

WIMBLEDON BOOKFEST

Young Writers' Competition 2023 SENIOR Guidelines

Home



This year we are inspired by family, friendship and community. The 2023 theme is **'Home'**.

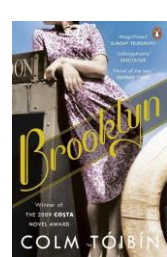
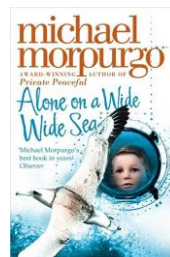
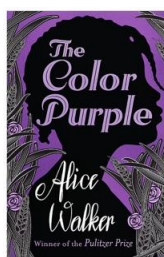
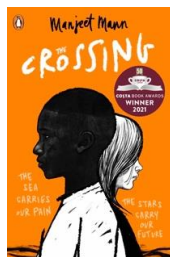
The theme of **'Home'** features in many stories because it represents something different to everyone. Undoubtedly, it excites and inspires the imagination. This year, as a starting point for their **story or poem**, we ask candidates to consider: **What does 'home' represent to you?**

Is this place local or far away? Is it new or old? Is it a feeling or an individual? What inspiration might you find from nature – perhaps the perfect **'home'** might be found in a bird's nest hidden high up in the trees. Is **'home'** a communal space where the bonds of family and friendship grow stronger over a steaming hot bowl of soup? Is it a place that offers support and helps with growth, with resilience and with maturation. Or is it a secret place of refuge, a necessary haven from the world?

'Home' may not refer to a place at all. For you, it may represent something even more abstract. For instance, what does the process of **coming 'home'** mean to you? Might it represent a new found confidence in understanding who you are and how you wish to identify? It is up to you!

The winning entries will be published in the *Wimbledon BookFest 2023 Anthology of Stories and Poems*.

For inspiration why not try?



Categories

There are three Key Stage/Age Groups for senior schools, and there will be separate winners in each age range for **stories** and **poetry**.

Key Stage 3 - years 7, 8, 9

Key Stage 4- years 10 & 11

Key Stage 5 - years 12 & 13

There is also a separate category for **SEN Schools** taking part.

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).

Word Count: Maximum words: 500 Minimum words: 100



Criteria

The theme '**Home**' can 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 or poem does not need to be '**Home**' 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 to check and edit the text before submission.

Please do 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

Our judges are a diverse team of authors, writers, journalists and educationalists.

Entering

Entries **MUST** be typewritten and be in WORD format (no PDFs/pictures please) using the supplied Wimbledon BookFest Entry **Template**.

Entries should then be submitted on the supplied template and **emailed to: Laura Byrne, School Manager - education@wimbledonbookfest.org**

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

CLOSING DATE: Friday 5th May 2023, 5pm

