



Beeston U3A Writing For Pleasure Short Story Competition 2017

Information Sheet, Entry Form and Examples **(Please read all of these carefully)**

This is the first time that Beeston U3A has launched a Short Story writing competition.

The competition is open to every member of Beeston U3A whether they belong to the writing group or not. We are aware that our group does not have a monopoly on creative writing and there may be budding authors in our community who do not wish to belong to our group but who would love to "give it a go".

This competition will also be open to writing groups in our cluster U3As (Long Eaton, Stapleford and Ilkeston).

Please note that it is not a competition for professionals. Please do not enter if you have earned £300 or more from short story writing. Also, please do not enter a story that has been a winner in another competition.

The theme of the short story:

We would like you to take any song title and to use it as the inspiration for your story. It can be any genre.

Please note: there is no copyright attached to using the name of a song. However, you must not use the words of the song in your writing as they belong to whoever owns the copyright.

- ❖ The story must contain no more than 2,000 words excluding the title.
- ❖ The competition is free to enter.
- ❖ A short-list will be selected by members of the Writing For Pleasure Group but the winner will be judged by an external writer - name to be announced at a later date.
- ❖ A prize is being donated to the winner by the Committee of Beeston U3A.
- ❖ All writers will retain the copyright to their entry/entries but must allow their work to be read out and displayed.
- ❖ The top story will be read out at the December Open Meeting of Beeston U3A and will also be printed in our Beeston U3A Newsletter.
- ❖ The top three stories will appear in our Writing For Pleasure website with the permission of the writers.
- ❖ There will be no feedback on the stories by the judges apart from the top three.

Good luck and happy writing.

Beeston U3A

Writing For Pleasure Short Story Competition 2017

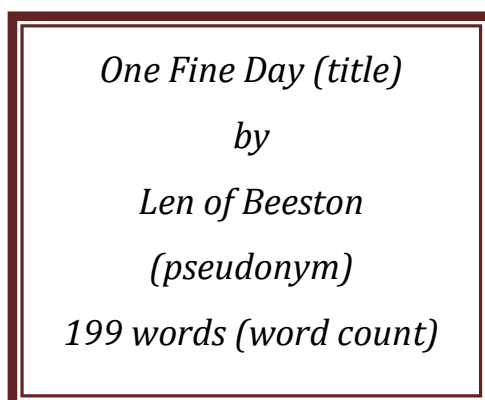
General Information and rules of entry:

- ❖ Your short story should not exceed 2,000 words (title not included within this count).
- ❖ You may enter as many as 3 stories if you so wish but no more please.
- ❖ The work must be original and previously unpublished.
- ❖ All entrants must be members of Beeston U3A or of its cluster U3As (Long Eaton, Ilkeston and Stapleford).
- ❖ The competition will close on **Thursday 7th of September 2017** at the Open Meeting of Beeston U3A and **no story will be accepted after 11.30 on that day.**
- ❖ The announcement of the winner will be at the December Open Meeting on Thursday 7th December although the 3 finalists will be informed that their story could be the winning one before the meeting.
- ❖ Entries can be handed in to the main office at Beeston Methodist Church, Chilwell Road or posted to Beeston Methodist Church, Chilwell Road, Beeston NG9 1EH for the attention of **Writing For Pleasure.**
- ❖ Your entry or entries must be accompanied by a cover sheet and an entry form per story.

Entry Format:

- ❖ Entries must be in English.
- ❖ The entries must be typed in an easy to read font (Times New Roman or Calibri or Arial) on one side of the paper only.
- ❖ The font size must be 12 or 14 (our eyesight is not as good as it was).
- ❖ Please use double line spacing on one side of A4 paper, with margins set to approximately 2.5 cm. (Pieces will not be disqualified purely for technical errors).
- ❖ Pages must be **numbered**, have a header or footer (printed or handwritten) showing **the title** of your piece and be stapled together with a **cover page** showing only the title, a pseudonym (to eliminate any bias) and word count.
- ❖ All other information is to be given on the accompanying entry form.
- ❖ Please keep your own personal copy of your story preferably in a format that can be emailed if printed in our newsletter.

An example of the **cover page** is to be found below. The entry Form is to be found on page 3. All of the instructions will be available on the Beeston U3A website and can be downloaded for you own use.



Please ensure the following form accompanies each story you submit:

BEESTON U3A: Writing For Pleasure Short Story Competition 2017 Entry Form

Name:

Contact (email and /or phone):

Pseudonym:

Title of entry (separate form for each please):

Word Count:

Signed:

Dated:

Personal check list:

- I have typed up my work in font size 12/14 on one side only.
- I have used an easy to read font.
- I have numbered each page.
- I have placed the title of the story on each page.
- I have stapled the pages together.
- I have added a cover page with title, pseudonym and word count for every story I have submitted.
- I have filled in an entry form to accompany every story I have submitted.