

Frequently Asked Questions



Looking for some help? You've come to the right place. If your question isn't answered below, you can get in touch via the email address 500words@bbc.co.uk

Help For Kids

What is 500 Words and how do I enter?

500 Words is a story writing competition for children.

You need to be between 5 and 13 years-old on the 27th May 2016 and a full time resident of the UK.

To enter you need to write an original story that is no more than 500 words long.

Once you've written your story, you can enter it into the competition using the entry form on this website.

What is the prize for 500 Words?

Prizes will be awarded to the 3 finalists in each age category: the 2 Gold winners will win Chris Evans' height in books (6.2") and 500 books each for their school. The 2 Silver winners will win Alex Jones' height in books (5.6"). The 2 Bronze winners will win their own height in books.

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.

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, stories can feature well known public figures from present day or from history (e.g. Wayne Rooney or Charles Darwin) take place in historical eras (e.g. the English Civil War) or 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.