**What is the prize for 500 Words?**

Prizes will be awarded to the 3 finalists in each age category:

2 Gold winners will win Chris Evans' height in books (6.2") and 500 books each for their school.

2 Silver winners will win Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall's height in books (5.6").

2 Bronze winners will win their own height in books.

**How are the stories marked?**

The first round of judging will be done by volunteer teachers and librarians across the UK.

The second round of judging will be done by trained professionals at The Reading Agency; 50 stories (25 in each age category) will be shortlisted.

The writers of these 50 stories will be the competition’s finalists.

Our final judging panel will convene at the beginning of May and decide on the 6 winning stories.

These 6 stories are Bronze, Silver and Gold in each age category.

**Can I submit more than one story?**

You can only enter one story - and it has to be all your own work.

If you enter more than one story then we'll only consider the first submission as part of the competition.

**Can a story be submitted without an adult’s approval?**

No - we need an adult to approve the entry and agree to these Terms and Conditions (including the BBC’s use of the story submitted and the fictional nature of the story) on behalf of the entrant, by way of a check-box in the online form.

The adult could be the child’s parent, guardian or teacher.

The adult must provide their own contact details (not the child’s) and the region in which the child lives.

**Does the story have to be original?**

Your story must be all your own original work - you must not copy someone else's story.

Any entry deemed to be a copy by our judges will be disqualified.

Your story must be an original piece of fiction and not an account of real events – either historical or current.

However, your stories can:

feature well known public figures from today or from history (e.g. Wayne Rooney or Charles Darwin)

take place in historical eras (e.g. the English Civil War)

use real-life experiences as a creative springboard as long as the story is fictional.

**What are the criteria for judging the stories?**

Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

originality

plot

characterisation

language

enjoyment.

For more information about the judging process please see the Terms and Conditions.