

My Twist on a Tale: Everyday Heroes

✦ Entry pack ✦✦

#MyTwistOnATale



Entry pack



Welcome

On International Literacy Day (Tuesday 8th September), we'll be launching our My Twist on a Tale writing competition for it's second year!

This free competition, now open to 4-19 year olds across the UK, will encourage young people to let their imagination run wild as they write a story based on our new theme for 2020, Everyday Heroes.

Following an extraordinary year of disruption, we've decided to update our competition theme, to provide children with a positive outlet to highlight the extraordinary stories that have emerged throughout the year. We want children to have the opportunity to write their own tales of people who have made a difference to them.

Whether it's a story about someone in their local community, a key worker making a difference, a family member or friend that inspires them or even a superhero from their imagination, we want children and young people to get creative and reflect their own personality, location and experiences in their tales. 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!

In this pack, you'll find some more details, tips and resources to help kick-start your story-writing adventures!

So, read on and good luck!



“It's not who I am underneath, but what I do that defines me.”

Batman

“I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.”

Superman



Your entry

Entries can be made on behalf of individuals, classes or after school 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 or over can indicate this on the entry form and enter independently.

Entry and judging criteria:

Entries can be written by children and young people aged 4–19 (key stage one to key stage five).

Each story must include the representation of the child's selected hero and the environment and/or experiences relating to the children writing it in some way. This may be using themselves as a supportive character or incorporating elements about their life or location.

Rules for entries:

✦ DO

- 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
- Each story must include the representation of the child's selected hero and the environment and/or experiences relating to the children writing it in some way. This may be using themselves as a supportive character or incorporating elements about their life or location
- 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

✦ DON'T

- Allow the inclusion of foul language or inappropriate content. Those entries will not be considered
- Miss the entry deadline. The competition closes at 17.00 on Friday 27th November 2020. Entries received after this deadline will not be considered

The full terms and conditions can be found



Judging criteria

Judges will review entries with age-expectations in mind and look for entries that exemplify:

- Clarity and creativity of expression - we are looking for imaginative ideas, original story concepts and unique styles
- A well-structured and developed narrative which draws on how the everyday hero has made a difference
- A reflection of the writer and/or modern life
- Character presentation and development


Judging process

The following judging process will be followed:

- Entries will be shortlisted by the Pearson Literacy and English team between Monday 7th December and Sunday 13th December 2020
- Additional questions may be put to shortlisted entrants at this time
- Shortlisted entries will be reviewed by the judging panel between Monday 14th December to Sunday 20th December 2020
- Selected winners will be contacted following this process

Getting started

We've provided some ideas and tips to help get your young writers started with their story writing, at home and in school.

1. **Create a writing workshop.** Let your writers brainstorm and reflect on possible story ideas. Why not put these on a board for participants to add to as they work on their pieces?
2. **Encourage a sense of self.** Spend time with your writers to help them identify things about themselves they could include in their story. Physical and emotional characteristics, elements of their home life, personality traits, interests and experiences can all be included and are an essential part of the judging criteria.
3. **Write at home!** Our downloadable packs to get them writing at home can be found 
4. **Read!** Help support your writers by regularly reading stories together or as part of their own research. Don't forget to encourage positive discussions about each one.



- 5. Read, share and talk about writing.** Hold regular sessions where your writers can share their thoughts and receive feedback from you and their peers in a positive and supportive way. Celebrate good ideas and progress with story awards or alternative recognition and encourage mini feedback groups to support writers as they develop their pieces.
- 6. Give them time and encouragement.** Give your writers the opportunity to generate their own subject, write at their own pace, in their own way, with agency over how they want to write, and with a clear sense of their writing goals. Remember you have until the end of November to submit entries – let's encourage each child to love the process!
- 7. Give direct instruction on the different components of the writing process** (how to generate an idea, plan, draft, revise, edit, publish). Scaffold their understanding of these processes through demonstration, discussion, modelling and sharing your own examples! Why not get them to feedback on your own on-going story so they can understand how each of the elements work?
- 8. Encourage your writers to set their own manageable deadlines.** You should ensure that participants know the distant goal for the project, that is to say the creation of their full story ready for submission to the competition and the deadline. The class or group of writers, as a community, should have a say in setting the product goals for the project and can work together to look at interesting ways to present this. This is what they will have to do to ensure their story is successful and meaningful. Setting shorter-term process goals (e.g. generating an idea/planning/drafting/revising/editing/publishing) benefits learners in terms of cognitive load, focus, motivation and achievement; for example, 'You have two days left to complete your draft!'
- 9. Make it fun.** We want to embed writing for pleasure. Let your writers explore the ideas they are most interested in and set their own goals. Don't be afraid to be silly! Let them enjoy writing, help them feel confident and savour being part of a writing community.
- 10. Keep in touch!** We love to hear about your involvement. Share your writer's progress through words or images on social media [@Pearsonschools](#) [@PearsonPrimary](#) using [#MyTwistOnATale](#). Remember we are here to help! If you need anything contact us at MyTwistOnATale@pearson.com

Don't forget we have a range of resources available to support you and your writers.

Find them



Submitting your entry/entries

Entries can be submitted online from **09:00 on Tuesday 8th September 2020** until on **17:00 on Friday 27th November 2020**.

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 entries will also be accepted via email for those with special access requirements.



“It's about what you believe. And I believe in love.
Only love will truly save the world.”

Wonder Woman

The winners

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.

So, 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



Good luck!

We wish you and your young writers the best of luck!

Don't forget to share your writing adventures with us along the way! You can keep us updated by sharing your journey on:

- ✦ **Social media** with **#MyTwistOnATale** or tagging **@Pearsonschools** or **@PearsonPrimary** on Facebook
- ✦ **Email** us at **MyTwistonaTale@pearson.com**

In the meantime, happy writing! We look forward to seeing what worlds you discover together.

The Pearson Literacy and English Team

About Pearson

Pearson is the world's leading learning company with more than 24,000 employees in nearly 60 countries with a mission to help people make progress in their lives through learning. We combine world-class educational content and assessment, powered by services and technology, to enable more effective teaching and personalised learning at scale. We believe that wherever learning flourishes so do people.

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- #MyTwistOnATale**

“No Matter how bad things get, something good is out there, over the horizon.”

Green Lantern

“I think you just have to appreciate who you are and hopefully they can see what a superhero is about.”

Lucy Liu

