



My Twist on a Tale 2021 – FAQs

1. Why are we running the competition?

At Pearson, we work to empower those working with children, young people and adult learners to explore the different dimensions of literacy, improve outcomes and inspire a life-long love of reading and writing.

Diversity, inclusion and relatability matter. They matter in the literature we consume and the books, poetry and plays we put in front of our children. We believe that at whatever age - from early stages to adulthood - people should feel represented in the literature they read and the stories they write.

The free competition, My Twist on a Tale: Our Tomorrow, empowers children and young people to explore whatever themes are important to them, be that family, climate, inclusion, technology, space exploration or beyond...

While the winners will see their works published as a collection of short stories for all to read, listen to or watch, we hope everyone who takes part enjoys finding their voice, expressing themselves freely and having fun along the way!

2. Who can enter the competition?

Entries can be made by individuals, classes or groups. Entries must be made on a child's/children's behalf by a parent, carer or teacher over the age of 18. Entrants 18 and over can enter independently.

3. What do the stories need to be about?

Following the huge success of Pearson's writing competition last year – My Twist on a Tale: Everyday Heroes – the competition returns for 2021, this time My Twist on a Tale: Our Tomorrow!

Now in its third year, My Twist on a Tale: Our Tomorrow, will launch on International Literacy Day (Wednesday 8 September) and encourage children aged 4 to 19 to unleash their fortune-telling skills, cast their minds ahead to the future and produce their own reflections on what it might hold.

After a truly unique time that has seen all of us thinking forward, we're inviting children to look to the future, and invent their most imaginative responses. Storytellers can unleash their creative fortune-telling skills and explore whatever themes are important to them, be that family, climate, inclusion, technology, space exploration or beyond.

4. Are there any specific requirements?

Please ensure entries do not exceed the 1000-word count, eight minutes in length or 32MB in file size. You can submit a .zip file to reduce the file size. While this is the maximum word count and size, writers are welcome to create much shorter creative narratives. The following can be used as a loose guide:

- **Dribble** – 20–50 words
- **Drabble** – 50–100 words
- **Flash-Fiction** – up to 350 words



- **Short story for older children and young people** – up to 1000 words
- Any stories received outside of the word count by 10% will not be considered
- Include the writer's representation of their ideas of the future, and/or experiences
- Ensure each entry is an original piece of work. Plagiarism in any form is not accepted. Pearson reserves the right to query any submissions received and to remove or disqualify from the competition any setting, group or family, which it believes to be entering stories not created wholly by the applicant.

5. Can stories expliciting reference a well-known work still in print?

Any explicit references that refer to or name existing franchises, series or titles, will be subject to existing copyright laws.

6. Is it free to enter?

Yes, there is no charge to enter this competition.

7. How many winners will there be?

The winning entries will be selected by:

✦ **Region** (one per region):

- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- North West
- North East
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- London
- South East
- South West
- East Anglia
- West Midlands
- East Midlands

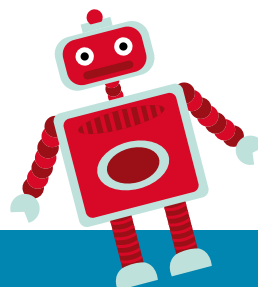
✦ **Phase** (one per phase):

Primary

- Key stage one
- Key stage two

Secondary

- Key stage three
- Key stage four
- Key stage five



8. What happens to the winning entries?

The winners of the My Twist on a Tale: Our Tomorrow, competition will see their work published in print as a collection of short stories for all to read and enjoy.

Winners will receive copies of the book. Additional selected prizes will also be available.

Entries will be judged by a panel of literacy experts. Full details of the panel will be announced later this year.

9. How do I submit an entry?

Entries can be submitted online from 09:00 on Wednesday 8 September 2021 until 17:00 on Friday 26 November 2021. Entries received after this deadline will not be considered.

Your entries must be submitted in the following ways:

1. By upload

Please use our online entry form to submit your individual or multiple stories. Multiple entries will need to be placed in one zipped folder, together with the completed entry form, before uploading.

For schools/teachers entering: All stories need to be saved as a Word or PDF document with the name of the writer/writers, Key Stage, region and school/setting name as part of the file name.

E.g. Sarah Brown_KS3_North West_St Mary's Junior School

For parents/guardians entering: The file name must include the name of the adult submitting the story, the name of the writer, Key Stage and region.

E.g. Alex Brown_Mary Brown_KS4_Scotland

This is so we can make sure the entries are placed into the correct categories for judging.

2. By email

If you have any issues in submitting through the online form, you can email your stories to MyTwistonaTale@pearson.com.

You will need to follow the same instructions for naming your files as above.

Please ensure your email subject line includes your school name or if you're a parent/guardian, your child's name:

E.g. Entries from St Mary's School

E.g. Entry from Sarah Brown

In addition to written entries, audio and video entries will also be accepted via email.



10. What is the last date I can submit an entry?

All entries should be received by **Friday 26 November 2021**.

Entries received after this deadline will not be considered.

11. Who judges the entries?

We'll be announcing our selected panel of judges throughout the first half of the autumn term - keep a look out for some exciting names!

12. What will happen once the winners have been decided?

Following the entry deadline, all stories will be reviewed and judged. Once the winning stories have been selected, Pearson will contact the adult who submitted the winning entry on behalf of the child/young person. Pearson will then need to liaise with the winning child's parent/guardian to discuss the next steps in creating the published book.

13. What are the terms and conditions of the competition?

The full terms and conditions can be found



✦ If your question hasn't been answered, please get in touch via MyTwistonaTale@pearson.com

