WORCESTERSHIRE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

# ORIGINAL WORK SYLLABUS







## CATEGORIES:

MUSIC COMPOSITION
POETRY WRITING
SHORT STORY WRITING
MONOLOGUE WRITING
CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS
WCAF POETRY SLAM

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# ORIGINAL WORK Syllabus

We are pleased to offer great opportunities for anyone who wants to write stories, poems or plays or who composes music or songs. The open sections are for anyone, of any age (including adults!). For younger people of school age, the sections are split by ages equivalent to school year groups. Please note that ages stated below are the age of the performer on 1st September 2026. If you have any queries with regards to which section to enter, please email: admin@wcaf.org.uk for further details. We cannot wait to showcase the best original work.

All entries to the original work classes are free of charge.

Sections this year include:
- Poetry writing
- Story writing
- Monologue writing
- Presenting and Public Speaking
- Music and Song Composing
- Creative Writing Workshops

**The WCAF Poetry Slam is back! Perform your own poetry in an exciting and supportive environment. See the Poetry syllabus for details.**

The Creative Writing and Musical Composition classes are free to enter. However, we do have to cover the costs of the adjudicators and prizes, therefore donations are welcomed. Please visit our festival shop: https://playandperform.co.uk/gst/gst_login.php?pnp_token=wr

We advise you to make your entry as soon as possible, but poems, stories, plays, presentations and compositions do not need to be uploaded until 23:45 on 16th January 2027. Please ensure they are uploaded by the deadline. If you have any concerns about using the online entry system, please email: admin@wcaf.org.uk and we will do all we can to help. For schools where multiple entries need to be made, please contact us to make things as easy as possible for you.

Entrants will retain all copyright for their story for future use. By entering the competition and submitting their work, entrants agree that their story can be used for marketing purposes. All entries may be displayed at the festival or in other venues and selected entrants may be invited to perform their work at the festival or to submit a video or audio performance to be played at the festival. Entries may be displayed on the WCAF website and/or included as part of anthologies.

## Creative Writing

## Poetry Writing

Entrants should write their own poem on the theme of 'Hope' and to submit the written copy. The exception to this is entries to the Open class, which can be on any theme.

Poems must be written in English. Submitted poems must not have been published elsewhere and must be the entrant's original, unaided work. The adjudicator will be looking for originality, imagination and the ability to craft the poem in a manner that engages the audience.

These classes are free to enter. However, we do have to cover the costs of the adjudicators and prizes, therefore donations are welcomed. Please visit our festival shop: https://playandperform.co.uk/gst/gst_login.php?pnp_token=wr

All written poems must be uploaded to Play & Perform by 11:45pm on 16th January 2027. Typed or handwritten submissions are acceptable, but please ensure that all the words of the poem are clearly visible. Either a pdf or image file can be uploaded. Please ensure that the title of the poem and the author's name are included.

Entrants who would like the opportunity to perform their own poetry should see our really exciting Poetry Slam section, which can be found in the Poetry syllabus.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1200 WRITE A POEM - School year 2 and under** | 6 and under | | £0.00 |
| **1201 WRITE A POEM - School Year 3** | 7 | | £0.00 |
| **1202 WRITE A POEM - School Year 4** | 8 | | £0.00 |
| **1203 WRITE A POEM - School Year 5** | 9 | | £0.00 |
| **1204 WRITE A POEM - School Year 6** | 10 | | £0.00 |
| **1205 WRITE A POEM - School Year 7** | 11 | | £0.00 |
| **1206 WRITE A POEM - School Year 8** | 12 | | £0.00 |
| **1207 WRITE A POEM - School Year 9** | 13 | | £0.00 |
| **1208 WRITE A POEM - School Years 10 and 11** | Age 14 and 15 | | £0.00 |
| **1209 WRITE A POEM - School Years 12 and 13** | Age 16 and 17 | | £0.00 |
| **1210 WRITE A POEM - Open**<br>Poems in this class can be on any theme. | Any | | £0.00 |

## Short story writing

Entrants to write their own story in approximately 300 words with the title 'Danger'. Stories must be written in English. The exception to this is entries to the Open class, which can be on any theme.

The adjudicator will be looking for adherence to the theme (where applicable), originality, imagination and the ability to craft and the story in a manner that engages the audience.

These classes are free to enter. However, we do have to cover the costs of the adjudicators and prizes, therefore donations are welcomed. Please visit our festival shop: https://playandperform.co.uk/gst/gst_login.php?pnp_token=wr

All short stories must be uploaded to Play&Perform by 11:45pm on 16th January 2027. Please ensure that the title of the short story, the author's name and the word count are included. Scanned typed or handwritten submissions are acceptable, but please ensure that all the words of the story are clearly visible. A pdf or image file can be uploaded. Submitted stories must not have been published elsewhere and must be the entrant's original, unaided work.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1211 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 2** | 6 and under | | £0.00 |
| **1212 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 3** | 7 | | £0.00 |
| **1213 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 4** | 8 | | £0.00 |
| **1214 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 5** | 9 | | £0.00 |
| **1215 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 6** | 10 | | £0.00 |
| **1216 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 7** | 11 | | £0.00 |
| **1217 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 8** | 12 | | £0.00 |
| **1218 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 9** | 13 | | £0.00 |
| **1219 WRITE A SHORT STORY - School Year 10-11** | Age 14 and 15 | | £0.00 |
| **1220 WRITE A SHORT STORY School Years 12 - 13** | Age 16 and 17 | | £0.00 |
| **1221 WRITE A SHORT STORY - Open** | Any | | £0.00 |

## Dramatic Monologue Writing

Entrants to write a monologue performed by a character of their own creation , lasting between approximately 2 -3 minutes, with the theme of 'The End'. The main language must be English. The adjudicator will be looking for originality, imagination and the ability to craft the storyline and character in a manner that engages the audience.

These classes are free to enter. However, we do have to cover the costs of the adjudicators and prizes, therefore donations are welcomed. Please visit our festival shop: https://playandperform.co.uk/gst/gst_login.php?pnp_token=wr

All monologues must be uploaded to Play&Perform by 11:45pm on 16th January 2027. Please ensure that the title of the monologue and the author's name are included. Scanned, typed or handwritten submissions are acceptable, but please ensure that all the words of the story are clearly visible. A pdf or image file can be uploaded. Submitted monologues must not have been published elsewhere and must be the entrant's original, unaided work.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1222 DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE WRITING - School year 7 and under** | 11 and under | Up to 5 mins | £0.00 |
| **1223 DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE WRITING - School years 8 and 9** | Age 12 and 13 | Up to 10 mins | £0.00 |
| **1224 DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE WRITING - School years 10 and 11** | Age 14 and 15 | Up to 10 mins | £0.00 |
| **1225 DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE WRITING - School years 12 and 13** | Age 16 and 17 | Up to 10 mins | £0.00 |
| **1226 DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE WRITING - Open** | Any | Up to 10 mins | £0.00 |

## Presenting and Public Speaking

These sections give entrants the opportunity to present to an audience on a subject of their choice. Powerpoint or other presentation tools may be used, along with relevant props/objects (these must be able to be carried by the entrant alone). The presentations will be assessed based upon their construction and delivery, the use of visual aids and interaction with the audience. This offers perfect practice and preparation for presentations for EPQ or for Duke of Edinburgh's award.

If using powerpoint or other presentation tools, please upload a copy by 16th January 2027 to PlayandPerform. We will contact you in advance of the day to discuss any specific needs you may have in terms of your presentation.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1231 SOLO PRESENTATION - School year 4 and under** | 8 and under | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 |
| **1232 SOLO PRESENTATION - School years 5 and 6** | Age 9 and 10 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 |
| **1233 SOLO PRESENTATION - School years 7 and 8** | Age 11 and 12 | Up to 4 mins | £12.80 |
| **1234 SOLO PRESENTATION - School years 9 and 10** | Age 13 and 14 | Up to 4 mins | £12.80 |
| **1235 SOLO PRESENTATION - School years 11 to 13** | Between 15 and 17 | Up to 5 mins | £12.80 |
| **1236 SOLO PRESENTATION - Open** | Any | Up to 6 mins | £14.40 |

## Musical Composition

## Music and Song Composing

The composing sections are for instrumental and/or song composition. It can be for one instrument/voice or for many. It can be of any length and any style. Electronic music is acceptable.

These classes are free to enter. However, we do have to cover the costs of the adjudicators and prizes, therefore donations are welcomed. Please visit our festival shop: https://playandperform.co.uk/gst/gst_login.php?pnp_token=wr

These are competitive classes and places will be awarded. Composers may enter only one class appropriate for their age and the open classes or one/both open classes. A different piece must be submitted for each entry. A written score (either hand written or printed) should be uploaded for the adjudicator, along with an audio or video recording of a performance of the original composition if at all possible. However, lyrics with chords or a graphic score is acceptable as long as it is accompanied by a video or audio recording. 'Live' performance is preferred for the recording, but if this is not possible, then an electronic performance from music software (i.e. Cubase etc) is acceptable. If for any reason you cannot produce a recording, please let us know: admin@wcaf.org.uk We will make allowance if this is not possible.

SCORES AND A RECORDING OF THE COMPOSITION TO BE SUBMITTED ONLINE BY 11:45pm ON 16th JANUARY 2027.

The recording should include an introduction from the composer prior to the performance. Quality of composition, score and performance will all be taken into account by the Adjudicators.

Composers will also perform their compositions at the festival (except in exceptional circumstances, where the submitted recording will be played) and prizes will be awarded.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1237 INSTRUMENTAL OR SONG COMPOSITION - School year 6 and under**<br>Award: The Mary Mannion Trophy and a £15 voucher may be awarded to the winner of classes 1237, 1238 or 1239 at the adjudicator's discretion (providing they gain Honours or higher) | 10 and under | Up to 5 mins | £0.00 |
| **1238 INSTRUMENTAL OR SONG COMPOSITION - School year 9 and under**<br>Award: The Mary Mannion Trophy and a £15 voucher may be awarded to the winner of classes 1237, 1238 or 1239 at the adjudicator's discretion (providing they gain Honours or higher) | 13 and under | Up to 5 mins | £0.00 |
| **1239 INSTRUMENTAL OR SONG COMPOSITION - School years 10 and 11**<br>Award: The Mary Mannion Trophy and a £15 voucher may be awarded to the winner of classes 1237, 1238 or 1239 at the adjudicator's discretion (providing they gain Honours or higher) | Age 14 and 15 | Up to 6 mins | £0.00 |
| **1240 INSTRUMENTAL OR SONG COMPOSITION - School years 12 and 13**<br>Award: The Mary Mannion Trophy and a £15 voucher may be awarded to the winner of classes 1237, 1238 or 1239 at the adjudicator's discretion (providing they gain Honours or higher) | Age 16 and 17 | Up to 7.5 mins | £0.00 |
| **1241 OPEN CLASS FOR INSTRUMENTAL COMPOSITION** | Any | Up to 20 mins | £0.00 |
| **1242 OPEN CLASS FOR SONG COMPOSITION** | Any | | £0.00 |