

Dear entrant (and/or parent/guardian)

Firstly I would like to thank you all for supporting the competition by sending us your entry/entries.

Sadly I have to announce that not enough entries were submitted to cover the prizes/prize monies. I considered subsidising this myself but sadly I made the difficult decision that this wasn't feasible. I personally am very disappointed that this wasn't more of a success and the last thing I want is to disappoint people.

I will refund all entry fees within the next day or two straight back to your PayPal account (for 16+ entrants).

I have discussed this situation with the judges Sally and Eva and they are still happy to support the competition. I therefore put an alternative proposal, than cancelling the competition, to you all.

If you are happy to keep your story or poem submitted to the competition (for free as all entry fees will be returned no matter the end decision) the judges will still shortlist 7 in each category and make a decision on the top 3 as before.

The top 3 in each category will still be published on the site. There will be no prize money awarded, just publication (and a certificate).

I am starting a tri-annual Slingink Magazine (which will normally be free to download). Instead of an anthology I could develop a special Slingink Prize edition of this to include the seven shortlisted authors in each category. This would then be made into a PDF (and possibly print version) to sell for a small fee through Lulu.com (the profit made would go towards supporting a small prize fund for next year's competition).

The seven shortlisted authors would get a free PDF copy of the magazine in which their work appears. I will look into the possibility also of allowing them to buy a number of print versions at cost price (this would be entirely optional and I would probably need to order them and ship to you myself rather than through Lulu).

Obviously even this option is still only feasible if enough entrants are happy enough to compete just for prestige and not money.

I would be grateful then if you could let me know (by return of e-mail) if you would still like your story/ poem to be considered.

Please e-mail back one of the following sentences:

I wish to withdraw my entry from the competition.

Or

I am happy for my entry to be reviewed by the judges. I understand that if I am one of the seven shortlisted in each category that I am now competing for a certificate and publication in a special edition of the magazine (of which I WILL receive a free PDF version and that I MAY (TBC), if I choose to, get a cost price discount on a hardcopy). Additionally if I am in

the top three my story/poem will be published in the Winner's library on [www.slingink.com](http://www.slingink.com). I understand that there will now be NO prize money or Amazon voucher awarded.

I am passionate about writing and especially wanted to run the Junior part of the competition to support the development of new writing talent. I still plan to run the competition next year, however I now believe that I will make it free entry with the publication prizes as per this year's amendments. If the site makes a profit from the magazine and/or any other ventures or I can get sponsorship I will aim to ensure that the prize will include a free hard copy of the magazine next year.

Once again I apologise and I thank you for your understanding. I do hope that we can still run the competition in a different form, however I will confirm this once I have heard back from people. If most entrants withdraw I will have no alternative than to cancel the competition altogether.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me. I will start refunding the PayPal entry fees straight away (if you haven't received this by the end of Monday please let me know)

Yours Faithfully

Kirsty Stanley (Slingink site administrator)