

The London Short Story Prize 2018

Spread the Word is delighted to announce The London Short Story Prize 2018. You'll have up to 5,000 words to move, excite, enthrall and inspire our judges on a theme and subject matter of your choice.

Competition Rules

1. Entries should be original works of complete short fiction prose of no more than **5,000** words (does not include the title). No extracts please. (The word count will be checked at shortlisting stage. There is no minimum word count). Stories are welcome on any theme.
2. Entries must be the original, previously unpublished (including online, broadcast and self-published) work of the entrant.
3. The London Short Story Prize 2018 is open to all published and unpublished writers resident in London, aged over 18. Entries must be the individual and original work of a sole author. To confirm whether your residency is in London, please check Doogal:
https://www.doogal.co.uk/london_postcodes.php
4. Entries must be in English.
5. All entries will be judged anonymously. To that effect, please ensure that your story does not contain your name on any of the pages. Any stories with names or identifying information on will be disqualified.
6. Stories can be submitted from Tuesday 12 June 2018 at midday. The closing date for entries on Monday 17 September 2018 at 5pm. Any entries received after this time will be rejected.
7. Stories that are simultaneously submitted elsewhere are welcome – but please let us know as soon as possible if a story is to be published elsewhere or has won another prize.
8. Writers can submit as many stories as they wish. Multiple stories by the same author entered online must be entered separately, with a fee of £8 for each story submitted. Multiple stories entered via post must contain a cheque for the number of entries multiplied by eight (e.g. if you are submitting three stories then a cheque of £24 must be included) addressed to *Spread the Word*. All postal entries must attach an entry form with their submission.
9. Spread the Word is not able to provide feedback for all entries.
10. Twelve long-listed writers will be contacted in the week beginning Monday 15 October 2018 to confirm that their entry is still eligible. The titles of their stories and their names will be announced in the week beginning Monday 5

November 2018 on the Spread the Word website and associated social media channels. If you are a long-listed writer you agree to not announce the news before the results are published on Spread the Word's website.

11. Long-listed writers will be informed of the judges' final decision via email in the week beginning Monday 19 November 2018. The results are to remain confidential until the public announcement of the winner, two highly commended and shortlisted stories on the Spread the Word website on Tuesday 27 November 2018.
12. The winner, highly commended and shortlisted writers will agree to any reasonable request by Spread the Word to fulfill marketing obligations relating to the competition and their own entry, including attending and reading at events connected with the Prize.
13. The winner will receive £1,000 and a meeting with an agent. Two highly commended authors will receive £250 and a meeting with an editor. The shortlisted authors will win places on a Spread the Word course, and membership to the London Writers Network.
14. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
15. Spread the Word will publish the winning, highly commended and shortlisted stories in a paperback anthology with Kingston University Press. Copyright will remain with the author.
16. Entries should be typed in black, double-spaced and submitted online via Spread the Word's Submittable site with an entry fee of £8 or via post with a cheque for £8 per entry addressed to Spread the Word and posted to London Short Story Prize 2018, Spread the Word, The Albany, Douglas Way, London, SE8 4AG. All postal entries must attach an entry form with their submission.
17. There are 50 free entries available for London-based writers on a low income. To apply for this please e-mail aliya@spreadtheword.org.uk with your name, postcode and a short paragraph on why you are eligible for a free entry along with supporting documentation (for example a benefits letter or working tax credits statement). Applications for a free entry are open until Tuesday 31 July 2018 and are offered on a first come basis. The recipients of a free entry will have until Monday 17 September 2018 at 5pm to submit their entry.
18. Unfortunately, we cannot return stories submitted by post.
19. Employees or Trustees of Spread the Word and previous London Short Story Prize winners are not permitted to enter.
20. These terms and conditions are the Competition Rules. Submission of an entry will be taken to mean acceptance of these terms and conditions. Entries that fail to comply with these rules may be disqualified.