



Beeston U3A Writing For Pleasure Short Story Competition 2018

Information Sheet, Entry Form and Examples

(Please read all of these carefully)

For a second year we launch our Short Story writing competition

The competition runs from **5th April to 6th September** and 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 U3A 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:

This year we would like you to take a weather event and to use it as inspiration for your story.

Please note: It can be any kind of story in any genre, as long as your chosen weather event plays an important part.

- ❖ 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 local author Clare Harvey (<https://clareharvey.net>)
- ❖ 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 winner of the competition will be announced at the Beeston U3A December Open Meeting on Thursday 6th December. It is expected there will be a reading of the winning entry at that meeting and the story will also be printed in our Beeston U3A Newsletter.
- ❖ The top three stories will appear on our Writing For Pleasure website with the permission of the writers. (www.helenbeestonu3a.co.uk)
- ❖ There will be no feedback on the stories by the judges apart from the top three.

Good luck and happy writing and see page 5 of these documents for some hints for making your story stand out.

Beeston U3A

Writing For Pleasure Short Story Competition 2018

General Information and rules of entry:

- ❖ Your short story should not exceed 2,000 words (title not included within this count).
- ❖ You may enter no more than 3 stories each accompanied by an entry form (see below).
- ❖ 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 6th September 2018** at the Open Meeting of Beeston U3A and **no story will be accepted after 10.30 a.m. on that day.**
- ❖ The announcement of the winner will be at the Beeston U3A December Open Meeting 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.

BEESTON U3A: Writing For Pleasure Short Story Competition 2018 Entry Form

Name:

U3A Group:

Contact:(email and /or phone)

Pseudonym:

Title of entry (separate form required for each short story entered please):

Word Count:

Signed:

Dated:

EXAMPLE OF COVER SHEET

PLEASE DON'T ADD ANY OTHER INFORMATION. SIMPLY DELETE OUR HEADINGS AND REPLACE THEM WITH YOUR OWN.

Title of Story

by

Pseudonym

(Word Count)

Making your story stand out

An intriguing title.

A great first sentence / paragraph – grab your reader's attention immediately.

A limited number of characters and incidents.

Perhaps write in an unusual voice or style – avoid being hackneyed.

Avoid Travelogues and Autobiographical pieces.

Concentrate on a story structure with development within it.

Keep the theme in mind.