

Organised by



WriteStuff

A writing competition for students
in the Bailiwick of Guernsey

Sponsored by

Julius Bär
YOUR PRIVATE BANK



THE PARTY

Write a 300-word story
on the theme "The Party".

To enter or for more info visit
writestuff.gg

Partners



TEACHERS' PACK

Please find enclosed reading material and activities for this year's WriteStuff Competition. The competition is organised by the Guernsey Literary Festival and kindly sponsored by Julius Baer. Festival partners include the Guille-Allès Library, Guernsey Arts, Island Families.

OBJECTIVE

Write a 300-word story on the theme "The Party".

The Write Stuff is celebrating its 10th year in 2024. So, after a decade of competitions, we're throwing a party for our next writing challenge. Your story can contain up to 300 words, plus a title to set the scene. You can choose the setting, the characters and the plot for whatever kind of party your imagination can conjure up.

For example, you might want to create the start of a murder mystery through a title like '*The Party at Macabre Manor*'. Or perhaps you prefer a science fiction setting such as '*The Party at World's End*' or want to set up a ghost story with a title such as '*The Party's Last Guest*'. The choice is yours.

We look forward to celebrating this special anniversary with your stories – and whatever party they bring to the table.

Competition entries must be solely the unassisted work of the entrant.

DEADLINE 8 MARCH 2024

CATEGORIES

Primary

Years 3/4/5/6

Intermediate

Years 7/8/9

Senior

Years 10+

Special Educational Needs (SEND)

Primary and secondary



WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- 1** Originality and imagination — we are looking for students to produce an original piece of writing that focuses on story and plot.
- 2** An impressive quality of writing and crafting of language — your writing should convey a clear sense of occasion.
- 3** The ability to create a story or episode which is vivid, original and memorable to impress the judges.

COMPETITION JUDGES



Rashmi Sirdeshpande (Primary Judge)

Rashmi Sirdeshpande is an award-winning children's author and a former World Book Day author whose books have been published around the world and featured in a number of newspapers from The Guardian to The Wall Street Journal. Her first picture book, *Never Show a T-Rex a Book*, illustrated by Diane Ewen, won the Society of Authors Queen's Knickers Awards and the Anna Dewdney Award in the USA and was shortlisted for the Lollies. The sequel, *Never Teach a Stegosaurus To Do Sums*, was shortlisted for the Sainsbury's Children's Book Awards and was a Children's Book Council Children's Favourites and Teacher Favourites winner in the USA.

www.rashmisirdeshpande.com



Sam Copeland (Intermediate Judge)

Sam Copeland is an author, which has come as something of a surprise to him. He is from Manchester and now lives in London with one smelly dog, two smelly cats, three smelly children and one relatively clean-smelling wife. He is the author of the bestselling *Charlie Changes Into a Chicken* series (the first book of which was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize), *Uma and the Answer to Absolutely Everything* and *Greta and the Ghost Hunters* and *The Bear Behind*. With Jenny Pearson, he has also written *Tuchus & Topps Investigate: The Underpants of Chaos*. His next novel *Alex vs Axel: The Impossible Worlds* is coming in 2024.

www.sam-copeland.com



Frances Hardinge (Senior Judge)

Frances Hardinge spent a large part of her childhood in a huge old house that inspired her to write strange stories from an early age. She read English at Oxford University, then got a job at a software company. However, a few years later a persistent friend finally managed to bully Frances into sending a few chapters of *Fly By Night*, her first children's novel, to a publisher. Macmillan made her an immediate offer. The book went on to publish to huge critical acclaim and win the Branford Boase First Novel Award. She has since written many highly acclaimed children's writer; novels including, *Fly By Night* and the 2011 sequel *Twilight Robbery*, as well as the Carnegie shortlisted *Cuckoo Song* and the Costa Book of the Year winner, *The Lie Tree*. Her latest books are *Unraveller* and *Island of Whispers*.

www.franceshardinge.com



Huw Lewis Jones (SEND judge)

Huw Lewis Jones is a polar-exploring author and naturalist who is lucky to have met many penguins in the wild. He went to school in Guernsey and now lives in Cornwall where he is associate professor at Falmouth University, teaching natural history. Huw also travels across the Arctic and Antarctica each year working as an expedition leader. He has written numerous books, including *Do Bears Poop in the Woods?* and the *Bad Apple* series of picture books, *Do Penguins Like the Cold?* and *Clive Penguin*. To date, his books have been published in 18 languages. Huw is a Guest Curator of the Guernsey Literary Festival.

twitter.com/polarworld

Filter Judges

Filter judges this year include Julia Bichard and Adam Bayfield from the Guille-Alles Library, local author Nick Le Messurier and Suzie Almond, a creative education specialist with experience of first round judging for the BBC 500 words and Settle Stories.

PRIZES

First Prize
£50

Plus the 2024 trophy, a certificate, a signed book, an original illustration and your story published on the website.

PRIMARY/INTERMEDIATE/SENIOR

Second Prize
£25

Plus a certificate, a signed book, an original illustration and your story published on the website.

PRIMARY/INTERMEDIATE/SENIOR

Third Prize
£25

Plus a certificate, a signed book, an original illustration and your story published on the website.

PRIMARY/INTERMEDIATE/SENIOR

Special Educational Needs
£50

Plus the 2024 trophy, a certificate, a signed book, an original illustration and your story published on the website.

PRIMARY/SENIOR

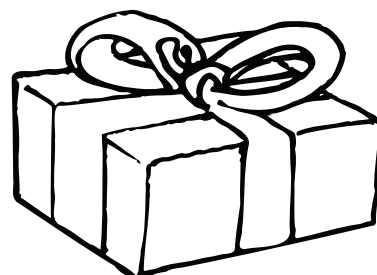
Highly Commended Prizes
£10 Book Tokens

Plus a certificate and your story published on the website.

5 PRIZES IN PRIMARY, INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR.
2 PRIZES IN SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

ILLUSTRATIONS

The illustrations of the winning entries will be designed by Sheena Le Messurier.



RESOURCES AND SCHOOL VISITS



One of our competition judges, Huw Lewis-Jones will be visiting Guernsey primary schools between Monday 15 – Friday 19 January to talk about his new book *Do Bears Poop in the Woods?* He'll talk about being a writer and explorer, bear spotting in the wild, have an Arctic animal quiz, as well as sharing more details and story ideas for this year's special WriteStuff competition.

The fun and informative event is suitable for all KS2 students in year 3,4,5,6 and he's happy to speak to large groups and assemblies. The bigger the better! He has been speaking at Cheltenham and Swansea festivals recently and regularly does all-school assemblies in Cornwall, where he is now based and teaches as a professor at Falmouth University. His parents live on Guernsey and he was educated at St Martins primary and Elizabeth College!

Please email Jodie Hearn (jhearn@library.gg) at the Schools' Library Service to book a slot.



TEACHER AND STUDENT GUIDELINES

Pieces will be judged on creativity, clarity, style and accuracy of language. The aim of the WriteStuff Competition is to develop writing skills and further digital literacy. The **deadline for entries is 8 March 2024**.

The winners will be announced in May and the prizes will be given out at the **Competition Awards Ceremony on Saturday 4 May**.

All winning and highly commended entries will be loaded onto the WriteStuff website. Entries should be submitted directly through the website: **writestuff.gg**.

Further information for SEND entries can be downloaded from **writestuff.gg/resources**.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Anne Wilkes-Green from the Guernsey Literary Festival team will be on hand to offer support throughout the competition. Should you need any further assistance, please email **education@guernseyliteraryfestival.com** for further information.

SUBMITTING ENTRIES

All entries should be submitted directly through the website **writestuff.gg**. For further information please contact **education@guernseyliteraryfestival.com** or call **07781 143545**.

ACTIVITIES

How many different reasons can you think of for throwing a party? Do we need a reason! To celebrate 10 years of the WriteStuff competition, quickly jot down, either on your own or with your neighbour, how many different sorts of parties you can think of?

Birthday

Wedding

Christmas

Halloween

Beach

Leaving

Baptism/Christening /Bar Mitzvah

Street Part for Coronation/Liberation Days

Festivities/Fiestas

Traditional Party/Celebrations such as Rio Carnival, Samana Santa in Spain

An Outing

Any of the ideas below can be attempted as creative/design work, a Speaking and Listening exercise or as a piece of writing; this is down to your discretion and as to what suits the age and ability of the students. Of course, one can always provide the basis for the other.

Design-drawing/painting

- ⊗ Design a party invitation – is it themed? What sort of party are you throwing?
- ⊗ What would be on your party menu? Design the menu.
- ⊗ Design the birthday cake you wish you could have!
- ⊗ What would be in the party bags? Design the bag.
- ⊗ Take part in a collaborative class picture/painting: a collage of self-portraits of students dressed for a party which could be themed, could be fancy dress or best party frocks!

Speaking and Listening

- ⊗ Tell your group about the best party you have ever been to; choose the most interesting from each group and they can relate this to the class. What would your perfect party include?
- ⊗ Describe your favourite party game such as musical chairs, pin the tail on the donkey, treasure hunt.... Devise a new party game and describe this to your classmates. Then try it out!

Reading and Research

- ⊗ In a group or with a partner, research a celebration; choose one you are unfamiliar with. It may be:

Diwali – the Hindu festival of light.
Hanukkah – the Jewish festival of dedication.
Chinese New Year.
Bar or Bat mitzvah – which celebrates the coming of age for Jewish boys and girls.

Research your chosen subject then present your information to the class, reworking it into a lively, interactive session. You may choose to dress up, you might show some film, you could make posters or invitations to the celebrations – you could even throw a party with some typical foods. You might choose to end with a quiz or a word search to see who's been listening!
- ⊗ Look at the reading suggestions below, look in your own library and the Guille Allez Library and choose a book about celebrations or one which features a party. When you have read it, give a talk to the class; discuss the book and read an appetising extract.

Host a Party!

- ⊗ Imagine that it is World Book Day and you are being given the opportunity to host a party for authors you love. In groups of 4-5, each person chooses a writer they would invite; they describe them to the group and also talk about their favourite books that they have read, perhaps reading extracts from favourites. Each group chooses the writer they would all like to come to the party. The 4-5 writers then present themselves to the class on World Book Day-and talk about themselves their work, their favourite characters.

Even better, the students could do this in role, dress up as the author, bring in some of their/your books, use an appropriate accent, take on the whole persona.
- ⊗ Who would you invite to your dream party? Not your friends this time, but celebrities, famous people, royalty, or even historical figures? You are allowed 6 guests.

Party Board Game

Working with a group, devise a board game based upon a party theme. It may be a straightforward birthday party. You could design the board in the shape of a cake, a party invitation, a big balloon... whatever you like!

Invite everyone to make suggestions as to how many squares you will have and how to fill in the squares with birthday themed pictures. You will need a dice and coloured counters.

Discuss the rules e.g. You may need a 6 to start – you've decided to throw a party! You can all think of cunning ideas for making the game more fun. For example, BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Move forward suggestions:

You send out your invitations, move forward two paces with enthusiasm!

Leap forward 5 spaces when your friends arrive.

A friend has given you some roller skates - zoom forward 3 spaces.

Move forward 4 spaces as you blow out your candles. Whoosh!

Bounce into the air on the bouncy castle and move 2 spaces!

Move backwards suggestions:

Blow up balloons and decorate the house – this takes time so move back 3 spaces.

You open your presents, miss a go.

You have second helpings of jelly and ice cream, go back 2 spaces.

You fall off the bouncy castle and need a rest. Miss a go.



PRIMARY READING LIST

Title	Author	Additional information
You Had Your Birthday Party On The Moon	by Joyce Lapin	
The Secret Pizza Party	Adam Rubin	
You Must Bring A Hat	Simon Philip	
Julian At The Wedding	Jess Love	
So Much	Trish Cooke and Helen Oxenbury	
The Tiger Who Came to Tea	Judith Kerr	
Winnie The Pooh	A.A Milne	The post flood party
Beast Feast	Emma Yarlett	
Cake	Sue Hendra	Super Tato series
Ella Enchanted	Gail Carson Levine	Cinderella
Alice In Wonderland (Through the Looking Glass)		

SECONDARY READING LIST

Title	Author	Additional information
Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald	F.Scott Fitzgerald	
The Hunting Party The Guest List	Lucy Foley	
The Garden Party	Katherine Mansfield	

Title	Author	Additional information
Hallowe'en Party And Then There Were None A Murder Is Announced Dead Man's Folly Cards On The Table	Agatha Christie	
Pride and Prejudice Mansfield Park	Jane Austen	The Netherfield Ball
On Beauty White Teeth	Zadie Smith	
The Children's Book	A.S. Byatt	The Midsummer party
Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier	Daphne Du Maurier	The Manderley Fancy Dress Ball
Cold Comfort Farm	Stella Gibbons	Dick Hawk- Monitor's 21st birthday party
Mrs Dalloway	Virginia Wolf	
Vanity Fair	William Makepeace Thackeray	
A Christmas Party	Georgette Heyer	
Alice In Wonderland	Lewis Caroll	Mad Hatter's Tea Party
The Fellowship of the Rings	J.R.R. Tolkein	Bilbo Baggins' eleventy-first birthday party
Finnegan's Wake	James Joyce	Fezziwig's Christmas party
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	

