



AUTUMN TERM

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Happy reading! – Miss Mullins

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External Competition for Y7 (Up to Age 11): 500 Words Creative Writing Competition

The UK's most successful writing competition, 500 Words, has opened for 2023 entries. There are two age categories: 5-7 year olds and 8-11 year olds. Children of all abilities are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to write a story they would love to read without the pressure of having to worry about spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Judges include Malorie Blackman and Sir Lenny Henry.

All the stories must: Be 500 words or less (title is not included in the number); be written by an individual and not a group; be a child's own original idea; be prose, not rap or poem.

Stories must not: Give any personal details of the child, including their name; recount an historical event (but they can use a real person or historical character as a source of inspiration).

The competition closes on the **10th of November**. Prizes include attending a grand final at Buckingham Palace; receiving the height of Sir Lenny Henry in books, 500 books for their school; and a £20 National Book Token. The winners' stories will also be recorded and published on the BBC website.

[Click here for more information, including instructions on how to enter the competition.](#)

13th October – International English Language Day

English Language Day is celebrated to commemorate October 13, 1362, when the English Parliament was opened for the first time by a speech in English, instead of French. In the same Parliament, a Statute of Pleading was approved that allowed members in debate to use the English language. This made English the official language of law and law-making. Measured by number of native speakers, the English language is now the third most spoken language on the planet, after Mandarin and Spanish.

Facts about the English language:

- There are more than 250,000 words in an Oxford Dictionary.
- Shakespeare added over 1,000 words to the English language.
- Originally, English had 29 letters instead of the current 26.
- English is the official language of airplane travel.
- The most commonly used adjective is 'good.'



Accommodating Broccoli in The Cemetery: Or, Why Can't Anybody Spell? By Vivian Cook

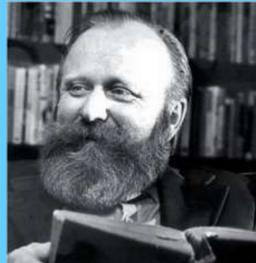
This delightful, quick-footed book celebrates the English language by exploring the rich treasure house of spelling in all its variety - setting tests and proposing rules, with illuminating quotations and tantalising lists: Headrillaz and Misteeg; Naming Pop Groups; miniscule parallels; non-letters; the three-letter rule; Foeder ure pup e eart on heofunum; UK number plates; HipHop spelling; East Anglian place-names; the E-cancellation spelling test - these are just some of the intriguing subjects presented in this little book.

Alphabet: The History, Evolution and Design of the Letters We Use Today by Allan Haley

The letters of the Roman alphabet are so much a part of our everyday life that often they are taken for granted. We no longer see them for what they really are: complex and beautifully designed symbols of enormous graphic power whose colourful history stretches back many thousands of years. The computer age has easy access to technology that potentially unlocks this versatility. Today's designers, however, are in danger of losing touch with the knowledge that allows them to exploit and develop this rich inheritance. This sourcebook for the study of practical lettering and typography focuses on the visual strengths of the alphabet, examining in detail the history and evolution of each individual letter, both upper and lower case. It also looks closely at each letter's design, describing the precise technique needed to draw it and examining and illustrating various typefaces.

On This Day in History... The Birth of Frank Herbert, 8th October 1920

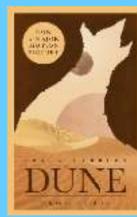
Franklin Patrick Herbert Jr was a science fiction author best known for his *Dune* series. The series consists of 18 books in total, however only the first six were written by Herbert himself. Following Herbert's death in 1986, the latter 12 instalments were written by his son Brian, along with author Kevin J Anderson. The later books include two sets of prequels, as well as 2 books completing Herbert's original outline for the series, and several other stories set in the *Dune* world.



Herbert published the first *Dune* novel in 1965 as two separate serials in *Analog Magazine*. In 1966 it won the first ever Nebula Award for Best Novel. It is one of the world's bestselling science-fiction novels, having sold almost 20 million copies across more than 20 languages. Herbert was a prolific writer, publishing 20 novels outside of the *Dune* franchise. Regarding his body of work, he said: "I don't worry about inspiration or anything like that.... later, coming back and reading what I have produced, I am unable to detect the difference between what came easily and when I had to sit down and say, "Well, now it's writing time and now I'll write."

Through the *Dune* series, Herbert explored the fairly new idea of ecological science fiction and focused on the consequences of humanity's insatiable want for power, along with the impact of man's exploration on the environment. He was also concerned with the impact of technology, believing that though they are one of humanity's greatest inventions, computers could be a means to senseless power and control. Herbert said of technology that it, "is both a tool for helping humans and for destroying them. This is the paradox of our times which we are forced to face."

Frank Herbert passed away in 1986 after suffering a pulmonary embolism while recovering from surgery for pancreatic cancer - he was 65.



Dune by Frank Herbert

Melange, or 'spice', is the most valuable - and rarest - element in the universe; a drug that does everything from increasing a person's life-span to making interstellar travel possible. And it can only be found on a single planet: the inhospitable desert world Arrakis. Whoever controls Arrakis controls the spice. And whoever controls the spice controls the universe. When the Emperor transfers stewardship of Arrakis from the noble House Harkonnen to House Atreides, the Harkonnens fight back, murdering Duke Leto Atreides. Paul, his son, and Lady Jessica, his concubine, flee into the desert. On the point of death, they are rescued by a band of Fremens, the native people of Arrakis, who control Arrakis' second great resource: the giant worms that burrow beneath the burning desert sands. In order to avenge his father and retake Arrakis from the Harkonnens, Paul must earn the trust of the Fremens and lead a tiny army against the innumerable forces aligned against them. And his journey will change the universe.

"Think before you speak. Read before you think." — Fran Lebowitz

NEW

The First Move by Jenny Ireland

Juliet believes girls like her - girls with arthritis - don't get their own love stories. She exists at the edges of her friends' social lives, skipping parties to play online chess under a pseudonym with strangers around the world. There, she isn't just 'the girl with crutches'. Ronan is the new kid: good looking, smart, a bad boy plagued by guilt over what happened to his brother Ciaran. Chesslife is his escape. Juliet thinks Ronan thinks someone like Ronan could never be interested in someone like her - and she wouldn't want him to be anyway - he always acts like he's cooler than everyone else. Little do they know they've already discovered each other online and have more in common than they think.



How to Die Famous by Benjamin Dean

London-born Abel has landed the role of a lifetime for an upcoming blockbuster. On the face of it he's Hollywood's latest teen star, but below the surface he's an undercover journalist on a mission to expose the 'squeaky clean' entertainment industry and the part they played in his brother's 'accidental' death. As Abel steps into the spotlight alongside fellow actors Lucky, Ryan and Ella, he soon discovers that beneath the glittering surface of fame and riches lies a darker world of secrecy, scandal and murder. Nobody is who they seem when the cameras are off, and everybody has something to hide. But who's next in line to die famous?



One of Us is Back (One of Us is Lying #3) by Karen M. McManus

Ever since that day in detention, life hasn't been easy for the Bayview Crew. Now Nate is trying to maintain a long-distance relationship with Bronwyn, who is struggling to balance her new life at Yale with her memories of Bayview. Addy's about to leave Bayview behind and take a leap into the unknown and Phoebe's tired of keeping secrets. Everybody's ready to move on. Until a mysterious billboard arrives. Time for a new game, Bayview. And when a member of the crew disappears, it's clear this 'game' just got serious - and no-one understands the rules. Everyone's a target. And now that someone unexpected has returned to Bayview, things are starting to get deadly. Simon was right about secrets - they all come out in the end.



Girls Just Wanna Have Funds: A Feminist Guide to Investing by Camilla Falkenberg, Emma Due Blitz and Anna-Sophie Hartvigsen

Start your journey to financial success with *Female Invest's* guide for safe, smart, and sustainable investing. This is an empowering and uplifting money manifesto, aiming to change the tides of financial power. Are you one of the 68% of women worldwide earning less than a man doing the same job? Then you need to make your money work harder, starting now. In *Girls Just Want to Have Funds*, the trio of founders behind the global movement *Female Invest* bring you an empowering five-step guide with a straight-talking message: you don't have to be an expert or a millionaire to make money. Simply equip yourself with the easy-to-follow golden rules and tools of three finance gurus to find your confidence and open a whole new world of opportunities.



Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin

This is the story of Sam and Sadie. It's not a romance, but it is about love. When Sam catches sight of Sadie at a crowded train station one morning he is catapulted straight back to childhood, and the hours they spent immersed in playing games. Their spark is instantly reignited and sets off a creative collaboration that will make them pop culture superstars. What comes next is a tale of friendship and rivalry, fame and art, betrayal and tragedy, perfect worlds and imperfect ones. And, above all, our need to connect: to be loved and to love.

Law for Beginners by Rose Hall

A fully illustrated introduction to the world of law, for people who haven't read anything about law before. This book is an entertaining and thought-provoking guide to what laws are, who makes them and how people enforce them. It covers crime and punishment as well as social and citizenship issues such as politics and international law, using a mixture of debates, cartoon strips and clear diagrams.



Diverse Book Awards 2023 Shortlists Announced



The Diverse Book Awards, now in their fourth year, were created by bestselling author Abiola Bello and publicist Helen Lewis to highlight the best of diverse voices published in the UK and Ireland. The Diverse Book Awards' definition of diversity, in the context of publishing, is a

book that contains characters not typically or widely represented. The awards are made up of four categories: picture books, children's, young adult, and adult fiction. Below are the books from this year's young adult shortlist that are available in the library. The winners of 2023's Diverse Book Awards will be announced on the 25th of October at Waterstones, Piccadilly Circus, London.

[View the full YA shortlist & the shortlists in other categories here.](#)

Gay Club! By Simon James Green

Barney's a shoo-in for his school's LGBTQ+ Society President at the club's next election. But when the vote is opened up to the entire student body, the whole school starts paying attention. How low will the candidates go to win? Buckle up for some serious shade, scandals and sleazy shenanigans. It isn't long before it's National Coming Out Day - for everyone's secrets! But when the group faces an expected threat - and a big opportunity - can the club members put politics aside and stand united?



When Our Worlds Collided by Danielle Jawando

When fourteen-year-old Shaq is stabbed outside of a busy shopping centre in Manchester, three teenagers from very different walks of life are unexpectedly brought together. What follows flips their worlds upside down and makes Chantelle, Jackson, and Marc question the deep-rooted prejudice and racism that exists within the police, the media, and the rest of society.



If You Still Recognise Me by Cynthia So

Elsie has a crush on Ada, the only person in the world who truly understands her. Unfortunately, they've never met in real life and Ada lives an ocean away. But Elsie has decided it's now or never to tell Ada how she feels. That is, until her long-lost best friend Joan walks back into her life. In a summer of repairing broken connections and building surprising new ones, Elsie realises that she isn't nearly as alone as she thought. But now she has a choice to make...



The Haunting of Tyrese Walker by J.P. Rose

After a shocking event leaves Tyrese struggling with grief, he's taken to visit family in Jamaica. From the first night, strange things start happening: impossible visions, blackouts, swarms of insects, and the discovery of a grave hidden deep in the forest... Tyrese can't explain what's going on and he's scared that he's losing his grip on reality. Then Tyrese is warned he's being hunted by the mysterious Shadow Man. Under threat, Tyrese and his friends set out on a terrifying journey across the island to try and uncover the Shadow Man's sinister history. Who can Tyrese trust when his own mind is falling apart and there's nowhere left to hide?



Banned Books Week: 1st - 7th October

Banned Books Week was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in libraries, book shops, and schools. The week highlights 'the value of free and open access to information and brings together the entire book community in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas.'

The American Library Association documented 1,269 demands to censor library books and resources last year, the highest number of attempted book bans since they began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago. Censors targeted a record 2,571 unique titles in 2022, of those titles, the vast majority were written by or about members of the LGBTQIA+ community or by and about Black people, Indigenous people, and people of colour. Below are some books available in the library that have been historically banned, along with the reason why.

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Banned for: "An anti-police message."

Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.



Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Banned for: "Endowing animals with human language."

On an ordinary summer's afternoon, Alice tumbles down a hole and an extraordinary adventure begins. In a strange world with even stranger characters, she meets a grinning cat and a rabbit with a pocket watch, joins a Mad Hatter's Tea Party, and plays croquet with the Queen!



1984 by George Orwell

Banned for: "Critiquing the Soviet Union."

The year is 1984 and war and revolution have left the world unrecognisable. Great Britain, now known as Airstrip One, is ruled by the Party, led by Big Brother. Mass surveillance is everything and The Thought Police are employed to ensure that no individual thinking is allowed. Winston Smith works at The Ministry of Truth, carefully rewriting history, but he dreams of freedom and of rebellion. It is here that he meets and falls in love with Julia. They start a secret, forbidden affair - but nothing can be kept secret, and they are forced to face consequences more terrifying than either of them could have ever imagined.

UK Black History Month 2023 – Saluting Our Sisters



The theme of this year's Black History Month UK is 'Saluting Our Sisters' which pays homage to black women who have had their contributions ignored, their ideas appropriated, and their voices silenced.

When asked, for the Black History Month UK website, why the theme had been chosen, Cherro Inko-Tariah, the editor of *Black History Month Magazine* replied: "I could say that for centuries the voices of black women have been suppressed, silenced and side-lined... the application of adultification bias [has resulted] in the rights of black girls being diminished or ignored... a black woman is 5 times more likely to die during childbirth... black women are deemed unprofessional when we wear our hair in its natural condition or protective styles... there is an insidious minimisation of violence against black women that can't be ignored [and] our bodies have been ridiculed (Sarah Bartman), used for medical experiments, or cells removed from our bodies without permission (Henrietta Lacks)... I could say all of this but my response to: Why black women? Is a simple one. Why not black women?"

Below are some of the books available in the library written by black women throughout history, centering their voices and/or lived experiences. Find out more about Black History Month 2023 [here](#).

Beloved by Toni Morrison

(Recommended for older readers)

It is the mid-1800s and as slavery looks to be coming to an end, Sethe is haunted by the violent trauma it wrought on her former enslaved life at Sweet Home, Kentucky. Her dead baby daughter, whose tombstone bears the single word, *Beloved*, returns as a spectre to punish her mother, but also to elicit her love.



Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches by Audre Lorde

(Recommended for older readers)

These essays explore and illuminate the roots of Lorde's intellectual development and her deep-seated and longstanding concerns about ways of increasing empowerment among minority women writers and the absolute necessity to explicate the concept of difference—difference according to sex, race, and economic status. These poems and the essays in *Sister Outsider* stress Lorde's oft-stated theme of continuity, particularly of the geographical and intellectual link between Dahomey, Africa, and her emerging self.

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

When sixteen-year-old Janie is caught kissing shiftless Johnny Taylor, her grandmother swiftly marries her off to an old man with sixty acres. Janie endures two stifling marriages before she finally meets the man of her dreams - who offers not diamonds, but a packet of flowering seeds.



I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

(Recommended for older readers)

Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide. Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.

The Color Purple by Alice Walker

(Recommended for older readers)

A powerful cultural touchstone of modern American literature, *The Color Purple* depicts the lives of African American women in early twentieth-century rural Georgia. Separated as girls, sisters Celie and Nettie sustain their loyalty to and hope in each other across time, distance and silence. Through a series of letters spanning twenty years, first from Celie to God, then the sisters to each other despite the unknown, the novel draws readers into its rich and memorable portrayals of Celie, Nettie, Shug Avery and Sofia and their experience.



Women, Race & Class by Angela Y. Davis

(Recommended for older readers)

Ranging from the age of slavery to contemporary injustices, this ground-breaking history of race, gender and class inequality by the radical political activist Angela Davis offers an alternative view of female struggles for liberation. Tracing the intertwined histories of the abolitionist and women's suffrage movements, Davis examines the racism and class prejudice inherent in so much of white feminism, and in doing so brings to light new pioneering heroines, from field slaves to mill workers, who fought back and refused to accept the lives into which they were born.

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly

Before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of professionals worked as 'Human Computers', calculating the flight paths that would enable these historic achievements. Among these were a coterie of bright, talented African American women. Moving from World War II through NASA's golden age, touching on the civil rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War and the women's rights movement, 'Hidden Figures' interweaves a rich history of mankind's greatest adventure with the intimate stories of five courageous women whose work forever changed the world.

