The Historical Association Historical Fiction Prize and the Joan Blyth Memorial Prize
Write Your Own Historical Fiction
Competition 2020 – Bigger and Better than Ever Before!

Get your students to bring the past to life!

One of the key attributes of historical fiction is that it has a convincing setting in a past time and place. Students can set their stories in ANY period or place in the past, so the story can fit in with and extend any historical topic you may be studying.

Winning students will each receive a cash prize of £25 and an engraved Bath Aqua Blue glass paperweight. Schools will receive a year’s FREE subscription to the HA.

1 Across Years 5 and 6 there will be two prizes for the best individual story.
2 Across Years 7, 8 and 9 there will be three prizes for the best story written by an individual student who is part of a whole class or year group who are all writing historical stories.
3 NEW CATEGORY: Across Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 there will be three prizes for best individual story.
4 There is also a prize for the best fictional historical character in a convincing historical setting. Three prizes will be on offer here across all year groups.

You can read past primary winning entries:
www.history.org.uk/go/PrimaryFiction

You can read past secondary winning entries:
www.history.org.uk/go/SecondaryFiction
Please note: Given the current national circumstances, we have decided to change the rules of the Write Your Own Historical Fiction competition this year. This is to allow for the current situation and the possibility that school closures may prevent normal entry cycles from taking place. In these cases, working on and entering the Write Your Own Historical Fiction competition can provide a fantastic activity for pupils to do as part of home learning. With this in mind, we have added a brand new category for students in Years 10-13. We have also extended the entry deadline to allow a little more time as schools and families get to grips with changing circumstances. All entries submitted so far will still be entered and schools who limited themselves to 3 entries according to the previous rules may invite other pupils to submit their own entries from home. Please find updated rules below.

Entry Rules: Covid-19 Updated

1. Entries are free.
2. Entry is open to all students in Years 5-13 in the academic year 2019/20.
3. In the light of current circumstances, entries can either be submitted by a teacher on behalf of a school or by parents submitting on behalf of an individual child working from home. Given that individual entries are now also being accepted, there will no longer be any limit on the number of entries that can be sent in by pupils attending one particular school.
4. Entries may be word-processed or handwritten, but must be legible.
5. Three copies of every individual entry submitted must be supplied if sending entries by post. For email entries, one copy is sufficient. All entries must be accompanied by the completed cover sheet (see page 3 below). This must be completed either by a teacher or parent/carer. If the person entering is over the age of 16, they may complete the form themselves.
6. The story may be illustrated.
7. We regret that we will be unable to return entries, so please make additional copies before you send.
8. Each entry must have a completed entry form attached which can be downloaded below.
9. Entries must be received by 26 June 2020 and should be sent to ‘Write Your Own Historical Story Competition’, The Historical Association, 59a Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4JH or emailed to enquiries@history.org.uk. In the light of current circumstances, we would prefer entries to be emailed but we will still accept postal copies. When emailing entries, please scan or photograph your completed entry form and attach to the email alongside your entry. Please note that when emailing entries, you do not need to supply multiple copies of the same entry.
10. The results of the competition will be posted on the Historical Association website: www.history.org.uk
11. Prize winners will be notified in writing in September/October 2020 and will receive their prizes by post. If the entrant is leaving the school at the end of the academic year, please also supply a parental/carer contact so that we may get in touch about their award. Part of the award is a year’s free HA membership for the school. In the case that the entrant has left the school, the HA membership will go to the school they attended when they entered the competition and the individual prize will be forwarded to the entrant by the HA.
A completed entry form is required with each story.

Please email your entries and forms to: enquiries@history.org.uk

You can also post them to: ‘Write Your Own Historical Story Competition’, The Historical Association, 59a Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4JH however our preference for submissions to be made by email.

Entries must be received on or before 26 June 2020.

Student Name: 

Date of Birth:    Year Group: 

Story Title or character name: 

School Name: 

School Address: 

Postcode: 

I declare that the attached entry is the student’s own work.

Contact Name: 

Telephone daytime: 

Email: 

Signature:                 Date: