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**Creative Writing Competition: ‘The stories of our city’**

**National Literacy Trust and Birmingham Stories** are delighted to launch an exciting creative writing competition as part of the Connecting Stories project, with support from author Sathnam Sanghera. We are inviting young people aged 11-14 from Birmingham to create a piece of writing based on the theme ***‘The stories of our city’.***

We would like you to use the people, places and spaces in Birmingham as a setting for your creative piece.

You can choose any format you like – a story, a poem, news article, comic or diary entry. You can use illustrations too.

Everyone who enters the competition will receive a certificate and will have a chance to get their work published in an anthology and displayed in a local exhibition. There will also be book prizes for the winning entries.

Winning entries will be chosen based on originality, imagination, relation to the theme and overall enjoyment.

**How to enter:**

* Use the blank space in this booklet or a side of A4 paper to complete your piece of writing.
* Ask your parent/guardian or teacher to scan or photograph your work and enter online at <https://literacytrust.org.uk/communities/birmingham/connecting-stories/>
* Alternatively, you can email it to birminghamcs@literacytrust.org.uk. Don’t forget to include your first name and first letter your surname, your age and school.

**Privacy notice**

The National Literacy Trust will need to hold and process your personal data in order to manage this competition. We will only use it for this purpose we will never pass on personal information to any other organisations unless specific consent has been given. For our full privacy policy see [literacytrust.org.uk/privacy](https://literacytrust.org.uk/information/privacy-policy/)

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 **‘The stories of our city’: Writing prompts**

Your piece of writing can be funny, heart-warming, adventurous or exciting, fiction or non-fiction, everything is welcome!

Here are some ideas to get you started.

* Do you have a favourite place in the city? Is it the Jewellery Quarter, the canal network or your local park or sports field? Can you write about any memories that are special for you?
* Tell us about your community and the people around you. Why are they important to you? Where do you go together and what do you do?
* You could use Birmingham as the setting for a story about anything you want. It could be fantastical, adventurous or based on a real experience you’ve had.
* Can you tell us about a ‘hidden gem’ in your city? Why is it special to you?

First name and the first letter of your surname: Click here to enter text.

Age: Click or tap here to enter text. School: Click or tap here to enter text.

Parent/Guardian/Teacher email address: Click or tap here to enter text.

[ ]  Parent/Guardian: I give permission for this work, along with the name and school provided, to be published in an anthology and displayed online or in public venues.

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**Competition Rules**

* The competition is open to young people aged 11-14, but entries from all secondary school pupils will be considered for the exhibition.
* The closing date for submission is Friday 12th March 2021. Winners will be announced at the beginning of April.
* Entries should be one page of A4 or 500 words maximum and written in English.
* The piece of creative writing must be an original piece of work and be wholly written by the entrant. It must reflect the theme of the competition as stated in the competition challenge. The writing must be single-authored.
* Entries must not contain obscene, defamatory, offensive or otherwise unsuitable material. The organisers reserve the right to disqualify such entries.
* A team of community partners and National Literacy Trust staff will shortlist entries and winners will be chosen by our panel of experts.
* On submission, parents/guardians will be asked to grant permission to enter. They will be asked for consent to publish the entrant’s writing online or in print form, or display physical entries in public spaces.
* Teachers submitting on behalf of their pupils must obtain permission from parents/ guardians prior to submission. As a teacher, by entering your pupils’ work into this competition you are confirming that written parental consent has been sought and confirmed in advance of the submission. National Literacy Trust will not be held liable in the instance that consent has not been sought.