



6 WORD STORY COMPETITION

Deadline

23rd
Nov

FIRST STORY

Guidance for Students

Can you write a story in just six words?

Then this competition is just for you!

If you win, we'll print your story on a pencil

We want:

- A story. Tell us an actual, whole story. Not just a slogan.
- Stories that are concrete and specific. Try to avoid being abstract and, like, vague.
- Stories that speak to your own life. We want a story that only you could tell.

Some Examples of 6-Word Stories

For sale: baby's shoes, never worn. – Ernest Hemmingway (maybe)

Zaid, I call. But everyone looks. – Fatima Ahmed

Found true love, married someone else. – Bjorn Stromberg

Ex-wife and contractor now have house. – Drew Peck

Wasn't born a redhead: fixed that. – Andie Grace

Never really finished anything, except cake. – Carletta Perkins

Being a monk stunk. Better gay. – Bob Redman

Europe, Africa. I am the connection. – Floris Muimpe

Basket case tabby destroys wicker home. – Lucy Deakin

Tried being normal. Worst two minutes. – Lauren Gacheru

Went to shops. Won lottery. Sorted. – Jordan Wildman

Happy endings are just unfinished stories. – Nicola Kerry

Broke Pencil. Bought Pencil. Broke Pencil. – Ezra Glasstone

Dark brown does not describe you. – Rashiqa Tahir

Guidance for School Staff

- This competition is open to all students in First Story partner schools.
- We encourage you to consider running this as an assembly or tutor time activity or as a starter activity in regular lessons (not just English lessons!) so please do share with other staff across departments (please see additional guidance below).
- The benefit of the short form approach here lies in its accessibility. We have found that even the most reluctant writers can find routes towards creating a story in 6 words and also feel a sense of achievement when they complete the challenge and share their outcomes.
- Of course, this competition might also prompt a wider discussion about what makes a good story? or how to structure a strong narrative? - once your students are familiar with the technique it can be used again and again as a starter activity, a revision aid or just as an ongoing creative outlet.

Additional Guidance on Approaches:

1. A 6-word story is just like any other story - the best ones have elements character, setting, dialogue, intrigue or adversity, narrative structure - just because your students only have a few words doesn't mean they should just select them without thinking about these.
2. There are a number of ways to approach this you might want to offer:
 - Example word banks as a starting point - e.g. abstract and concrete nouns, useful verbs or adjectives to get the ball rolling
 - You might encourage them to think of a longer story (therefore having more freedom to establish a narrative) and then look to condense it down to its core elements
 - Some schools have also found success in taking established stories e.g. fables, nursery rhymes, folk stories, religious parables etc and condensing them as a practice
 - In other curriculum subjects you might find the format works well for scientific/geographic acronyms if you take an acrostic approach, in History the story might describe an event or a vignette of someone's life etc.
3. Take a look through our sample resource of previously submitted competition entries or the video guidance from one of our Writers-in-Residence, [Andy Craven-Griffiths for additional inspiration](#).
4. As with any other story - the most successful pieces go beyond a single draft. There are many ways your students could edit (either by themselves or with support of peers) their pieces to achieve greater clarity or refinement of their narrative. For example, in this 6-word format, every word counts and there is no real space for connectives - many previous entries have used punctuation cleverly to pace their pieces or offer additional routes to shorten phrases. Encourage your students to revisit their writing wherever possible and they will very quickly see the benefits.

Terms & Conditions

Competition Structure:

The competition is split into two stages:

1. School Level: Students will submit their stories to teachers and their schools' Writer-In-Residence - the three best pieces will go forward into the national competition
2. National Level: First Story will shortlist and pick one overall winner. All shortlisted entries will be published on our website

The Prize:

The Winning Story will be printed on a pencil and a collection of these will be sent to your school

How to Enter:

Once you have made your school level selection entries must be submitted via our online form: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6WordComp>

N.B. Every entry must be accompanied by a completed IP Consent Form (included in this pack). These forms can be attached electronically but must also be sent in physical form to First Story, Omnibus Business Centre, 39-41 North Road, London, N7 9DP.

Deadline:

Friday 23rd November – Competition entries due to First Story
Schools/Writers submit a maximum of three entries via the online form.

We suggest having Friday 16th November as an internal closing date for schools to collect student pieces, giving time for teachers and writers to shortlist to their top three entries and send to First Story by Friday 23rd November.

FIRST STORY

CONSENT FORM

Thank you for taking part in our course.

First Story Limited is a UK registered charity, and we aim to help you make the most of your creativity.

Consent

In return for our arranging the course, you agree as follows:

- 1 You consent to taking part in our writing workshops. You also consent to being photographed, filmed and/or recorded by or for us in connection with the course.
- 2 We may use (and authorise the use of) your contributions for all purposes that are consistent with our charitable status by any means. Accordingly, you:
 - a. grant us a non-exclusive licence to use your contributions for those purposes;
 - b. grant us every consent that may now or later be required by law for such use;
 - c. accept that we shall credit you as a contributor, but only where reasonably practical; and
 - d. accept that we may edit your contribution as appropriate for such use.
- 3 We have created a private Facebook group for course communications. That is moderated by our staff. You agree to comply with our terms of use for the group, which are available via the Facebook page.
- 4 We may use your personal details for all purposes of the course and the Facebook group.
- 5 We may also use your personal information to evaluate the course, and we may (in an anonymised form) publish the results of the evaluation.

Please sign below:

YOUR DETAILS	
Full name (<i>please print</i>):	
School Name:	
Date of birth:	
Email:	
Signed:	Dated:

If you are under 18, your parent/guardian must also sign here:

PARENT / GUARDIAN DETAILS	
Full name (<i>please print</i>):	
Email:	
Contact number:	
Declaration: I am the parent/guardian of the above child, and I approve my child's agreement above.	
Signed:	Dated: