

READ. WRITE. LEAD.

Books From Children To Children

COMPETITION GUIDELINES · SUMMER 2026

FOUNDED BY A GWR TITLE HOLDER

The UK's first national child-led literacy movement.

These guidelines set out how to enter the 2026 Summer Writing Competition — the flagship activation of the Books From Children To Children movement, founded by Jayce Joyce BCyA and delivered by Jayce's World of Learning CIC. Please read them carefully with your child before submitting an entry.

THEME

Climate Change & The Environment

AGES

4–11 (UK primary school)

ENTRY COST

Free

OPENS

Wed 8 July 2026

CLOSES

Thu 11 Sept 2026, 23:59 UK

WINNERS ANNOUNCED

November 2026

Register your interest at jaycesworldoflearning.co.uk/bfctc/register/ · Submit stories at jaycesworldoflearning.co.uk/bfctc/submit/

Version 1.0 · Published July 2026 · Governed by the laws of England and Wales

Who Can Enter, and What to Send

SECTION 1 Eligibility

- 1.1 Open to children aged 4 to 11 attending primary school in the United Kingdom at the time of entry.
- 1.2 Parental or legal guardian consent is required for every entry. Entries submitted without parental consent cannot be considered.
- 1.3 One entry per child, per competition year.
- 1.4 Entries must be the original work of the entering child. Assistance with typing, spelling or scanning is allowed; ghost-writing or substantial rewriting by an adult is not.
- 1.5 Entries must be written in English.
- 1.6 Employees of Jayce's World of Learning CIC and members of their immediate families are not eligible to enter.
- 1.7 Entries generated by artificial intelligence tools are not eligible and will be disqualified.

SECTION 2 Entry Requirements

- 2.1 Entries must be a story or a poem written on the theme set out in Section 3.
- 2.2 There is no minimum or maximum word count. Any style, form or length is welcome — a poem of ten lines is as eligible as a short story of two thousand words.
- 2.3 The parent or legal guardian must consent to the entry being considered for publication in the 2026 anthology should it be shortlisted.
- 2.4 By submitting, the parent/guardian confirms this is the child's original work and gives permission for it to be reviewed by our judging panel.
- 2.5 Registration is encouraged but is not required to submit. Registration provides a free copy of these guidelines by email, plus writing tips throughout the competition window.

A note to parents and carers. This competition is about children's voices. Please help your child bring their idea to the page — read together, talk about the theme, and set aside quiet time to write. But let the story be theirs.

Theme, Format & Deadline

SECTION 3 Theme

- 3.1 The 2026 theme is **Climate Change & The Environment**.
- 3.2 Entries may interpret the theme freely — fictional stories, imaginative scenarios, personal reflection, poetry and rhyme are all welcome. Children may write about animals, weather, plants, oceans, cities, the future, or their own experience of nature.
- 3.3 Entries that do not meaningfully engage with the theme may not be considered for the shortlist.

Prompts to help you start. What would the world look like in fifty years? Could animals speak? Can children save the planet? What would happen if trees disappeared? Could one child change the future?

SECTION 4 Format & Submission

- 4.1 Written entries may be submitted as PDF, Microsoft Word (.docx), or plain text (.txt).
- 4.2 The file size must not exceed 5MB.
- 4.3 The child's first name and age must be included on the submission form.
- 4.4 Handwritten entries are warmly welcomed — please scan or photograph the pages clearly and combine them into a single PDF.
- 4.5 Optional cover art may be attached as JPG or PNG (max 2MB) and will be considered for the anthology should the entry be shortlisted.
- 4.6 Online submissions are made at jaycesworldoflearning.co.uk/bfctc/submit/
- 4.7 A paper submission route is available on request — contact info@jaycesworldoflearning.co.uk for a printable entry form.

SECTION 5 Key Dates

- 5.1 Entries open at 00:00 UK time on **Wednesday 8 July 2026**.
- 5.2 Entries close at **23:59 UK · Thursday 11 September 2026**
- 5.3 Late entries cannot be considered under any circumstances.
- 5.4 We aim to acknowledge every entry within 7 working days.
- 5.5 Shortlisted authors will be contacted by **November 2026**. The 2026 anthology publishes in early 2027.

Judging, Prize & Rights

SECTION 6 Judging

- 6.1 The judging panel comprises award-winning educators, authors and literacy advocates. The confirmed panel is published at jaycesworldoflearning.co.uk/bfctc/judges/ and grows as further judges are announced.
- 6.2 Entries are judged on four criteria: originality of voice; engagement with the theme; imagination; and storytelling craft appropriate to the child's age.
- 6.3 The panel's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into concerning individual entries.
- 6.4 Shortlisted authors will be notified by email in November 2026.
- 6.5 Regretfully, we cannot provide individual feedback on entries that are not shortlisted, given the volume expected.

SECTION 7 Prize

- 7.1 Winning stories will be professionally published in the 2026 Books From Children To Children anthology — the successor to the pilot anthology Our Stories, Our World (published February 2026).
- 7.2 Winners will be invited (with a parent or guardian) to the National Book Launch event.
- 7.3 Each winner receives a certificate of publication.
- 7.4 Winners may be featured in press and media coverage of the movement, subject to separate parental consent (see Section 8.5).
- 7.5 Winners are invited to join the Young Literacy Advocates programme — an ongoing initiative supporting young authors in speaking about their work, mentoring peers, and championing early literacy.
- 7.6 There is no cash prize.

SECTION 8 Rights & Permissions

- 8.1 The child (or their parent/guardian on their behalf) retains full copyright of their entry.
- 8.2 By entering, the parent/guardian grants Jayce's World of Learning CIC a non-exclusive licence to publish the shortlisted entry in the 2026 anthology, including in print, digital and audio formats.
- 8.3 The parent/guardian grants JWOL the right to use the entry, together with the child's first name, age and UK region, in publicity connected with the competition and the anthology.
- 8.4 No further use of the entry will be made without additional written permission from the parent/guardian.
- 8.5 The child's full name, school name, contact details and any identifying photographs will not be published without separate written permission.
- 8.6 Personal data submitted with each entry is processed in accordance with the JWOL Privacy Policy at jaycesworldoflearning.co.uk/legal/privacy-policy/

Disqualification, Withdrawals & Contact

SECTION 9 Disqualification & Withdrawals

- 9.1** Entries may be disqualified for any of the following: failing to meet eligibility criteria (Section 1); plagiarism; use of artificial intelligence to generate the entry; content that is harmful, hateful, discriminatory or unsuitable for a children's audience; multiple entries from the same child; or late submission.
- 9.2** The parent/guardian may withdraw a submitted entry at any time before the anthology is committed to print by contacting info@jaycesworldoflearning.co.uk in writing.
- 9.3** Withdrawal does not require a reason to be given.

SECTION 10 Contact, Complaints & Governing Law

- 10.1** General enquiries: info@jaycesworldoflearning.co.uk · +44 7400 681118
- 10.2** Complaints procedure: complaints should be sent in writing to the Founder, Jayce's World of Learning CIC, Birmingham, UK. Complaints will be acknowledged within 7 working days and responded to within 28 days.
- 10.3** These guidelines are governed by the laws of England and Wales.
- 10.4** Jayce's World of Learning CIC reserves the right to update these guidelines. Material changes will be communicated to registered entrants by email and posted at jaycesworldoflearning.co.uk/bfctc/guidelines/

GET IN TOUCH

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jaycesworldoflearning.co.uk/bfctc/

Delivered by Jayce's World of Learning CIC · Published by Jayce's World

About the movement. Books From Children To Children is the UK's first national child-led literacy movement, founded by Jayce Joyce BCyA — an 8-year-old Guinness World Records title holder (Youngest Editor of a Published Anthology, 2026), BBC Blue Peter Gold Badge recipient, British Citizen Youth Award holder, and recipient of a personal letter of congratulations from Her Majesty Queen Camilla. The movement inspires children to become readers, writers, published authors, young literacy advocates and future leaders through storytelling.

The 2025 pilot. The pilot competition produced Our Stories, Our World, an anthology of twenty young authors from across the UK, launched at the Library of Birmingham in February 2026 to more than 150 attendees and selling over 1,000 copies within three weeks.