



WRITE UP YOUR STREET
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
Spread the Word WRITING COMPETITION

Teachers' Pack

Time Out: Write Up Your Street is a competition aimed at getting everyone writing about their neighbourhood and experience of London. Spread the Word supports and encourages young writers in schools and in informal settings and would particularly like to encourage young people to take part in this competition.

Time Out: Write Up Your Street has two categories of entry:

Under 16

16 and Over

Prizes for each category:

1st Prize £400 Foyles book token

2nd Prize £200 Foyles book token

3rd Prize £100 Foyles book token

Win £400 Foyles book token for your school

A £400 Foyles book token will be awarded to the school of the winning U16 entry.

All entries will be featured on an exciting, online interactive map of London, where you'll be able to discover thousands of other stories from the streets of the capital, due to be launched spring 2008. Young writers' identities will be protected online through the use of 'pen names' (writing aliases).

Young writers can enter:

- online via the competition website www.timeoutwriteupyourstreet.org.uk
- via the competition leaflet, available from Spread the Word, email abi@spreadtheword.org.uk or phone 020 7735 3111 to order copies.

The deadline for entries is the 9th of January 2008.

Posters are also available to advertise the competition in your school. Please contact Spread the Word as above for more details.

The following pages provide practical starting points for encouraging young people to write creatively, the competition rules and a wealth of references to online literary resources available for teachers and young people.

Here are some suggestions to help your pupils on their way

1. Free writing

Ask your pupils to write about their street for 5-10 minutes without stopping. Don't think about spelling or punctuation. See it as a kind of brain storming exercise. It's also good for getting the creative juices flowing. Free writing is a good tool for other subjects too.

Start by asking your pupils to describe their street or neighbourhood. You can suggest words / subjects while they are still writing, especially if they look as if they are running out of ideas!

Examples:

- Does your street have a smell (perhaps there are lots of trees on it)
- What are the sounds of your street?
- Do these things change according to time of day/ year/ weekday/ weekend?
- How do you feel when you leave your house – what do you see?
- How do you feel when you arrive home – what do you see?
- When does your street look at its best and why?

2. Get them thinking about the following

- What do you like about your street? What don't you like?
- Are there any interesting characters that live there?
- Are there any interesting houses? Do you know their history?
- Do you know the history of your street / neighbourhood?
Can you find out from the local library or by talking to older relatives or shop keepers?
- Has your area changed much in last few years? If so how?
- Is there anything that makes your area different from any other?
- Is there a specific celebration that happens there?
- Does your area have a reputation, if so what for? Is it a good thing?
If not, is the reputation justified?

3. Now they have the raw material, they can start writing their entry!

The competition is open to all types of creative writing; based in fact or entirely fictional. Entries must:

- include a real London street name in the title.
- be 300 words or less.
- not include the author's name, address or any other identifying details in the entry.

Using one or more of the ideas in point 2, your pupils can focus and expand their ideas for their imaginative piece of writing, as a:

- **Short story**
- **Monologue**
- **Short dramatic scene using dialogue**
- **Poem**
- **Other**

Remind pupils that they should use their observations of real life as the basis to build their own characters.

4. Read aloud

Remember it's a good idea to get your pupils to read their piece aloud, to the class or each other, to see how the words sound off the page and for constructive feedback. It's useful to ask those giving feedback to highlight something that works, something that doesn't work and suggest reasons why.

5. Things to think about when you are writing... prose:

- **Dialogue** – Does it work? Does it sound realistic?
- Are your **characters** believable within the story and dialogue?
- **Point of view** – Who is telling the story?
- Short story – **Beginning, middle and end**. Is there a shape to your story?
- Is your piece told in **flashback**?
- Is there **conflict** in your story?
How is this resolved if at all? Conflict doesn't have to be violent – it can be inner conflict or a conflict of opinion between characters.
- **Description** (pause in the action to observe) – If it's boring to write it will be boring to read.

- Avoid **clichés** (that which we already know) and **stereotypes** (a character with no surprises).
- Remember **details** are important and help draw the reader in.
- Don't forget the **five senses** when you write, they will help the reader to get into the piece and bring it alive.
- Start with a **hook**.
- Remember to **show not tell** – using the writing techniques above

6. Things to think about when you are writing... poetry:

Some of the points to remember are similar to writing prose, for example, avoid clichés and remember the senses.

You can also think about your use of:

- **Imagery** – Paint a picture in the mind of the reader.
- **Metaphor**
- **Rhythm**
- **Rhyme patterns**
- **Structure** of your poem, what form will you use?
- Think about the **sounds of words** on their own and together.
- Read your poem **aloud**.
- **Record it** on to tape.
- **Musicality** – Listen for the music of it.

7. Most importantly

Imagination. Imagination. Use it and enjoy!

Good luck!

For information on Spread the Word's other work with young people, schools and teachers (including inset days), please visit the education section of our website:
www.spreadtheword.org.uk

Jenneba Jalloh
 Education Officer
 Spread the Word
www.spreadtheword.org.uk

Time Out: Write Up Your Street Competition rules

- Entries are FREE
- Only entries submitted on an original paper entry form or via the electronic entry form on our website at www.writeupyourstreet.org.uk will be accepted. You can submit as many entries as you like but they must each be on a separate entry form.
- Postal entries should be addressed to: Write Up Your Street, Spread the Word, 77 Lambeth Walk, London SE11 6DX
- Entries must be submitted by Wednesday 9th of January 2008.
- Entries must be a maximum of 300 words. Any entries above this limit will not be entered.
- The entry title must include a real London street name.
- All entries must be in English, be the original work of the author and must not have been previously published in print or online, broadcast or awarded a prize in another competition.
- All entrants must provide a 'pen name'. Any entries submitted without a 'pen name' will not be entered.
- The entry itself must not include the name or address, or other information, which could identify the writer.
- By entering the competition you agree to grant the exclusive right for Spread the Word to edit, display, publish or broadcast your entry in any form whether printed, electronic or otherwise for one year after the closing date of the competition. After this date, Spread the Word will continue to reserve non-exclusive rights to publication. You will not be entitled to any payment or royalties from Spread the Word relating to your entry. Wherever your entry appears you will be credited as the author.
- Wherever your entry appears offline you will be credited as the author.
- Wherever your entry appears online you will be credited by your pen name as the author.
- Please note we cannot return submissions.
- This competition is not open to the staff of Spread the Word or their immediate families.
- Spread the Word reserves the right to change the panel of judges without notice and not to select any winners if, in the opinion of the judges, there is no suitable winning entry.
- Spread the Word reserves the right not to enter any submission that is considered to be defamatory or offensive in nature.
- Submission of entry will be deemed to imply unqualified acceptance of the competition rules and conditions. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The winners will be notified by 29th February 2008.

An overview of online literary resources for teachers:

Spread the Word, London's leading literature development agency works with young people in a variety of school and informal settings. Projects include 'The Loop', a programme of after school writing workshops aimed at secondary school pupils who have shown a talent for writing or simply want to write. An experienced writer is assigned to each school for a period of nine months, April-December.

<http://www.spreadtheword.org.uk/index.php?id=education>

NAWE (National Association of Writers in Education) <http://www.nawe.co.uk>

NAWE aims to represent and support writers and all those involved in the development of creative writing in both formal education and community contexts.

www.literaturetraining.com Online directory for those interested in creating or supporting new writing

Lonsas London Schools arts Service. The latest news from the Arts and education sector.

Contact: Steve@lonsas.org.uk

Booktrust

www.booktrust.org.uk/about/

www.booktrust.org.uk/projects

The Poetry Society

Poets-in-Schools scheme. Placing poets in schools: projects, one off workshops, readings, teacher training:

Poetryclass project to train teaching staff in techniques that poets use.

Email educationadmin@poetrysociety.org.uk

www.poetrysociety.org.uk

Get London Reading – Encouraging Londoners to make more time for reading www.getlondon-reading.com

Writing Together: Online step-by-step guide that gives information, ideas and tips about bring writers into schools: www.writingtogether.org.uk

Virtual Teachers' Centre - Up to date information and resources for teachers www.vtc.ngfl/resource/litearcy/index.html

A-Z of Children's verse with Learning Guide www.learningguides.co.uk

Schoolsnet - Website offering innovative lesson plans www.schoolsnet.com

English Resources – Provides free online resources. Also features an active message board where teachers can ask their peers for help on ideas for classroom resources: www.englishresources.co.uk

Outta Ray's Head - Lesson Plans by teachers from around the world on various topics (secondary mainly). www.cgocable.net/-ravser/poetry.htm

Poetry Zone - Containing children's poems, articles and teaching resources: www.poetryzone.co.uk

An overview of online literary resources for young writers

trAce Online writing Community website for Children trace@ntu.ac.uk
<http://trace.ntu.ac>.

Kids on the Net - Site for young people featuring writing by children at home and at school all over the world www.kidsonthenet.com

The Arvon Foundation - The Writing Room. On line writing opportunities for young writers
www.writingroom.org

WordMavericks: www.wordmavericks.com

The Foundry - <http://foundry.metaroar.com>

Cool-reads - www.cool-reads.co.uk

Mrs Mad's Book-a-Rama www.MrsMad.com

BBC Blast www.bbc.co.uk/blast/writing

www.youngwriters.co.uk

www.bookheads.org.uk - Recommendations by and for teenagers readers site also gives information about this years Booktrust teenage prize

Young Writer magazine magazine published three times a year www.mystworld.com/youngwriter

Useful Organisations

Apples and Snakes. England's leading organiser of performance poetry and the spoken word: An extensive range of poets and writers for all occasions. Poets-in- Education scheme.
www.applesandsnakes.org
lisa@applesandsnakes.org

The Children's Discovery Centre has worked with schools and writers for over twenty years. Organises residencies, workshop and events in schools.
www.childrensdiscovery.org.uk

Events

The Rise Londonwide Youth Slam Championship Slam Champions.

The Poetry Society www.poetrysociety.org.uk

Schools may nominate up to two artists to represent them. To find out more contact jtaylor@poetrysociety.org.uk

Subtext: Open Mic 2007-08-09 London's first OPEN MIC for young people age 12 to 18 years.

Run by Subtext's, Young Persons Committee

www.sub-text.org.uk

New Blood - A night for young poets at the poetry café. Held: Third. Wednesday of the month 7.30 – 9.30pm

Poetry Café 22 Betterton Street, Covent Garden. WC2H

Email for information: newbloodpoetry@gmil.com

Myspace www.myspace.com/newbloodpoetry

Children's Book Week – First full week in October. Booktrust produces resources for libraries and schools to take part each year.

National Poetry Day - October

Competitions

Foyles Young Poets of the Year Award.

Accepting entries from March to July each year. www.poetrysociety.org.uk

Contact: fyp@poetrysociety.org.uk

Booktrust Teenage Prize www.bookheads.org.uk

Literature

Our Thoughts Our Bees: Writers working with Schools.

By Mandy Coe and Jean Sprackland

This is an excellent book for teachers and writers. A must have!

Order form www.wordplaypress.com

New Children's Laureate

Michael Rosen. Find out more at www.childrenslaureate.org