

ABOUT

B B C

500  
WORDS

2023





We have challenged the children to enter a story into this year's **500 Words Competition**.

Children have been given time in class to plan and write their story with advice and support from the teacher.

The official website had some great resources to support the children, lots of tips and advice, as well as examples of some previous 500 Words Winners.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

Having that brilliant idea for a story is what it is all about and then having fun writing their own story to be submitted for the competition. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are not so important for 500 Words Competition- it is all about a great story!! **The closing date is Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November.**

Children do not have to submit a story if they do not want to, but they will take part in the sessions in class.

**Stories have to be typed up and submitted by an adult, online.**

As you can appreciate, this stage of the process will take some considerable time to complete if it was to be done in class. So, **teachers would really appreciate parents supporting at home by typing up their child's story for them online.**

Details on how to do this are on the next page.

## (Instructions on the website)

### How do I submit my story?

We can only accept entries that have been typed up and submitted through our online form by an adult, whether that's a parent, guardian or teacher.

It is very straightforward. You just need to sign-up here as a submitter and then you can enter as many stories as you want (remember it is one entry per child).

We suggest typing up your story in another document (make sure you save it and continue to save it as you go!). Once finished and saved, you can then copy and paste the entry into the submission form.

They can be saved as drafts and submitted later if needed.

Don't forget, before they are submitted make sure they meet the following requirements.

### Checklist

The story must not contain the child's name or any information which identifies the child

The story must be written by one person, not as a collaboration in a class

Eligible entrants must be at least five years old and no older than 11 by Friday 10th November

The story must be an original work of fiction

There's a 500 word limit (title is not included in the word count) but no rules on theme

Once you have submitted you will be unable to edit your story or change any of your details, so please double-check everything before you hit the submit button.

We recommend not leaving the submission process to the last minute, as we cannot accept entries past 8pm on **Friday 10th November**.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/how-to-submit/zqc8mbk>

## What is the prize for 500 Words?

The top 50 finalists will attend the 500 Words final next year and receive a £20 book token. All their stories will also be recorded by actors from the BBC Radio Drama Company and published on our 500 Words website.

There will be gold, silver and bronze awards in each of the two categories and the winners will not only have their stories read out by superstar celebrities and receive a winners book of their stories, each one will be illustrated by an amazing illustrator. They will also receive the following:

Gold Winners - Sir Lenny Henry's height in books, 500 books for their school and a BBC prize to be announced in September

Silver Winners - Her Majesty, Queen Camilla's height in books

Bronze Winners - The heights of an average 7 or 11 year old in books



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