

The 18th English Short Story Writing Competition

Writing Prompts

Directions: Choose one of the following prompts and write a story based on it (a maximum of 7,500 characters (approximately 2,000 words, including spaces). Each prompt has a specific challenge associated with it, which the writer will have to address in order to finish their story.

Deadline: 8th Jan. 2024

Writing Prompts:

1. Romance

From the time we were children, Aaron and I were inseparable. We were friends throughout secondary school, but now he is leaving to attend a prestigious university in the UK, and I have to stay here in Hong Kong. I wonder if I will ever see him again.

2. Mystery/ Suspense

Ki Ki walked up the familiar stairway, excited. She had been away for three years. What would her mom say when she showed up unannounced? Her family would never imagine that she got her degree a year earlier than expected. Just as she was about to burst into her living room and give everyone the shock of their lives, she heard a voice very much like her own from behind the door.

“Don’t wait for me for dinner, it’s gonna be a late night for me,” the voice said.

A young woman stepped outside wearing Ki Ki’s favorite skinny jeans and cropped top.

“Who are you?” the woman asked, staring at Ki Ki up and down. She looked like a mirror image of Ki Ki herself.

3. Horror

Late one storm-laden night, the lone traveler sought refuge in an old, dilapidated mansion. As the rain beat hard against the broken windows, the traveler heard the faint sound of a what sounded like a child crying coming from a room upstairs. Confused but curious, he followed the sound to a room with a closed door. Opening the door, he saw a little girl sitting on the floor, with tears streaming down her featureless cheeks. To the traveler’s horror, she had no face.

4. Science Fiction

The man was a genetic misfit with a unique condition, causing him to travel through time every time he got upset or angry. He had participated in and studied many meditation courses to help him with his anger management. The last time that he had time traveled, he had fallen in love with a girl. He had told her about his condition. To make it possible for them to connect

with each other the next time that he 'traveled', they had created a secret link through Diet Dr. Pepper.