

The 14th English Short Story Writing Competition

Writing Prompts

Directions: Each prompt has a specific challenge associated with it, which the writer will have to address in order to finish the story. Choose one of the following prompts and write a story based on it (a maximum of 2000 words in total). **Deadline: 19 October, 2018**

1. Challenge: Creativity with Images

*It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Choose 1 of the images from Set 1 and match it up with 1 of the images from Set 2. Then use those two images to create **either**:*

1. A modern fairytale with a moral or a lesson learned at the end of the story, or
2. A sci-fi or magic-oriented adventure.

Set 1

A Bridge



A Futuristic City



A Desert Planet



Set 2

A Statue



A Heart



A Jar



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2. Challenge: Creativity with Concepts

Romance – Love in Unexpected Places

Combine 4 of the following elements together to write a story about how character X finds love in an unexpected way. Please develop BOTH the main character and his/her love interest.

An Expensive Rug	A Candle	A Secret Enemy
A Pair of Sunglasses	An Old Sailboat	An Odd Obsession
An Unread Book	A Bowl of Dumplings	A Former Best Friend
A Cracked Bowl	A Fire	A Crowded Street

3. Challenge: Twist Ending

Mystery or Horror - The Unseen

First, decide whether you want a mystery or a horror genre for your story. Then complete the story by 1) naming the character and the city, 2) completing his/her narrative about events, and 3) ending the story with a twist. The twist should incorporate something about **where** the character is telling the story from and/or **why** he/she is telling it in the first place.

My name is X, and I have lived here in Y all my life. I am not a person prone to delusions, and I do not believe in spirits haunting the living, but right now, my hands are shaking. Someone or something is stalking me, and I do not know why. Maybe I had been somewhere I was not supposed to go, seen something that I was not supposed to see, or had done something that I was not supposed to do. I have been wracking my brain, and I cannot think of what might have triggered the unusual phenomena that I have experienced in the past five days.

Every morning, I hear footsteps in the hall outside my flat, but when I look outside, no one is there. Two nights ago, when I was working late on a project, I happened to glance out of the window and saw a face right outside, staring in at me, and then it vanished. This afternoon, while I was on the train, a hand grabbed my arm. I am sure of it, but I saw no one.

I am the only one who seems to experience these hallucinations or whatever they are. None of my family or friends has seen, heard, or felt anything strange, only me. I am afraid that I am going mad.