

Dear Parent / Carer,

Does your child like writing stories? This competition is for them!

Each year, the British Council in France runs a competition to encourage our students aged 3-18 to practise writing in English. This year, we are organising a Story Writing Competition. You can find out more about this below.

What can my child write about?

This year's theme is **friendship**.

We have provided some ideas to start the story. You can find these story starters on the template. Your child should pick **one** story starter and continue the story.

How your child uses these story starters is up to them. They can use their imagination! They could write about an existing character or someone new. However, rather than retell a story, they should create their own new plot.

Students should make sure to:

- write a whole story, from beginning to end;
- write in English;
- write on the template by hand (and not type); and
- use polite, appropriate language.

Who can enter the competition?

All Young Learners who currently attend a course at the British Council are welcome to participate in this competition.

Learners of different ages are invited to use the template allocated to their class.

Class	Template	Word limit
Early Years: EY3-EY5 Primary: P1 –P3 Bilingual: BL4-BL6	A	Fits on template
Primary: P4-P5 Bilingual: BL7-BL10	B	Fits on template
Secondary: A1-B1	C	Minimum 100, maximum 200
Secondary: B2 Bilingual: BL11-13 Exam prep: FCE, CAE, CPE, IGCSE	D	Minimum 200, maximum 350

Is there a template?

Yes! Please see the table above to help you find the correct template. All entries must fit on the template. Please include the following information in the email and on the template: your child's **name**, their **age**, their **school class** and their **British Council class / level**.

How much can I help my child?

For Early Years, parents can write what their child says exactly as they say it.
For other age groups, children should write their own entries (clearly & legibly!).
For all ages, parents can guide their child but should not change the language.
You don't need to correct their mistakes as we are looking for authentic language.

Can my child use artificial intelligence?

No. Plagiarism and the use of **artificial intelligence (AI)** or translation services are strictly forbidden. Any entries that are plagiarised or that use AI, will be disqualified from the competition. Please make sure your child understand that the writing must be their own words.

How can I submit?

Once your child has written their story on the correct template, you should:

- **Scan the story** (on template) and save as a **pdf** format
- Send an email to: yl-english-extra@britishcouncil.fr. Your email should include:
 - the **pdf** of your child's entry
 - child's **name**
 - their **age** and
 - **British Council class / Level**
 - child's **British Council student ID**, if you know this

(See example below)

Example: Emily Kitching (14 yrs old – B2C Collège) Student ID – 0060629257
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Please hold onto the original copy of the story in case you are chosen as a winner.

When is the deadline?

All entries must be submitted by 23:00 on **Wednesday 4 February 2026**.

How are the winners chosen?

Entries will be voted on by British Council staff who will read the entries and decide on the winners. There will be one winner for each category.

Our judges will be looking for creativity, plot, range of language and authentic pieces of work!

What can my child win?

The winners will be announced on our website in March 2026. They will then be invited to a prizegiving ceremony later in the academic year. The winners will receive certificates, free holiday courses and copies of their work.

We look forward to receiving your child's entry!

The British Council Academic team