



Lincoln Book Festival Flash Fiction Competition 2017

Dear Teacher

Lincoln Book Festival is launching its first ever Flash Fiction Competition this year - and we are inviting schools across Lincolnshire to get involved!

The competition, organised in association with the University of Lincoln and Bishop Grosseteste University, aims to uncover new storytelling talent by showcasing concise, compelling, creative writing in the Gothic genre which is the theme for this year's Lincoln Book Festival (25th to 30th September 2017).

Writers of any age can enter the Lincoln Book Festival Flash Fiction Competition 2017. There are three age categories: primary (age 10 years and below); secondary (11 to 16) and adult (17 and above).

We are looking for short stories that are:

- **Exactly 50 words long - no more, no less!**
- **In the Gothic fiction genre**
- **The author's own original, unpublished work**

Gothic fiction has history at its heart. The genre has enjoyed a huge resurgence in popularity in recent years, with its heady mix of mystery, horror, magic and romance. While we encourage participants to take inspiration from works such as *Frankenstein*, *Dracula* and *Wuthering Heights*, we want original creative works, not a rewrite of a classic. The Gothic isn't confined to monsters and ghouls - its barren landscapes, crumbling castles, eccentric characters, mysterious families, isolation, superstition and even the supernatural!

A copy of the competition entry form is attached and will also be available from: www.lincolnbookfestival.org. Please send completed entry forms as email attachments (Word or PDF) to: competitions@lincoln.ac.uk with the email subject line "Lincoln Book Festival Flash Fiction Competition 2017".

The deadline for entries is midnight on 30th June 2017. Winners in each age category will win a prize of £30 in book vouchers and see their story published as part of Lincoln Book Festival 2017.

We know there is a wealth of creative writing talent in local schools and wish your pupils the very best of luck if they do choose to enter the competition. A copy of the full competition terms and conditions is also attached. If you do have any questions about the competition not covered here, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely

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