**Competition rules**

Please read the rules carefully. No amendments can be accepted once your submission has been received. Entries not complying with the rules will be disqualified.

1. There are three categories for children’s entries: 6–10 years, 11–14 years, 15–17 years. Anyone 18 and above should enter the adult competition. Categories are based on the entrant’s age on the closing date, 10th July 2023.
2. Entries must be the original work of the entrant, must be unpublished and should not have won a prize in any other competition.
3. Only one entry per person is permitted (though an individual may enter the poetry and the short story competitions).
4. Entries must be in English.
5. Short stories must not exceed 500 words, excluding the title. Poems must not exceed 40 lines, excluding the title.
6. Entries must be submitted by email as a Word document (doc or docx), typed in double spacing in Times New Roman 12pt. Do not use a coloured font or include any images. The document name must be the title of the poem or story. Entries will be judged anonymously, so the entrant’s name must not appear on the entry.
7. Entries will be judged by local authors Kezzabelle Ambler and Julia Thorley. Other members of the Kettering Festival of Literature team might also be involved in the preliminary judging process. The decision of the judges is final. No correspondence/contact will be entered into, and no feedback will be given to individual entrants.
8. Entrants should retain copies of their work as entries will not be returned.
9. To submit your entry, attach your document to an email addressed to kettcivic@gmail.com
10. In the subject line, put ‘Kettering Festival of Literature Writing Competition’. In the body of the email, give your name and, if entering the children’s competitions, your age as of 10th July 2023**. Entries must be received by midnight on 10th July 2023**. Entries received after this time will not be judged.
11. The Kettering Festival of Literature reserves the right to display and publish any entry. Copyright remains with the author. It is hoped that a selection of poetry and short stories will be published in a book to commemorate the anniversary of the opening in 1904 of Kettering Library by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Entries not chosen for publication will be deleted from the records of Kettering Festival of Literature.
12. Entry is taken as acceptance of these rules.