



## The Henrietta Branford Writing Competition 2026

Entry instruction and Terms & Conditions 2026.

### Entry Dates

Submissions for the **Henrietta Branford Writing Competition** will be accepted from 9am (GMT) Monday 2 February 2026.

The deadline for receipt of entries is 9am (GMT) on Friday 29 May 2026.

### How to Enter

1. Read the Entry Terms and Conditions thoroughly to find out who can enter and what stories are eligible for the Award. Submission of an entry is taken as acceptance of all the Terms and Conditions.

2. Write and format your entry as per the following instructions:

- One entry per writer
- Written in English
- Story entries: maximum of 600 words
- Song lyrics, rap lyrics or poems: maximum of 40 lines
- An original piece of writing (story, poem or rap or song lyric) on the theme 'a place I know well' or 'a person I know well'
- Typed on a computer
- Any font, 12pt, black

Include a front page which details the title of your entry and the word count.

Please mark your entries Henrietta Branford Writing Competition 2026.

**Make sure you include your name, address, contact details (email address) and age. Please include an adult's name and contact details (teacher, parent, guardian) if you are under 16.**

Teachers, if you are collating children's entries, please include your name, the name and address of your school and your contact details as well as the names and ages of the young authors.

Entries not submitted in accordance with the Entry Instructions and Entry Terms and Conditions will not be eligible for consideration.

No entries can be returned.

If you have any questions about entering the Award, please email [Branford.boase@gmail.com](mailto:Branford.boase@gmail.com). The Award administrators will respond as soon as possible.

**The email address for entries is: [Branford.boase@gmail.com](mailto:Branford.boase@gmail.com)**

## **The Award**

There will be six winning writers of The Henrietta Branford Writing Competition 2026.

The six winners will each receive a certificate and signed copies of each of the books shortlisted for the 2026 Branford Boase Award.

## **Eligibility**

The Henrietta Branford Writing Competition is open to UK residents, including residents of the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, plus residents in the Republic of Ireland, aged 8 to 18 years-old on the submission deadline (9am (GMT) Friday 30 May 2026).

Writers can only enter individually and not as part of a writing team.

Story entries/character sketches must not be more than six hundred (600) words. There is no lower word limit but the entry needs to be a story.

Poems and song lyric entries must be no longer than 40 lines.

Each entry must be an original piece of writing.

Each writer may submit only one entry. If more than one entry is submitted, only the first story received will be considered.

Writers must supply full details as required and comply with all rules to be eligible for the Award.

Winning writers are encouraged to take part in some press activity immediately following the announcement of the winners.

## **Judging**

Entries are judged on the following guidelines:

- Writer's ability to tell a story, capture the reader and hold their attention.
- Originality, imagination and creativity
- Quality of writing

The Award is judged in two stages:

Stage 1: All entries are read and judged anonymously by at least two readers against the Award reading guidelines. Readers are from a mixture of backgrounds, with literary expertise. The best fifty (50) stories will then be put forward to four judges.

Stage 2: All four judges will together select the six outstanding short stories submitted for the Award.

Shortlisted and winning writers will be contacted by email or telephone, either personally if the writer is over 16 or via the adult that approved the entry if the writer is under 16.

The winners are likely to be announced week of 22 June 2026. Winners' entries and photos will be published on the Branford Boase Award website (<https://branfordboaseaward.org.uk/>). Please check back on the websites for updates. In addition, a list of stories/poems/lyrics highly commended by the judges may also be published on the website alongside the announcement of the winners. By entering the

Award, the writer agrees to their name and the title of their story being published on the website in the event only of their story being chosen as a winner or commended by the judges.

The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The judging will be fair and independent. The judging panel will be appointed by the Award Team and will be made up of a guest panel of four judges, plus the **Branford Boase Award** administrator, Andrea Reece.

### **Administration and Communication**

The Award Team does not accept any responsibility for late, lost or damaged entries. Entries cannot be returned, so remember to keep a copy.

The Award Team is responsible for administering the Award and will consist of representatives from the Branford Boase Award. The Award Team can refuse entry to the Award for any reason it decides is reasonable. The Award Team reserves the right to cancel this Award at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control.

Please contact the administrators with any questions, [branford.boase@gmail.com](mailto:branford.boase@gmail.com)