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**Flashback Fiction Writing Competition Rules**

The full terms and conditions of the *Flashback Fiction* competition are published below. By entering you are deemed to comply with the full terms and conditions.

*Flashback Fiction* is administered by Time To Read on behalf of the NW Region's Public Library Authorities.

**Who:** The competition is open to anyone who is a resident of the NW region of England . NW region comprises residents of the following 23 Public Library Authorities: Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Bolton, Bury, Cheshire East, West Cheshire with Chester, Cumbria, Halton, Knowsley, Lancashire, Liverpool, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Sefton, St Helens, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Warrington, Wigan, Wirral

Entrants must not be directly connected with the competition or their close relations.

Your story must be your own original, unpublished work. Anyone with a current publishing contract (in the UK or anywhere else) or whose story/writing is subject to any third party rights or restrictions is not allowed to enter this competition.

**How :** Entries must be received between the dates of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010 and 31<sup>st</sup> October No entries received after the 31<sup>st</sup> October will be considered. Entries must be made online at [www.time-to-read.co.uk](http://www.time-to-read.co.uk)

Entrants must include their name, address including **postcode** and state whether they are under or over 16 years of age.

**What:** Each entrant may only submit one story. Stories must be no more than 500 words long. The story must be given a title which must be no longer than 10 words long.

Entrants should write a short story within the word limit which is inspired by history. For the purposes of this competition, history is deemed to be anything which occurred before 1960. The story can be inspired by actual historic places, people, facts or can be purely imaginary, set in the past.

Entries must not contain any defamatory matter (defamatory matter includes statements that are insulting, derogatory and/or gives a false negative image), is not in contempt of court, does not breach privacy or any third party rights or contain any quotation from copyright material without appropriate permission having been obtained. The entries must not be obscene or in any way unsuitable for publication online.

The story must be written entirely in English.

**Consents:** If living people or entities other than the entrant are referred to in the story their consent must be obtained wherever possible. If not possible, reasons must be given at the time of entry.

By submitting stories for the competition entrants are deemed to have consented to their work being published online or in any media the organisers think fit. However Time To Read does not offer any guarantee that stories will be published in any manner or media, including but not limited to the website.

Entrants retain copyright of their story when entering the competition.

**Judging Process:** Entries will be judged in 2 categories: 16 years and under and over 16 years.

There are 4 stages of judging.

1. Entries will initially be read on-line by the organisers. Any entries which are deemed to be unsuitable for publication on the website for reasons of obscenity or are defamatory will be deleted. Entries which are not inspired by history will also be weeded out. At regular intervals, a selection of entries will appear on the Time To Read site. Appearance at this stage does not necessarily imply that the story will make the final shortlist.

2. Following the closing date entries will be judged within local authority areas. Local prizes will be offered and up to 4 stories in each age group, from each local authority, will be submitted to the organisers for consideration for regional prizes.

3. Up to 4 stories from each local authority will be judged by the organisers and a final shortlist of 20 stories in each age group will be submitted to Patricia Duncker, Professor of Contemporary Literature at The University of Manchester.

4 Patricia Duncker will make a final choice of winner and runner up in each age group

The following criteria will be used to select the final shortlist. Entries must be inspired by history and fulfil at least one other criterion :

- is it amusing or makes you think?
- does it have a strong central idea?
- does it, or is it likely to engage the reader?
- does it have strong characters?
- is it inspiring in some way?
- is it memorable?
- is the language and technique innovative and convincing

The competition judges' decisions throughout will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. Time To Read does not accept any responsibility for late, delayed, or lost entries. Proof of sending is not proof of receipt. The right is reserved for the story not to be read if it is clear that the subject matter is unsuitable or in breach of these rules.

**Prizes:** In the over-16 years category there will be one cash prize of £100 and a runner-up cash prize of £50

In the under-16s category there will be one prize of £30 in book-tokens and a runner-up prize of £15 in book-tokens

**Privacy :**The organisers will only ever use personal details for the purposes of review, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Stories and personal details submitted via the website will be retained for competition purposes only