

Are you a Bristol student who loves to write? Here's your chance to shine! Enter the **Young Writers Competition**—a platform to showcase your creativity.

This Year's Theme for all categories: “The Library”

Who Can Enter?

Open to students at Bristol Schools entering **Years 9 to 13** in the 2025/26 school year. Submit your work in one of the following categories:

- Fiction Year 9 to Year 11
- Fiction Years 12 & 13
- Non-Fiction Year 9 to Year 11
- Non-Fiction Years 12 & 13

Prizes (Per Category)

1st Place – £100
Runner-Up – £50



Submission Guidelines

Word Count: no minimum word count, maximum 800 words for both fiction and non-fiction.

Format: MS Word or PDF

Deadline: Midday, 1st November 2025

Submit to: youngadult@cliftonlitfest.com

Eligibility: You must attend a Bristol-based school, academy, or college (confirmation required)



Use the QR
Code for all
competition
information

Winners will be announced at a special event during the **Clifton Literary Festival on 15th November 2025**, where winning pieces will be celebrated and excerpts read aloud by Paul McGann, an award-winning actor!

Let your imagination soar. Celebrate your voice. Share your story.

Why “The Library”?

A library is far more than a building filled with books. It is a gateway to imagination, discovery, and community. Its shelves hold hidden worlds waiting to be explored, true stories that inspire, and knowledge that connects generations.



Inspiring Children



Developing Skills



Architectural Legacy



Community Hubs



Secrets...



... Mystery

This year's Clifton Literary Festival celebrates young voices while supporting the vital work of Bristol's public libraries. By writing on the theme of *“The Library”*, entrants not only share their own stories, but also help shine a light on the importance of keeping these treasured spaces alive for the whole community.

These are only suggestions...!

Terms and Conditions

1. Eligibility

The competition is open to pupils currently enrolled in schools in the City of Bristol.

Entries may be submitted through a school, a teacher, or individually.

Entrants must be within the forms specified in the categories (Years 9 to 11 and Years 12 and 13)

2. Entry Requirements

Each entry must be an original piece of writing created solely by the entrant. Submissions must be fiction or non-fiction pieces based on the competition theme “The Library”

Word count: no minimum word count, maximum word count of 800 words excluding the title.

Students are welcome to submit pieces for both fiction and non-fiction categories in their year range. Therefore, a maximum of two submissions is permitted per student.

3. Submission Process

Entries must be submitted by the deadline of midday on the 1st November 2025 to youngadult@cliftonlitfest.com.

Late, incomplete, or incorrectly submitted entries may not be accepted.

4. Judging

Entries will be judged by a panel selected by the organisers.

The judging criteria are provided.

The judges’ decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the outcome.

Shortlisting and winners will be announced on the date(s) specified in the competition details.

5. Prizes

Four prizes of £100 will be awarded to the winners of each of the four categories with four prizes of £50 to runners-up in each category.

6. Copyright and Usage

Entrants retain the copyright to their work.

By entering, participants grant the organisers a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to publish, reproduce, and promote their work in connection with the competition (e.g. websites, or in promotional materials).

Entries will always be credited to the author.

7. Safeguarding and Consent

Schools may be contacted to verify the pupil enrolment.

Winners and finalists may be asked to provide a signed parental/guardian consent form for publicity purposes (including name, school, and photo).

8. Data Protection

Personal details provided will only be used for the purposes of administering the competition.

Information will not be shared with third parties without consent.

9. General

The organisers reserve the right to amend, withdraw, or cancel the competition in exceptional circumstances.

Participation in the competition constitutes acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.

Judging Criteria and Weightings

1. Creativity & Originality (40%)

- Does the piece show fresh ideas or a unique perspective?
- Is the voice authentic and engaging for the reader?
- Does the writer take risks in theme, style, or form (while still being coherent)?

2. Structure & Organisation (25%)

- Is the writing well-structured?
- Does the pacing hold the reader's attention?

3. Language & Style (20%)

- Is vocabulary appropriate, expressive, and effective?
- Does the writer use literary devices (imagery, metaphor, dialogue, description) well?
- Is the tone consistent and suited to the piece?

4. Technical Accuracy (15%)

- Are spelling, grammar, and punctuation used correctly?
- Do errors distract from the meaning, or is the writing polished and easy to read?

Submission Instructions

1. Write your submission, keeping it under **800 words** (not including the title).
2. Please submit in MS Word or as a PDF and use Arial font size 12 or Times New Roman size 12.
3. Include the **cover page** (as shown) with all required details. This must be the **first page** of your submission.
4. Do **not** include any identifying information on any other page of your entry.
5. Email your submission to **youngadult@cliftonlitfest.com** with **"Competition 2025"** in the subject line.
6. Submit **only one entry per email**.
7. Your submission must reach us by midday on the 1st November 2025. We reserve the right to reject submissions made after this deadline.
8. For any questions, please contact us at the same email address.

Good luck!

Cover Page

Author's Name: _____

Authors email: _____

Academic Year: _____

Category (Fiction or Non-Fiction): _____

School or College: _____

Email contact at your School or College: _____

-----Your submission must start on the next page-----