings: 5 to 9, 10 to 17 and 18+, and submissions should be made under categories of 'fiction' or 'non-fiction', for which we have two expert judging panels from the world of journalism and literature.

Fiction

In the 'fiction' category, it must be an original piece and not an account of real events – either historical or current. However, stories can feature well known public figures from present day or from history, take place in historical eras or use real-life experiences as a creative springboard as long as the story is fictional.

Non-fiction

In the 'non-fiction' category, it must be an original piece that reports on real historical or current events. Stories can feature real-life experiences, or celebrity gossip, political reports or natural phenomena.

How to enter:

1. Write your original piece for fiction or non-fiction, in 500 words or fewer.
2. Email your writing to vice-chair@creativeroyston.org
3. All entries must include the following on the email:
 - a. Your name and age on 29th July 2019(if under 16)
 - b. Your category (fiction or non-fiction)
 - c. Your address, email and daytime telephone number (please note these should be that of an adult and will not be shared outside of the Creative Royston committee)
4. The deadline for submissions is **18.00 Monday 29th July 2019**. Any submissions received after this date will not be considered.

Competition Rules:

1. Entry to this competition is open to residents of Royston or surrounding villages. Proof of age, identity and eligibility may be requested.
2. The competition is not open to the children or close relatives of Creative Royston committee members, or of any person closely connected with the competition.
3. Entry will be in three age categories – ages 5 to 9 years (on 29th July 2019), 10 to 17 years (on 29th July 2019) and 18+. Entrants should provide their name, and, for the younger age categories age.
4. All stories should be submitted in English.
5. Entrants must write a fictional or non-fiction story of no more than 500 words in length. Entry should be made via email to vice-chair@creativeroyston.org with the story attached in Microsoft Word or copied into the body of an email.
6. For entrants who are under 18, Entries must be made by an adult on behalf of the entrant. The adult may be the child's parent, guardian or teacher. The adult must read and agree to these rules on the entrant's behalf; Creative Royston will assume that this approval has been given by anyone sending in an entry. The adult must provide their own contact and personal details (not the child's).
7. For the top 20 shortlisted entries, if permission to enter was given by a teacher, Creative Royston will contact the teacher and ask for confirmation of permission from the entrant's parent or guardian.
8. The personal details provided will be used for the purposes of administering the competition and to send general updates as to the progress of the competition by email. This information will not be used for any other purpose.
9. Entry closes on Monday 29th July 2019 at 18:00. Submissions received outside of this time frame will not be considered.

10. Entrants can, if they wish, enter both the fiction and non-fiction categories. Only one entry per person in each category is permitted, and the story must be wholly written by the entrant only; stories cannot be written by more than one person. If more than one entry is submitted, only the entrant's first submission will be considered.
11. Entries must be an original piece of fiction or non-fiction and follow the category guidelines given above.
12. As the stories will be published locally it is important that entrants do not include any identifying personal details. The entrant must not include their name in the title or body of the story. Entries that contain this kind of information may have to be removed from the competition.
13. All entries must be the original work of the entrant and must not infringe the rights of any other party.
14. Entries must be suitable to be published by Creative Royston and to be read by audiences of all ages.
15. Entrants retain the copyright in their entries but grant Creative Royston permission to publish and display them during the Festival, and afterwards on the Creative Royston website.
16. Prizes will be awarded to finalists in each age group and category during the festival weekend, 27-29th September 2019. Winners will be contacted at the beginning of September 2019.
17. The judges' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

If any of these terms are unclear, please contact vice-chair@creativeroyston.org.