



COMPETITION FOR YOUNG WRITERS AND ARTISTS 2026 RULES AND GUIDANCE

The aim of the Competition for Young Writers and Artists is to encourage young people to engage in visual arts and creative writing, to celebrate their creativity and originality. Each young artist and writer is invited to create a work of art or write with the title **'After Midnight'**.

Young people may choose to create either fine art or a design, a poem or a short story.

Young artists and writers should be encouraged to be:

- Imaginative
- Experimental, Playful
- Visual
- Thoughtful

For the Art

Any appropriate materials may be used and can be combined: collage and painting, or paint and crayon, ink and chalk. Digital art is accepted, an indication of which software has been used would be very helpful to the judges.

The judges will be looking for young artists to demonstrate:

- Visually exciting, imaginative ideas
- Clever (skillful / imaginative / unusual) use of materials, tools and techniques
- Bold and effective presentation
- Unique personal engagement, individuality and creative potential.

For the Writing

The judges will be looking for young writers to demonstrate:

- Exciting, imaginative ideas and creation of atmosphere
- Clever (skillful / imaginative / unusual) use of language
- Effective characterization
- Unique personal engagement, individuality and creative potential.

Individual winners and runners up in each age group will be announced to schools and individuals on Monday 20th April 2026. There will be a Celebration Event for these young people and their families on Saturday 9th May. Details to be confirmed nearer the date. A full results list will be on the Du Maurier Fowey Literary Festival website www.foweyfestival.com by mid May 2026.

Rules

1. **Entry** is open to young writers and artists from **4 to 16 years of age on 31st August 2026 who live in Cornwall & Isles of Scilly**. All entries must be accompanied by an entry form which may be downloaded from The du Maurier Fowey Literary Festival website. Judging will take account of entrants' ages and school year group, any special needs and help given, which must be noted on the entry form.
2. **Deadline:** All entries must be received on or before the deadline of Wednesday 1st April 2026.
3. **Subject:** Entrants can create a poem, a story or a picture with the title '**After Midnight**'.
4. **Size:** Poems can be up to 20 lines, short stories and reports can be up to 500 words. All written entries should be in English and may be word processed or handwritten clearly and legibly on A4 paper and can be sent by post, hand delivered, (see addresses below), or submitted by email to angela@foweyfestival.com. Written entries can be transcribed if they are difficult to read but the original writing should be attached.

Pictures should be **original, not** a copy, and on paper or card, no larger than A3, (420 x 297 mm) but smaller pictures are welcome and you can choose a different format: square or circle or panorama. Work should be two dimensional and **not** 3D models or sculptures. Art entries should be submitted by post or hand delivery only (not online) to Fowey River Gallery, 38 Fore Street, Fowey, PL23 1AQ.
5. **Acknowledgement:** If you require acknowledgement of receipt of a postal entry, please enclose an email address. Online entries will be acknowledged by email. If you want your entry returned, please inform Angela on angela@foweyfestival.com.
6. **Eligibility:** Entries must be entirely the work of the entrant (unless help with Special Needs are noted) and must never have been previously published, in print or online (including websites, blogs, social network sites), or broadcast or been commended, longlisted or short-listed in any competition. Any entry found to have been plagiarised will be disqualified.
7. **Judging:** Entries will be judged anonymously; the entrant's first name and age should appear only on the entry form and on **the back** of the work of art or piece of writing. The pictures, poems and stories must be free of all personal information about the author, including their address.
8. **Winners and Runners Up** will be notified by Monday 20th April 2026 by email to schools and individuals. Prizes will be presented at a celebration event planned for Saturday 9th May. If the winner cannot attend, prizes will be sent by post. Full results will be published on www.foweyfestival.com by mid May 2026 using only first names.
9. **Young Writer and Young Artist of the Year** will be awarded from the winners and runners up in each category. Young Artist of the Year will be determined by public vote. Pictures will be framed by Atishoo Gallery and hung in Fowey River Gallery for two weeks in April and visitors to the gallery invited to vote for their favourite. Young Writer of the Year will be determined by one of our published Cornish authors.
10. **Postal Entries:** Should be addressed to:
Competition for Young Writers and Artists, 50 Tower Park, Fowey, PL23 1JD
11. **Hand Delivered Entries:** Should be marked **Competition for Young Writers and Artists** and delivered to: Fowey River Gallery, 38 Fore Street, Fowey PL23 1AQ between 10am and 5pm.
12. **Judges' Decision:** The Judges' decision is final and no individual correspondence will be entered into. The judges will not be able to give individual feedback on any entry.