

# Words for a Greener World Schools Short Story Competition

Essex Book Festival has teamed up with Essex Year of Opportunity to bring you the Words for a Greener World Short Story Competition – open to all schools in Essex.

**Closing Date  
Extended!!**

It's simple. All your students need to do is write a story of **up to 500 words** based around the theme of **Climate Change** by **Friday 16 January 2026**.



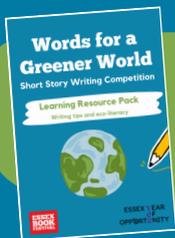
## Who can enter

**Open to 7 - 16 year olds studying in Essex.**  
Age categories: 7 - 11 years and 12 - 16 years



Entries must be submitted via the school. Homeschoolers can enter too. Each participating school to select a max of two entries per class, which will then be put forward for the countywide longlist.

Each participating school will be provided with a **FREE** digital resource pack providing tips and techniques to help inspire and teach children how to write a great story, with a special focus on eco-literacy.



## Prizes

For each age category (7–11 years and 12–16 years):



### 1<sup>st</sup> place

Bundle of 'Greener World' books for the school, provided by independent bookshop, Red Lion Books

£25 Red Lion Books gift voucher

Winning story to be published on Essex Book Festival website

### Runners up x 3

£10 Red Lion Books gift voucher

Runners up stories to be published on Essex Book Festival website

## Timings

The Words for a Greener World schools short story competition is open from 26 September and will **close on 16 January 2026**.

All longlisted entries will be invited to attend an **Awards Ceremony on 28 February 2026** when all winners and runners up will be announced.

## How to enter

**Stories can be submitted via our [online entry form](#).**

For full details including terms and conditions, resource pack and online entry form, visit [essexbookfestival.org.uk/words-for-a-greener-world/](https://essexbookfestival.org.uk/words-for-a-greener-world/)

Or scan this QR code

