



Writing Competition 2026



The theme for our 2026 writing competition is:

TIME TRAVEL

Several of our authors this year have written books about travelling through time. **Steven Vinacour**, who wrote the 'Ted and His Time-Travelling Toilet' series, has sent us two writing prompts for the competition: one for writing a short story and one for writing a poem. Which will you choose?

Short story Prompt

Lucas picked up his phone and dialled a number. It was immediately picked up. 'I've found it!' he said.

His best friend, Emma, yelped with joy. 'No way! Where was it?'

'In the warehouse, hidden behind the wall. The YearTraveller 5000 - the most powerful time-travel machine in the world! Missing for over 200 years!'

'What are you going to do?'

'I'm going to use it!'

'Where are you going to travel to?'

'Now, that is a good question... Let's see, shall we...'

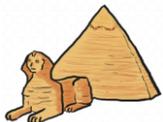
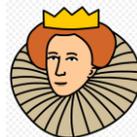
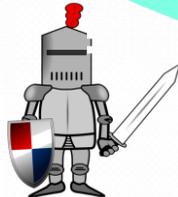
Poem Prompt

I think I know

Where I'd go

If I could travel through time.

I would...



Oundle KidLit Writing Competition 2026

What to submit:

Poems (not including prompt): entries can be of any length up to 40 lines.

Stories (not including prompt):

Reception – a picture (if desired) and a story of 20 to 100 words.

Yrs 1-3 – a story of 100 - 750 words.

Yrs 4-6 – a story of 300 - 1500 words.

Rules: one free entry per child for primary age children living or attending school within a 15-mile radius of Oundle.

Cut out and attach the form below to your entry or include the same information in your email.

If your school is taking part in the competition, please hand all finished stories/poems in there, or you can send your entry to us via email - typed up or as a clear photograph to:

hello@oundlefestivalofliterature.co.uk

Or post to:

Oundle Festival of Literature

25, North Street

Oundle

PE8 4AL

- We will read and judge all entries received by the **deadline of 5pm on Fri 24th April 2026.**
- We will select a winner and a runner-up for each year group, and both will receive a fun, bookish prize.
- We will announce the prize winners in an online video shared with all schools taking part, and on our website.
- We will notify all winners through their school or via email and arrange prize delivery.
- OFoL reserves the right to display or publish any entry. Copyright remains with the author.



Oundle KidLit Writing Competition 2026

Entry Form

Name: _____

If you do not wish your child's name to be read out on our video announcement, tick here:

Address: _____

_____ **Postcode:** _____

Email: _____

School Year: _____

School: _____

Title of Entry: _____

Entry no: _____

Office use only: _____