

# My Twist on a Tale 2020 – 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 relativity 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: Everyday Heroes, empowers children and young people to become the creator of their own super-human stories as they bring their everyday hero to life.

While the winners will see their works published as a collection of short stories for all to read, 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 an extraordinary year of disruption, Pearson will build on the success of 2019 and highlight the positive stories that have emerged throughout the year as children write their own tales of local superheroes.

Whether it's a story about a hero in their local community, a key worker making a difference during the COVID-19 pandemic, a campaigner, a family member or friend that inspires them or even a hero from their imagination, we want children and young people to get creative and reflect their own personality, location and experiences as they bring their local crusader to life. And who says the hero needs to be a human? It could be a story about a guide dog or even a cat that comes to save the day.

## 4. Are there any specific requirements?

Please ensure entries are within the 1000 word count. While this is the maximum word count, your writers are welcome to create much shorter stories. 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
- Each story must include the representation of the child's selected hero and the environment and/or experiences relating to the child writing it in some way. This may be using themselves as a supportive character or incorporating elements about their life or location.

## 5. Can stories explicitly 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
- 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: Everyday Heroes, 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 should be submitted online from 09.00 on Tuesday 8th September 2020 until 17.00 on Friday 27th November 2020.

Entries received after this deadline will not be considered.

Entries can be submitted by:

### ✦ Online form

Full details of how to submit through our online form can be found in our Entry Pack



If your child/young person is unable to write, audio submissions can be emailed to [MyTwistonaTale@pearson.com](mailto:MyTwistonaTale@pearson.com).

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

All entries should be received by **Friday 27th November 2020**.

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](mailto:MyTwistonaTale@pearson.com)

