

Enter 500 Words

A story-writing contest for children aged 5-11

Competition Details

- **Who can enter?** Any child in the UK aged 5-11. There are two different age categories
 - 5-7 year-olds
 - 8-11 year-olds
- **What to write:** An original fictional story of 500 words or less. The title is not included in the word count. The story must be a single person's work and should not be a poem, rap, or play. AI-generated stories are not accepted.
- **How to enter:** An adult must submit your typed story through the official 500 Words website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>. The submission window is between 8:00 on Tuesday, 23 September 2025 and 21:00 on **Friday, 7 November 2025**. The grand final will be held in February 2026.
- **What are the criteria for judging the stories?** Entries will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Originality
 - Plot
 - Characterisation
 - Language
 - Enjoyment
- **What could I win?**
 - Prizes include huge stacks of books and the overall winner will receive a framed illustration of their story made by a professional illustrator!
- **Where can I find out more?** At <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

