

Big City Read 2017 Flash Fiction Competition Rules

1. This competition has been organised by Explore York Libraries and Archives Mutual Ltd
2. Entry to this competition is open to people aged 8 and over who are full time residents of York. Proof of age, identity or eligibility (proof of residence) may be requested at any time of the competition.

Entries will be put in the following 3 categories:
 - 8 - 11 years
 - 12 – 15 years
 - 16+ years
3. Entrants should write a fictional crime story set in York with a maximum of 500 words.
4. All entrants should submit their story, in English, as an attachment to an email to contact@explore.york.org.uk using the subject line **Flash Fiction Story**. Please make sure that you check the word count of your story before submitting and include the title on the top of every page, but no other words which will identify the author.
5. The email message should include the entrant's name, age, gender, address and the title of the story. Please make sure that you check the word count of your story before submitting.
6. An adult must approve of entry of anyone under the age of 18. This adult can be a parent, guardian or teacher; please include their contact details in the email entry.
7. Entry will open 5/8/2017 at 10:00

Entry closes 25/10/2017 at 24:00

Any submissions received outside of this time frame will not be considered

Only one entry per person and the entries must be wholly written by the individual entrant; if more than one entry is made by an individual, only the first entry will be considered.
8. Entry is not open to employees of Explore York Libraries and Archives or their immediate family.
9. All information used to enter the competition is covered by the Data Protection Act of 2010 and will not be shared with any third party member and is solely for the Libraries use to see figures.
10. All entries must be an original piece of fictional and should not contain real events. It can contain real characters such as a public figure.

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11. All entries cannot be returned so ensure you retain a copy of your story.
12. All unsuccessful entrants will be contacted in respect of their entry to the competition, however, no feedback will be provided.
13. Each individual entry must be the original entry of the entrant. It must not infringe in the rights of other parties.
14. Entries must not contain offensive, defamatory, obscene or any other type of unsuitable material. Additionally, they must be suitable to be published, used online or broadcast on the radio.
15. All entrants will retain the copyright of their entries but will be asked to give consent for “Explore York Libraries and Archives Mutual” to broadcast, publish or post the entry online or through any other platform known.
16. In the event of an entry being published online on our website; to avoid doubt, only the story, title, age and name of the entrant will be published.
17. Each entry will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Originality
 - Language
 - Characterisation
 - Story content
 - Plot
 - Readability
18. The competition will be judged by a panel of people including a member of the Explore Board, A representative from Waterstones, a representative from York Literature Festival and members of Explore staff.
19. The winners of each category will receive a book token for £25 as a minimum.
20. The winners will be announced at the Big City Read closing event on 10th November and the winning stories will be displayed. All winners will be invited to attend an afternoon tea at Rowntree Park Reading Cafe to be awarded their prizes.