

# My Twist on a Tale: Our Tomorrow

Entry pack



#MyTwistOnATale  
#OurTomorrow

# Entry pack



## Welcome

Pearson's annual writing competition is back!

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.

Whether composing a personal letter to their 100-year-old self, writing a rap about what their town might look like in twenty years' time, or re-imagining a classic tale with a sci-fi-style makeover, it's a fantastic chance for young people to put themselves on the page, and explore their creative visions of life to come, in fiction, non-fiction or poetry.

This pack contains everything you need to know to kick-start the writing fun.

So enjoy the read – and good luck!



“  
To infinity, and beyond!”  
Buzz Lightyear



“  
Somewhere inside all of us is the  
power to change the world.”  
Roald Dahl



## Your entry

Stories and poems can be created by individuals, classes or after-school groups between the ages of 4–19 years. Entries can 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 enter independently.

## Entry and judging criteria:

Entries should be written by children and young people aged 4–19 (Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 5).

Each piece must include a representation of the child's ideas of the future, and/or experiences relating to the child who is authoring it. This might be achieved by the author using themselves as a supportive character, incorporating elements about their life or location, or basing their tale or poem in real life as a non-fiction piece.

Entries can be submitted in written form, by audio or video.

Entries will be judged by a panel of literacy experts.

## Rules for entries:

### DO:

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
- 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

### 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 26 November 2021. Entries received after this deadline will not be considered

The full terms and conditions can be found [here](#).

## 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 the writer's future-thinking interpretation of 'Our Tomorrow'
- 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 29 November and Friday 10 December 2021
- Additional questions may be put to shortlisted entrants at this time
- Shortlisted entries will be reviewed by the judging panel between Monday 13 and Tuesday 21 December 2021
- 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 [here](#)
- 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.

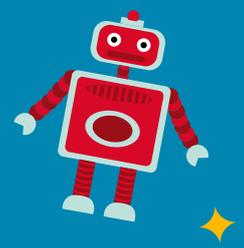
- 6. Give them time and encouragement.** Give your writers the opportunity to generate their own subject, write at their own pace, in their own way, with agency over how they want to write, and with a clear sense of their writing goals. Remember you have until the end of November to submit entries – 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 will they 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** and **#OurTomorrow**. Remember we are here to help.  
If you need anything contact us at [MyTwistonaTale@pearson.com](mailto:MyTwistonaTale@pearson.com)

Don't forget we have a range of resources available to support you and your writers. Find them [on our website](#).



“You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes, you can steer yourself in any direction you choose.”

*Dr Seuss*



## Submitting your entry/entries

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](mailto: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:

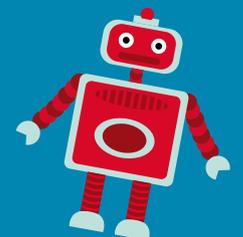
E.g **Entries from St Mary's School**

E.g **Entry from Sarah Brown**

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



“  
Even the smallest person can change  
the course of the future.”  
JRR Tolkien



## The winners

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

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
- East Anglia
- South West
- West Midlands
- East Midlands

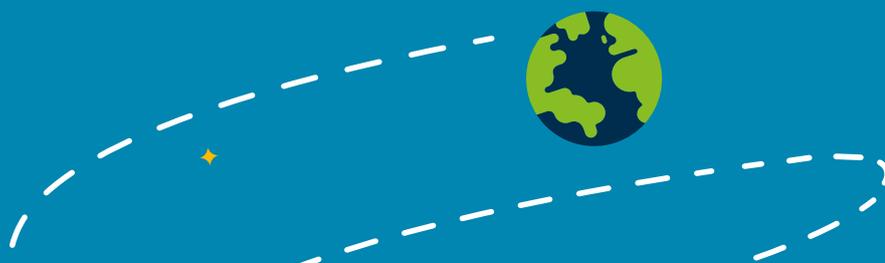
### **Phase** (one per phase):

#### **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 #OurTomorrow** or tagging **@PearsonSchools** or **@PearsonPrimary** on Facebook

**Email** us at [MyTwistonaTale@pearson.com](mailto: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.

Learn more about Pearson at [www.pearson.com/uk](http://www.pearson.com/uk)

Twitter: **@PearsonSchools / @PearsonPrimary**

Facebook: **@PearsonUnitedKingdom**

Instagram: **@PearsonPrimary** [instagram.com/pearsonprimary](https://www.instagram.com/pearsonprimary)

**#MyTwistOnATale #OurTomorrow**



“What’s comin’ will come, an’ we’ll meet it when it does.”

*Hagrid*