



**100 WORD STORY
COMPETITION**

Deadline

25th
Jan

FIRST STORY



100 Words of Advice on Writing 100 Word Stories

by Anthony Cropper

Start in the middle of something: maybe a dilemma, a crisis or moment of change.

Stories are about tension and conflict. What's yours?

Be specific. Use detail. Don't say cold day, say the ice formed on the inside of windows.

Use your senses (even in a hundred words). Use another sense besides sight.

Show us emotions and situations, don't tell us.

Think in terms of three acts (even in a short piece). Where do you start? How does the story deepen? How does it end?

Write long then cut short.

What's your strongest line? Can you start with that sentence?

Top Tip:

Remember entires only need to be *up to* 100 words and that we want stories that speak to your own life. We want a story that only you could tell.

Guidance for School Staff

Terms & Conditions

- This competition is only open to young writers in the First Story Creative Writing Group.
- No previously published pieces can be accepted as entries to the competition. Exceptions may be made for pieces published in internal school newsletters or chapbooks
- Entries can be prose or poetry and can be on any theme and must run to no more than 100 words.

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:

We will identify a winner for each school and an overall national winner from the shortlist. All prizes are generously provided by our partner Vintage Publishing.

The national winner will receive a professionally designed and printed **set of postcards** with their story, plus **5 books** for the student plus **10 books** for their school library.

The runner-up will receive a professionally designed and printed **set of postcards** with their story, **3 books** for the student plus **5 books** for their school library.

Each school winner will receive a professionally designed and printed **set of postcards** with their story and **2 books** for the student (up to 30 schools).

How to Enter:

Once you have made your school level selection entries, a **maximum of three entries** must be submitted via our online form: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/100WordComp>

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 25th January – Competition entries due to First Story

We suggest having Friday 18th January 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 25th January.