



# **RBWM PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

**ESSAY / PROSE / POETRY**

**WRITING COMPETITION**

**Information Pack for 2021 – 2022**

*Issued: 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021*



# Information Pack for 2021 – 2022

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# Information Pack for 2021 – 2022

## THEME – ‘ENVIRONMENT’

### Introduction

This National Young Writer Competition is a well-established and successful competition promoted by Rotary International in Britain and Ireland (Rotary GB&I), and is organised by local Rotary Clubs. This Competition for Primary Schools in RBWM is organised by Maidenhead Thames Rotary Club.

It is a three-stage competition which is designed to support and encourage development of writing skills.

### Aims

This competition aims to encourage young people to:

- use their writing skills
- write with imagination and creativity

### Who can take part?

The competition is open to Years 5 & 6 pupils (aged 9 to 11) of all RBWM & independent Primary and Special schools in the Borough, including those children that are home educated.

Entrants must not be above the age parameters for each group on **31 August 2021**.

**Competitors must include their age on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 on the entry form.**

For entrants with motor control difficulties, an amanuensis may be used to record the entrant's work to paper.

### The Three potential Stages of the Competition

#### Local Heat & Final

Organised by Maidenhead Thames Rotary Club, the overall winner is presented with £50 book voucher and a certificate, and likewise the respective overall winning school. Additionally, the winner at each participating school will be presented with a £10 book voucher and a certificate. The winner of each school will also have the opportunity to read their work virtually at a celebration & prize giving event during World Book Week on Monday afternoon **28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**.

#### District Finals

Organised by Rotary regionally, there is an opportunity for the entry of the overall winner of the ‘Environment’ theme in the local heat to be submitted by Maidenhead Thames Rotary Club to the Rotary Thames Valley District 1090 organisers by **Monday 28 February 2022** for entry into the regional competition.

Organised by Rotary International in Britain and Ireland (RGI) organisers, one entry per age group per district of the ‘Environment’ theme are entered by **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022** to the national final.

#### National Final

This competition is organised by Rotary. One entry per age group per district may be submitted by each Rotary District to the national final, via digital format by **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022**.



## Competition Guidelines

### Task

To produce a written or typed story in prose entitled, '**Environment**'. The written entry could be fiction or non-fiction, prose, or a poem, as long as the piece relates to the theme, and it should state who their audience is. This should be in the form of:

1. **Environmental narrative** - e.g. the saving of the planet or perhaps a warning story. Narrative is key, and we expect to see characters, setting and atmosphere as well as a great plot!
2. **A letter from a child** to their parents / adult family to appeal to and cajole about how they need to change their ways. This gives opportunities to entertain and engage as all should recognise their own family traits in the responses. The title could be a 'A letter to my...'
3. **A non-chronological report** on one aspect of environmental strategy e.g. wind power, hydro-electricity, move to electric cars etc.
  - **Up to maximum of 550 words for prose entries.**
  - **Up to a maximum of 40 lines for poetry entries.**
  - **No pictures/drawings to be part of the entry.**
  - **All entries to be legible - can be written or typed.**

Entries are to be sent to Stephan Stephan, Maidenhead Thames Rotary Club, 19 Manor Lane, Maidenhead SL6 2QN, or e-mailed to [Helalstephan@aol.com](mailto:Helalstephan@aol.com) by the closing date of **17<sup>th</sup> December 2021**.

Entries may not be returned unless specifically requested.

### Judges

Judges with appropriate skills, appointed by Rotary, will apply the judging criteria below.

### Judging Criteria

Judges will consider imagination relative to the subject; the ability to engage interest and to be consistent in the power of argument.

Questions have been asked about spelling; and although this is not an issue, the only advice to be given is that judges of this competition have made comments upon spelling in the past.

The judges will not enter into any discussion or correspondence regarding their decision; their decision will be final and not subject to any appeal.

### Plagiarism or Close Copied Images

Plagiarised or 'close-copied' images are not permitted in any competition. It is important that we protect the work of creative individuals. Whilst we are all inspired by the work of others, there is without doubt a grey area where inspiration carries over to close copying. For our competitions 'close copying' is where, to a reasonable person, the submitted entry appears remarkably similar in significant important respects to a body of work created elsewhere. We are looking for original pieces, not copies, which match the theme of the competition

### Prizes

At all stages of the competition, competitors will in any case receive a certificate of participation.



## How to enter

- Teachers, together with their pupils from each school, should select **a maximum of five written pieces** using any of the three starting sub-theme points given, to submit to the competition. These may be from the same or different year groups (Years 5 and 6) and / or sub-themes.
- From the maximum of five pieces submitted by each school, the panel of judges will select one winner for that school.
- The panel will also select an overall winner from the entries submitted by all the contributing schools for winning an overall prize and also have the opportunity to enter into the Rotary regional & national competitions.
- All entries must be **counter signed and dated** by the class teacher or parent to verify that the work is unaided and original.
- The writing must be **up to the maximum number of words** or lines in length, as stated earlier.
- Scripts may be handwritten or word processed. Please be aware that entries may need to be photocopied and circulated to judges so must be legible; although lovely to have, there is no need for decoration or addition of art work.
- For entrants with motor control difficulties, an amanuensis may be used to record the entrants' work to paper.
- The criteria for selection will be based on how effectively the author has tailored their response to engage the reader, meeting the demands of audience purpose and genre.
- Completed entries should be clearly marked with the reference number of the chosen task / theme (1,2, or 3), the **full name of the pupil, year group, date of birth, school name** and **contact details of the lead teacher**, and sent to: Mr Stephan Stephan, Maidenhead Thames Rotary Club, 19 Manor Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 2QN and / or sent electronically to [Helalstephan@aol.com](mailto:Helalstephan@aol.com).
- The latest date to acknowledge a school will be participating in this competition is **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021**.
- The closing date for submissions is **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 mid-day**.
- Prize winners for each participating school, together with details of the virtual celebration event, will be advised by **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022**.
- The overall prize winner will be announced at the virtual celebration event in the afternoon of **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**. Headteachers, staff, parents and siblings of all participating schools are invited to join in at this event, during which the winners from each school will be acknowledged and be invited to read their work aloud.
- The writer of the winning entry from each school will receive a £10 book token and a certificate.
- There will also be a £50 book token prize for the pupil who has written the best entry overall. The winning school will also receive a £50 prize.
- Participating schools will be asked to complete and sign the Photo Consent form regarding permission for Rotary members to take appropriate photographs of the winning children, and for full names and images to be published or transmitted for use in Local press/media in Maidenhead, Rotary publications, Rotary websites and Social media.

If you have any enquiries about the competition, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Stephan Stephan on [Helalstephan@aol.com](mailto:Helalstephan@aol.com) / 07475 771471.

Entrants are required to complete an entry form, separately attached, and to submit it with their text.



## Background to Rotary Youth Competitions Nationwide

### Youth Competitions

The Young Writer competition is one of a number of competitions for young people organised by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland. Among the others are Young Artist, Young Chef, Youth Debate, Young Environmentalist, Young Filmmaker, Young Musician, Young Photographer, Young Citizens Awards and the Technology Tournaments.

To find out more about these competitions and other opportunities for young people, please contact your local Rotary Club or visit [www.rotarygbi.org](http://www.rotarygbi.org).

### Working with Children

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has adopted this statement of policy in working with children, the vulnerable and those with disability.

*The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability take priority. It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of their ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact during their Rotarian duties.*