

**WhizzFizzFest presents the
Queens Park 500 Words Challenge
Terms & Conditions**

1. This competition is organised by the Queens Park Arts Centre (QPAC) and supported by Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC)
2. The competition is open to entrants who will be aged between 5 and 13 years on the 22nd June 2019, except children or close relatives of individuals involved in the administration of the competition.
3. All entries must be submitted by an adult (parent/guardian or teacher) on behalf of the child; this adult must have parental consent and may be asked, with parental consent, to provide proof of age, identity and eligibility. Entry will be in two age categories – ages 5 to 9 years (on 22nd June 2019) and 10 to 13 years (on 22nd June 2019).
4. Entrants must write a fictional short story (no more than 500 words in length). Entries must be sent as an MS Word or PDF attachment, along with a completed entry form. The adult submitting the story on behalf of the entrant will be asked to provide the entrant's name, gender and their age and ensure that they have parental consent to do so.
5. All stories should be submitted in English.
6. We can only accept stories which are 500 words or fewer (excluding the title and authors name). Please make sure you check the word count before submitting.
7. Entries can only be accepted via email; postal entries will not be read or considered.
8. The adult submitting the entrant's story will be required to approve the entry and agree to these Terms and Conditions on behalf of the entrant. The adult may be the child's parent, guardian or teacher. The adult must provide their own contact and personal details. No contact or personal details of the child may be submitted, other than name, age and gender (with parental consent). Teachers submitting stories on behalf of pupils must seek parental consent and if requested by QPAC, provide evidence of consent in the event of an enquiry or complaint.
9. For the top 10 shortlisted entries in each category, if permission to enter was given by a teacher, QPAC will contact the teacher and ask for confirmation of permission from the entrant's parent or guardian.
10. Entry opens on Friday 14th December 2018 at 12:00. Entry closes on Sunday 31st March 2019 at 19:00. Submissions received outside of this time frame will not, under any circumstances, be considered.
11. Entries can only be entered individually. Only one entry per child is permitted and the story must be wholly written by the child; stories cannot be written by more than one person. If more than one entry is submitted, only the child's first submission will be considered.
12. Entries must be an original work of fiction. Stories cannot include accounts of current real life events, but may include well-known public figures (past or present). Stories can take place in historical eras. Real life experiences can be used as inspiration for a story, but the story itself must be fictional. For clarification on these points please contact info@qpc.org. The entrant warrants that they have not used material or depicted events that actually took place or used the personal details

of any living persons in the story. As the stories will be published it is important that entrants do not include any personal details about themselves. The entrant must not include their name in the title or body of the story; entries which do contain this information may be removed from the competition.

13. Entries cannot be returned – please retain a copy. Unsuccessful entrants will be contacted in respect of their entry but no feedback will be provided.

14. All entries must be the original work of the entrant and must not infringe the rights of any other party. QPAC and AVDC accept no responsibility if entrants ignore these Terms and Conditions and entrants agree to indemnify QPAC and AVDC against any claim by any third party from any breach of these Terms and Conditions.

15. Entries must not contain defamatory, obscene, offensive, or any other unsuitable material; QPAC reserves the right to disqualify entries containing such matter. Entries must be suitable to be published or used online by QPAC and AVDC for audiences of all ages. If the story has troubling content QPAC may, if required, take advice from the NSPCC, and may refer the Troubling Content to the relevant authorities.

16. Entrants retain the copyright in their entries but grant to QPAC and AVDC a perpetual non-exclusive royalty-free licence to publish, broadcast (across all media) and post the entry online and on any other platforms yet to be envisaged. This licence will be deemed to include all the necessary rights and permissions to enable such use by QPAC or AVDC, to fulfil the prizes and to complete the administration of this competition.

17. By submitting a story the entrant agrees that QPAC may at its sole discretion edit, adapt, abridge or translate the entry for the purposes listed in clause 16 above.

18. Entrants agree in clause 16 that QPAC and AVDC may publish the stories on their website for the duration of 5 years, after which all names and attribution will be removed.

19. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- Originality
- Plot Characterisation
- Language
- Enjoyment

20. The first round will be judged by members of QPAC's in-house storytelling initiative, known as Unbound. Judges will not have access to the names or information relating to the authors and will read and score each story using the criteria above. Each judge will be emailed all stories along with details of the criteria and how to score the stories. The 20 highest scored entries (10 per category) from this round will be put through to the next round. This process will be overseen by QPAC.

21. These top 20 entries (10 per category) will be read and judged by a guest panel chaired by QPAC. 3 finalists with 1 overall winner will be selected in each age category (gold, silver and bronze – gold being the overall winners).

22. The full names of the 6 finalists will be announced on Monday 17th June 2019.

23. The entries from the 6 finalists will be performed by an actor or WhizzFizzFest guest during the WhizzFizzFest event on 22nd June 2019. Entrants should be available on this date to hear their stories read and to collect their prizes.

24. Prizes will be awarded to the 3 finalists in each category: the 2 Gold winners will have their stories used as the basis for specially-made videos, to be posted online by QPAC and AVDC. In each video the story will be read / performed by an experienced actor and illustrated by a professional artist (Please note: This prize will be completed after the day of the Festival). The 2 silver winners will each receive a family ticket to QPAC's 2019 pantomime. The 2 bronze winners will win a free place on a QPAC school holiday art & craft workshop.

25. The parents or guardians of the top 20 successful entrants will be contacted by QPAC before the end of April 2018; further proof of age, identity and eligibility may be requested at this stage. Please note that QPAC and AVDC cannot cover any travel and accommodation that may be incurred by any other family or friends of the entrant in attending the WhizzFizzFest event on 22nd June 2019.

26. QPAC's decision as to each stage of this competition, the top 20 (10 in each category), the 6 finalists and the choice of gold, silver and bronze in each category is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

27. QPAC reserves the right to disqualify any entry which breaches any of these Terms and Conditions, or to withhold a prize if in its opinion entries do not reach the required standard.

28. QPAC reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions or cancel this competition at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control.

29. QPAC, AVDC and/or any other organisation associated with this competition cannot accept any responsibility whatsoever for any technical failure or malfunction or any other problem with any server, Internet access, system or otherwise which may result in any entry being lost or not properly registered or recorded. Proof of sending is not proof of receipt.

30. These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of England and Wales.