

The 19th 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.

Short Story Submission Deadline: 13th January 2025

Writing Prompts:

1. Romance:

It's been an entire month since Wai Man last saw Ah Yue. He cannot believe it. She severed their relationship so suddenly, so thoroughly, that it feels as if they've never met. She stopped showing up in classes. She cut him off Instagram, blocked him on WhatsApp, and he can no longer find her on WeChat. He can still remember the faint fragrance of her soft hair when it tickled his nostrils; her warm, damp hand in his when they strolled down Garden Street in Mong Kok. Ghosted. What did he do to deserve this?

2. Mystery/suspense:

Yesterday, passengers who boarded the MTR train in Kowloon Tong station at 1:11 pm suddenly disappeared without a trace. Investigate the mysterious circumstances surrounding the train's disappearance and the potential clues that may be found at the Kowloon Tong station. What could have happened to the passengers and the train? Was this an act of foul play, or is there a more extraordinary explanation behind their vanishing?

3. Horror:

While hiking in the middle of the forest, two friends disturb a small set of sticks. Little did the two friends know that the sticks were there for a reason and the disruption would cause a very horrifying change of events.

4. Science Fiction:

Freya, a talented table tennis athlete, stumbles upon a mysterious stone from outer space one day after training on her way home. It turns out that the stone was infused with a powerful radioactive substance, and upon picking it up, Freya develops an astounding new superpower - the ability to pause time at will. As Freya navigates the upcoming tournaments with her newfound abilities, explore how this gift could both help and hinder her pursuit of the coveted gold medal. How will Freya choose to wield this extraordinary ability, and what consequences, both positive and negative, might arise from her decisions?