

# WIMBLEDON BOOKFEST

## Young Writers' Competition 2022

### Senior School Guidelines

# The Tree



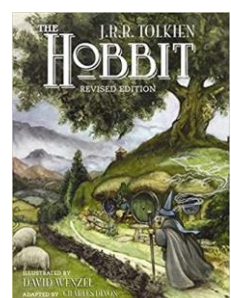
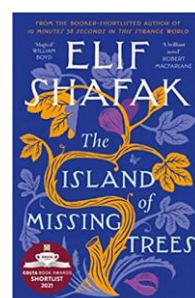
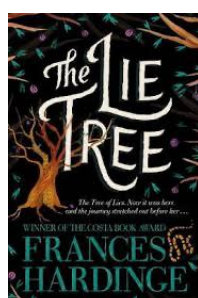
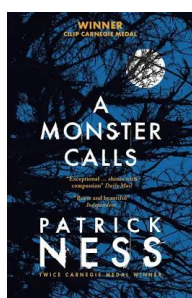
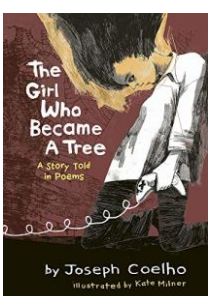
In 2022 we are inspired by nature and the calling of **The Tree**. Trees feature in so many stories and we are asking young writers to think about trees as the inspiration and starting point for their story or poem.

What does a tree say to you – perhaps it is an enchanted forest or a treehouse to hideaway in. Could it be your own family tree or the owner of a million secrets captured from those who've passed it by. Is it a place where birds and animals see seek refuge or does it make you think about the effect of climate change? Does the protagonist change like the seasons affect trees

It's up to you! Let the theme of the tree take you to somewhere new.

The best entries will be published in the *Wimbledon BookFest 2022 Anthology of Stories & Poems*

**For inspiration why not try:**



## There are 2 categories – Short Story and Poem

### Categories & Entering

**Categories:** There are three Key Stage/Age Groups.  
There will be separate winners in each age range for both short stories *and* poetry.

1. **Key Stage 3 - years 7, 8, 9**
2. **Key Stage 4- years 10 & 11**
3. **Key Stage 5 - years 12 & 13**

**Word Count:** Entries **MUST** be typewritten and be in **WORD** (no PDFs please) format using the **supplied Wimbledon BookFest Entry template**.

Maximum words: 500                      Minimum words: 100

*Note: Entries may be refused if not supplied in required format.*

**Teacher selection:** Teachers are asked to select & submit a **maximum of 3 entries per category** for each key stage/Age group specified above. (i.e. 3 poems and 3 short stories are allowed per Key stage)

**Please ensure that entrants' work is their own original creation.**

**Email entries to:** Entries should be submitted on the Wimbledon BookFest Young Writers' Competition Entry template [LINK](#) and emailed to Laura Byrne - [education@wimbledonbookfest.org](mailto:education@wimbledonbookfest.org)

### Criteria

The theme '**The Tree**' should be interpreted in whichever way the writer chooses – be it serious, humorous, moving, or thrilling – the key is that the writer has enjoyed crafting the piece and has illustrated where the theme has taken their imagination. The title of the story of poem does not need to be The Tree though the content should be inspired by it. The writer will not be penalised for grammar and spelling; however, the best way is to plan work before writing it and checking and editing before submission.

**Please encourage students to work independently** without the help of parents and teachers. Innovation and creativity are important so do not be tempted to guide too much in terms of structure/opening sentences.

### What the judges look for:

\*Imagination                      \* Creativity & originality \* Energy & life                      \* Structure: beginning, middle & end

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Our 2022 judges are a team of professional writers and educationalists:

**Chair: Jean Menzies** - author **Greek Myths Meet the Heroes**, academic at **University of Roehampton**

**Caroline Lawrence** (children's author), **Polly Simmonds**, (Polka Theatre), **Julian Butler**, (musician, writer & teacher), **Lyndsey Barraclough** (author and former teacher), **Ozge Gozturk** (University of Roehampton)

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**CLOSING DATE:**                      **Friday 29 April 2022, 5pm**

**PRIZE GIVING:**                      The prize-giving will be with a leading children's author in September 2022 at New Wimbledon Theatre. Winning, Runner-up & Highly Commended entries will be published in the 2022 Anthology